



A HUSKY DOSE OF THE MERCY TOUCH



Merrilee Ramsey, ARNP
MercyCare Second Avenue

Everywhere that Heather Woodhouse goes, Sabrina is sure to go, too. Trained to detect when Heather's blood sugar levels are too high or too low (Heather has diabetes), the cinnamon-and-white therapy dog is her constant companion.

So, it was natural for Sabrina to accompany Heather to a Sept. 26 pre-surgery physical with Merrilee Ramsey, ARNP, at MercyCare Second Avenue. The clinic is one of the 14 MercyCare clinics recognized as medical homes by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Merrilee helps Heather manage her diabetes, which was particularly important before her surgery scheduled for the next day. During the appointment, Merrilee asked Heather who would be watching Sabrina while she was having surgery. Heather said she wasn't sure yet and expressed concern over finalizing that detail.



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SABRINA IS A THERAPY DOG WHO BRIGHTENS UP THE DAY FOR MERRILEE RAMSEY, ARNP, (LEFT) AND RENAE WADE, CMA, (TOP, CENTER) WHEN SHE ACCOMPANIES HEATHER WOODHOUSE (RIGHT) TO HER APPOINTMENTS AT MERCYCARE SECOND AVENUE.

Merrilee gave *The Mercy Touch* new meaning by volunteering herself and her staff to keep an eye on the husky while Heather was away having surgery.

"We all love Sabrina," says Certified Medical Assistant Renae Wade, who works at MercyCare Second Avenue. In fact, Renae loves her so much that she took the dog home while Heather recovered overnight in the hospital. Her daughters, ages 8 and 15, were thrilled with their temporary new family member!

"They just fell in love with her. She's an awesome dog and so well-behaved," says Renae.

Renae brought her back to the office the next day, where the dog "passed out on the couch in my office," says Merrilee. No doubt she was exhausted from all the love and many walks she

went on with her daughters, says Renae.

"We just did a nice thing for a patient who needed a little extra help," says Merrilee. But—she's quick to say—this was a one-time special case since Sabrina is a therapy dog and they knew how well she behaved.

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