

Dog on the Job

Isabella was crying. It was the little girl's fourth birthday, and she was in the hospital. All she wanted to do was go home.

The nurses tried to cheer her up. They brought her stuffed animals, funny cards, and balloons. Nothing made Isabella feel better . . . until Joseph the pug arrived.



Joseph, shown here with his handler, Peter, and a nurse, is a 12-year-old pug. His favorite treats are peanut butter and watermelon.

Joseph's **handler**, Peter, plopped the small tan dog on the girl's bed. Right away, Joseph snuggled into Isabella's side. Isabella stopped sobbing.

Then Joseph laid his soft head on Isabella's belly. Isabella gave a shy smile.

Before long, Joseph was "kissing" Isabella all over her face. The little girl laughed out loud!



Pugs tend to be jolly dogs—even if they don't look it! Their wrinkled faces make them appear worried and cranky. For this reason, the Dutch name for pugs is *mopshond*, which means "grumbly dog."

▲ Joseph cuddles with a friend at Winchester Hospital in Massachusetts.