

Puppy Love

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Valentine's Day Celebration

In March, eight-year-old Pablo met his therapy dog Ralph. He had congestive heart failure and his enlarged heart was deteriorating fast. The following November Pablo received his heart transplant. After surgery Pablo's leg pain was so severe he didn't even want to get out of bed. His doctors knew he needed something more than modern medicine. So, a very special Valentine's Day surprise showed up at the hospital. Upon seeing his dog, Pablo said, "Ralph is here. I'm so excited to play with him." Thanks to Ralph, Pablo was now able to get back on his feet and began to walk again. Pablo said, "He made me forget about it. He made me feel better and made me do some exercises." Dr. Irene Lytrivi, Pablo's pediatric cardiologist said, "There were times Pablo was so sick he should not have survived. But, because of his dog Pablo he became more positive about trying to get through this; trying to get through the transplant; trying to get out of the hospital. His recovery is amazing." Pablo did get out, leaving the hospital three weeks later continuing his recovery at home. His new heart continued to heal all because of a strong-willed little boy, the miracle of modern medicine and the love of a dog named Ralph!



Magic and Luigi are dearly loved by their family in New York.



Two Hearts Beat as One

An Australian study conducted by Dr. Craig Duncan and PhD student Mia Cobb validated the bond between man and his dog is so close their hearts beat in sync when they are together. This is an astounding phenomenon! The study required the pet parent and his dog be separated for a brief period and when they were reunited their hearts began to beat in the same pattern. The results were amazing! "I wasn't expecting how much they were synchronized, it surprised and impressed me," says Ms. Cobb. Dogs and humans have different heart rates but the study showed they dipped and sped up at the same rate when together.

❤️ I Love You ❤️

Canine Cottages using heart rate tracking collars conducted a study monitoring a dog's level of excitement when interacting with their pet parents. When a dog was told "I Love You" by their pet parent, their heart rate skyrocketed 46%. The research also showed that a dog's heart rate decreases 23% when being cuddled by their pet parent. Shannon Keary, manager at Canine Cottages said: "It's amazing to see that a dog's heart rates increase when they are told they are loved, showing excitement, and decreases when having cuddles, showing contentedness. From this data, we can now officially say that our dogs really do love us!"

I Show I Love You When:

- I curl up next to you for special bonding time.
- I wag my tail, jumping in excitement when I greet you.
- I bring you one of my toys so we can share fun time together.
- I want a belly rub, the ultimate sign of trust.