



Kacey's Listening Ears

alice regan



Kacey the Golden Retriever wiggles with excitement as her owner clips on her bright blue therapy dog vest. She knows today is a special day because she is headed to the local elementary school. With a happy bark and a wagging tail, she waits by the door, ready for her big adventure.



The school hallway is filled with bright posters and the sound of distant laughter. As Kacey walks through the doors, children whisper her name and wave with big smiles. Kacey keeps a steady pace, her soft paws clicking rhythmically on the polished floor.



In the cozy school library, a special corner has been set up with a plush rug and colorful beanbags. The smell of old books and fresh paper fills the air, creating a calm and magical atmosphere. Kacey finds her spot on the rug and settles down, waiting for her first friend.



Little Leo walks up slowly, clutching a thick book tightly to his chest. He feels a bit nervous about reading out loud, but Kacey looks up at him with her warm, brown eyes. She gently rests her chin on his knee, letting him know she is there just to listen.



As Leo begins to read, his voice is quiet at first, but Kacey's steady breathing helps him relax. She tilts her head as if she understands every word of the story about the brave dragon. Her tail thumps softly against the floor, encouraging him to keep going.



Soon, more children join the circle, each bringing their favorite story to share with their furry listener. Kacey remains patient and still, giving every child her full attention. The library is filled with the gentle melody of young voices and the comfort of a loyal friend.



Kacey notices Maya sitting quietly in the back, looking a little unsure about joining the group. With a soft nudge of her wet nose, Kacey invites Maya to come closer. Maya smiles and opens a book filled with vibrant illustrations of the deep blue sea.



Maya reads a silly poem about a fish wearing a hat, and Kacey lets out a soft huff that sounds like a giggle. The children laugh together, and the fear of making mistakes disappears. In this moment, the library is a place of pure joy and shared stories.



As the school bell rings, the children gather around to give Kacey gentle pats and whispered thank-yous. One student carefully places a Star Reader sticker on Kacey's vest as a token of appreciation. Kacey licks a few hands, her heart full of the wonderful tales she heard today.



Back at home, Kacey curls up in her favorite sunlit spot on the living room rug. Her eyes drift shut as she dreams of brave dragons, silly fish, and the happy voices of her friends. She is a therapy dog, and she knows that sometimes, the best way to help is simply to listen.