

Freshman Nick Showman's Furry Friend

Two years ago, freshman Nick Showman started working with his rehabilitation dog, Harley, a white and big labrador.

"I just always wanted a dog. My doctor recommended a service dog to help out with mobility, so now I have a house dog. It's big!" Showman said.

In order to get Harley, Showman's parents had to go to an organization called Disability Assistance Dogs that gives out rehabilitation dogs. Harley used to be a regular pet dog but was donated to this organization because his previous owner had a heart attack and his wife could not take care of him. Before getting Harley, Showman had a bit of trial and error with other rehabilitation dogs from the organization.

To become a rehabilitation dog, Harley had to go through training. The Showman and Harley went to the mall every Sunday to train. At the end of it, the dog was put to the test.

"We practiced commands and got to know each other. We did basic thing like going to the food court and seeing if he would eat the food. I was nervous, but it was not as hard as I thought," explained Showman.

One challenge with Harley is asking people nicely not to pet him. People are supposed to ignore Harley because attention distracts him from his job.

"It's always hard because people just do it, and sometimes I just keep walking. Sometimes, I tell people I'm sorry, but he is working. A lot of parents tells kids he is working," said Showman.

Showman's English teacher, Jessica Williams, is someone who has to resist temptation to pet Harley.

"I've enjoyed having Nick and Harley in class this year," said Williams. "We hardly notice Harley when he is working, but I will say it's hard not being able to pet him!"

Showman believes that Harley has been very helpful to him.

"I feel like he understands if I ever have a problem. I feel like when I get upset, he is there with me and not on the other side. I struggled with school because I would get upset and take it out on others, but now I can talk to Harley," Showman said. "He gets very excited when he hears the word school. He goes and gets his leash. According to my mom, every dog has a job."



>>> **POSE.** Showman had three other rehabilitation dogs before Harley. "We started with three other dogs, but they did not work out. We ended up with Harley. It was a long process," said Showman.

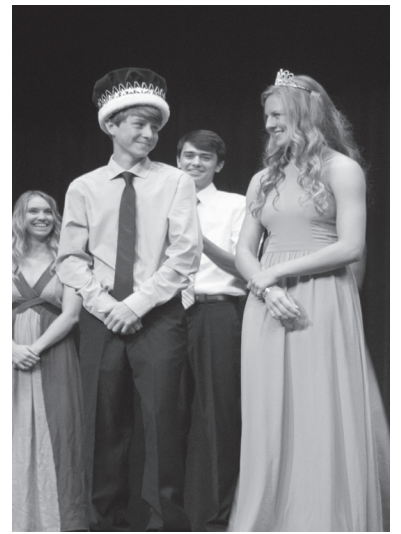
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Current

The 2017 Pella High Homecoming Court

Queen Kara Wichhart: "The best part of being on the court was getting a new perspective of homecoming and going to the pep rallies. I got to see old teachers and meet really excited kids who had a lot of school spirit."

King Adam Davis: "The best part for me was bringing all the classes and schools closer together."



Curtis Ware: "Being able to miss my classes on Monday and Friday."

Ava Rowe: "Being on the court is really cool because we get to represent our school and represent Pella."



Natalie Henry: "The best part was the day of coronation. I loved doing the handshake with Keat and taking lots of pictures with everyone."

Keaton Brenizer: "Being able to spend time with young children across the schools."



Annika Pingel: "My favorite part was going around the the schools with the little kids. It was also fun becoming closer with the people on the homecoming court."

Avery VanZee: "The best part was going to all the pep rallies and talking with all the kids."



Reece Schnell: "My favorite part about homecoming this year was the atmosphere and the food because I had pizza rolls everyday."

Paighton Bogaards: "It was fun spending time with people from my grade and getting to know them better."



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