

Daisy Grace Raineri



February 25, 2006 – January 2, 2021

Daisy Grace Raineri, a beloved border collie mix, left this world on January 2, 2021, weeks shy of her 15th birthday as the result of heart failure.

Daisy was born on February 25, 2006 in the beautiful Central Valley of California and rescued by California Animal Shelter Friends of Woodland, CA and adopted at the age of 3 months by Lori Raineri. Lori and Daisy immediately began training at UC Davis with the world-renowned animal behaviorist Sophia Yin, followed by City of Davis classes taught by Nancy Abplanalp, eventually finishing their training as a therapy and service dog team at St. Francis Pet Education and Training Center with Terry Sandhoff.

Before her 2nd birthday, [Daisy helped found](#) the Yolo County District Attorney's crime victim assistance program as a pilot program in which she worked regularly for 12 years comforting and accompanying hundreds of child victims and law enforcement personnel facing very emotional and difficult situations, during investigations, therapy sessions and court testimony, stopping only when the global COVID-19 pandemic required it in March of 2020. [This program](#) was led by Cameron Handley and Cecilia Lopez of the DA's office, along with District Attorney Jeff Reisig and Assistant DA Jonathan Raven. This pilot program was supported by the Biberstein Social Action Fund of Congregation Bet Haverim and many past and current County of Yolo staff members. Daisy enjoyed carpooling with her DA office colleagues to get to her post in Woodland, although Daisy never took her turn at driving.

Daisy's working life continued beyond her work as a crime victim assistance dog, as after four tries at the challenging Pet Partners Therapy Team test, Daisy and Lori eventually became registered and qualified for work in complex environments and began several years of weekly visits to Sutter Davis Hospital to visit in-hospital patients, visiting families and hospital staff.

Daisy also made many therapy visits and public appearances upon request to nursing homes and community events as well making presentations in classrooms and conference rooms.

Early in her career, Daisy received attention from the press, which continued throughout her life, and she appeared on [radio](#), television, magazines and newspapers, both local and [national](#). Daisy's favorite interviewer was [Marion Franck of the Davis Enterprise](#).

Not content to only be busy outside the home, on her own, Daisy started alerting Lori to oncoming seizures, allowing Lori time to take medication and mitigate the seizure. Following additional training and certification, Daisy began her third career as Lori's service dog.

Daisy traveled with Lori for business and pleasure on hundreds of trips around California and across the United States, [by plane, train, bus and car](#), averaging 5 miles of walking a day. Daisy's commitment to walking with Lori was shown even further when Daisy became an ultra-marathoner, joining Lori on several two-day 50 mile ultramarathons around their beloved hometown of Davis. A shorter but still special walk was a dream fulfilled when on a beautiful spring day a few years ago, with flowers blooming and newborn horses and cows in the fields, Daisy and Lori walked from home to the world-famous Putah Creek Cafe in Winters for brunch. Daisy and Lori enjoyed many trips to national parks as well as to many cities, and were keen to take tours, visit museums and attend major and minor league baseball games.

Daisy supported Lori through a second round of cancer and through a very challenging graduate school program, including participating with Lori, Dave Howie and Luis Alvarado in a national finance competition in New York City, and making many friends at the University of San Francisco.

Everywhere Daisy went she was an ambassador for kindness and politeness, promoting the human-animal bond and the value and feasibility of service dogs. A fitting tribute to Daisy's life of service was when, five years ago, the [Davis Sunrise Rotary Club inducted Daisy](#), and she joined the millions of Rotarians across the world who are committed to "service above self".

Daisy had many friends who welcomed her company and supported and advocated for her. Once Daisy decided someone was in her "inner circle" that was that, and such special souls could count on an enthusiastic greeting and request for some pats, and if food was present, a request to break bread together. Even in her last moments, when every breath was a struggle, Daisy had a tail wag and cuddle for these dear friends.

Daisy was very well cared for most of her life by Dr. Janet Edson, the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and during her last days and moments by Dr. Mike Yackey and his staff at West Davis Veterinary Center. Daisy was also pampered by Pawsitive Groomers and most recently Feldspar Pet Spa.

Daisy is survived by her beloved grandparents, her inner circle of special friends, her precious family of co-workers at Government Financial Strategies and their dogs, her friends made from clients and colleagues of Government Financial Strategies, her past and present colleagues at the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, her Rotary Club family, her dear Davis neighbors and friends (animal and human), her haverim from Congregation Bet Haverim, her friends who worked at or traveled on Southwest Airlines, Amtrak and Yolobus, her Saturday morning coffee group, the very large village of friends who supported her as she trained and developed her career, and with hope, the thousands of friends she met along the way, having individually and personally given out more than 10,000 trading cards.

Daisy's legacy will live on in the hearts of those who loved her. A celebration of life will be held via Zoom on Sunday, January 10th at 3pm. If you'd like to be emailed the Zoom invitation, please send Celestial Thomas an email at celestial@gfsi.com with your request.