



A Girl's Best Friend ...

Casper the puppy is just what the doctor ordered for Phoebe

Ten year old Phoebe Boor from Ongar recently had her dearest wish to have a Miniature Schnauzer puppy granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children with serious and terminal illnesses.

Phoebe was born with a complex heart defect. At just four days old she underwent open heart surgery and, despite being given a 50/50 chance of survival, Phoebe battled through and was taken home after three weeks in hospital. This first operation was the first of many and Phoebe will require surgery on her heart throughout her life.

Brave Phoebe has also suffered from viral arthritis, which required two years of intensive treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and has endured a great amount of time in hospital away from her family and friends.

Despite the challenges she has faced, Phoebe has remained a happy and positive child. She has lots of hobbies and she is passionate about dancing, singing and drama. Phoebe also loves animals and has always wanted a dog.

Phoebe's parents Sally and Paul heard about Starlight and its wish granting programme and, knowing how brave Phoebe has been and how much she would benefit from a wonderful treat, they put her forward for a Starlight wish.

Phoebe thought long and hard about what her wish would be and eventually decided that a little dog would be the perfect friend for her. She would be able to look after him and, when she was feeling poorly, he would be able to keep her company.

Phoebe's favourite dogs are Miniature Schnauzers and Starlight contacted a local breeder, who had a litter of Mini Schnauzers for sale. Phoebe and her family were invited along to meet the breeder and to see the puppies, which Phoebe adored! Their visit was a surprise for Phoebe and she was overwhelmed when she heard that she was about to meet her new puppy!

Phoebe and her family collected 'Casper' in September and he is already very much part of the family! Phoebe is besotted with him and, since his arrival, he has already brought hours of joy to Phoebe and her brothers Liam and Adam and their parents Sally and Paul.

Phoebe wrote to Starlight and said, "Thank you to Starlight for making us all happy – you are the best! I hope all the other children's wishes come true too!"

Information

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 93p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

For more information, please contact Henny Vere Nicoll at henny@starlight.org.uk / 020 7262 2881 # 231.

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.