

## **An Extraordinary Dog**

By all appearances, Jake was an ordinary dog. Black and white. Two ears. Big paws. And a loud bark that could scare away unwanted visitors. But on the second Friday of each month, Jake was an extraordinary dog. Friday was the day he and his dog friends visited the children in a local hospital. They were in a group called “Wagging Tails” and were very special dogs.

Jake loved to visit the children. And the children loved Jake and all of his friends. Jake knew that he and his friends made the children feel better just by being there. He could see it in their smiles. And this made Jake very happy. He had trained very hard to be a member of “Wagging Tails,” and it made him proud to see his hard work helping the children feel better. He loved to see them laughing and smiling and just being kids.

One day Jake was walking with his mom in the park. A little girl and her mother were nearby feeding the ducks at the pond. Jake became very excited, and soon Jake’s mom knew why. The little girl ran up to Jake and gave him a big hug. “Look, Mama! It’s Jake! He and his friends helped me get better so I could come home from the hospital.” “Well, hello there, Jake”, the girl’s mother said as she petted Jake on the head. “You are one very special boy.”

Jake’s smile was big, and his tail was wagging. He and his mom were very proud.