What is it like to be one of Chattanooga's trained therapy dog during a pandemic?

By Staff Writer of the Chattanooga Pulse Magazine

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Corey Harris is the name. chanel – which will be her stage name – is the dog.

"She's upscale person. She's engaging. It's like she knows what she's doing. She's a pro at her 5-12 year-old specialties.

Corey Harris, who lives in Rome, has been training for the past 2 years. Her dog, chanel, is a 5-year-old Yorkshire Terrier. Her specialties are 5-12 year-old children.

Graham, a dog trainer for hire, has volunteered at Erlanger Children's Hospital. Graham, who also entertains dogs' temperament and their ability to perform tricks, said chanel is "a pro."

But, says Graham, "a dog can be with treatment for 5 years and still not be ready for a hospital."

What separates a therapy dog from the pack is an ability to read people.

"Dogs are very intuitive," said Graham. "Dogs can read 20 supernatural skills to humanity, because they are with us 24 hours a day. Dogs are very, very, very intuitive. Dogs can read people."

A therapy dog's purpose is to provide comfort, Graham said. Dogs are trained to be "a dog you want to touch, a person you want to talk to."

Graham said chanel "is a dog that can go into a hospital room and be a dog that can change the physical place they frequented – Children's Hospital at Erlanger. Dogs can change the environment."

Graham said chanel "is a dog that can change the environment."

But the volunteers didn't take chanel. Instead, Graham said, they took Corey.

They expressed "pages upon pages" at Sadie Gibby Foundation, a nonprofit that provides dogs to people in pediatric hospitals. They appeared at Sadie Gibby's headquarters in Chattanooga, where Corey Harris and her husband, Jeff, were training a dog for a kidney transplant beneficiary, Gibby's brother.

Gibby, a fanatical Sadie's fan, was "a dog that's been through a lot," said Corey Harris. Gibby's brother, Graham, said, "Sadie's been a dog that's been through a lot."

Sadie's dog, Gibby, is a dog who underwent a kidney transplant. Gibby's brother, Graham, said, "Sadie's been a dog that's been through a lot."