

For Immediate Release  
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**WINNER: FAMILY CHOICE AWARD 2013**

**Inspired by a True Story –  
*A Day with Dutchess* Teaches Valuable  
Life Lessons This Holiday Season**  
*Dutchess, a blind therapy dog with a heart of gold,  
stars in the perfect Holiday book for children.*

(November 12, 2013)-- Dogs lead by example--often in amazing ways. Dutchess, a real-life blind therapy dog with a gentle and joyful heart, reveals her zest for life, her compassion and how small acts of kindness can make all the difference in *A Day with Dutchess: Life Lessons from a Blind Therapy Dog*, winner of a 2013 Family Choice Award for Children's Books. [TinyURL.com/ADWD-FCA](http://TinyURL.com/ADWD-FCA)

Prior to the hereditary illness that claimed her eyesight in 2011, Dutchess worked with children with autism. Her story was told in *The New York Times* and *The Bark*. Though her loving owner Mark Condon was unsure how Dutchess would react after surgery, he was grateful that her gregarious personality remained unchanged and she was able to continue her therapy work.

*A Day with Dutchess* shows children the rewards of helping people, animals and pets in the community while celebrating diversity. Everyone has something wonderful to contribute, says Dutchess, whose own triumph over adversity shines through. Through simple, clear text and vibrant illustrations, we follow Dutchess as she invites her canine friend Droopy to join her as they work with children at the autism center, sample treats at their favorite pet boutique and organize an adoption fair to help lonely cats and dogs find loving forever homes.

*A Day with Dutchess* is available on Amazon at [TinyURL.com/DayWithDutchess](http://TinyURL.com/DayWithDutchess)

For more information visit: [www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com](http://www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com) or call (845) 337-3452.

**PRAISE FOR A "DAY WITH DUTCHESS"**

**Bruce Littlefield, author, *The Bedtime Book for Dogs*:** *"Dutchess and her tale are doggone delightful. Her story proves that no matter what hand – or paw – we're dealt in life, it can be used to help better the world."*

**Julie Klam, author of *New York Times* bestseller, *You Had Me at Woof*:** *"A Day with Dutchess is a heartwarming story that will teach kids about the wonders of therapy dogs and seeing past what some might consider a disability. It's a lovely book."*

**Dr. Pia Salk, Psychologist and human-animal bond expert, and spokesperson for Adopt-A-Pet:** *"A Day with Dutchess demonstrates the beauty of the canine-human bond and the power we have within ourselves to help others."*

## **ABOUT MARK CONDON AND DUTCHESS**

Mark Condon is an animal lover, yoga aficionado, and professor of biology at Dutchess Community College in New York. He is co-founder and president of the therapy dog organization Canine Link.

Dutchess is a blind therapy dog who is especially fond of her work with individuals with autism. She is an advocate for animal rescue, an ambassador for HeARTsSpeak™ and a certified member of Dog Scouts of America. When off duty, Dutchess enjoys tennis balls and peanut butter.

Mark and Dutchess live in Poughkeepsie, New York and welcome the opportunity to connect through their Facebook page (Dutchess the Dog) on Twitter (@DutchessTheDog), on Instagram (DutchessTheTherapyDog) or through their website [www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com](http://www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com). For more information call (845) 337-3452 or [media@DutchessTheTherapyDog.com](mailto:media@DutchessTheTherapyDog.com)

### **A Day with Dutchess: Life Lessons from a Blind Therapy Dog**

**By Mark Condon and Julie Phillips**

**Illustrated by Sammy Schreiber**

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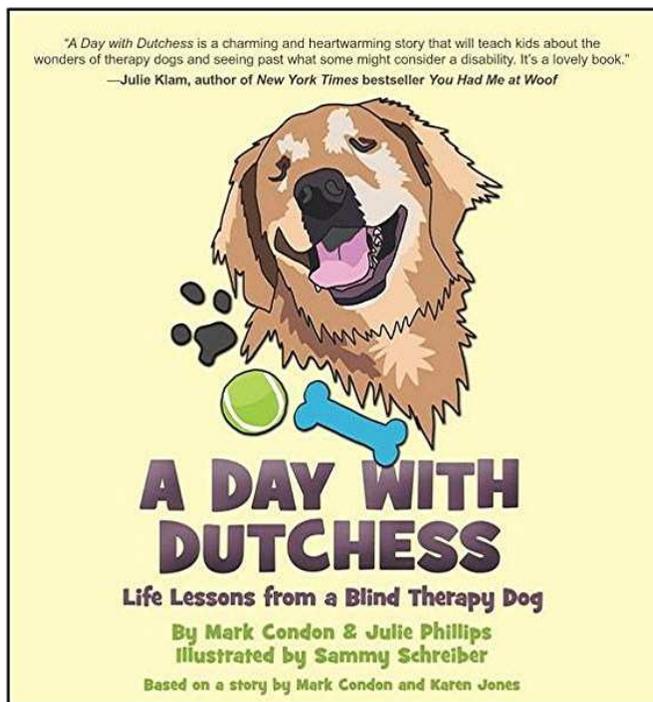
46 pages – fully illustrated - 8.5 x 8.5

Dutchess the Dog Press

[www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com](http://www.DutchessTheTherapyDog.com)

Amazon Link: [TinyURL.com/DayWithDutchess](http://TinyURL.com/DayWithDutchess)

Family Choice Link: [TinyURL.com/ADWD-FCA](http://TinyURL.com/ADWD-FCA)



### **Mark Condon and Dutchess**

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