So someone had asked about what we do for our service dog. You know we never
had considered a service dog for Bella before seeing a mobility dog in action. It was
a long year of us driving 30 minutes to Service Dog Project at least once a week to
volunteer. Bella helped change waters, feed, brush, scoop poop, clean kennels,
sweep, fluff fluffies and give pats with treats to many dogs over that year long period.

The more you can be there helping out the better chance of a dog choosing you just
like George chose Bella. Is it always easy? Nope. It takes a lot of planning. With
crutches there was no thinking involved. Bella could get up and dressed and then
crutch to school or to a Dr. appointment. No worries.

But when you add a service dog into the mix it takes more planning. “Bella did
George go pee and poop this morning? Did George have breakfast? Do you have
his vest/chain? Did he have 5 minutes to run? Do you have his coat if it's cold?” It's
a lot to plan every time you leave the house. Then planning for the unexpected such
as keeping a container in the car with water/ food bowls, treats, food, fluffies, and
water.

Does Bella always do 100% of his care? No of course not but she does 95+% of his
care. She will happily take him to the bathroom, feed him, brush him, scoop his
poop, and of course keep treats nearby.

Would we change anything? No way. Seeing the improvements have been
amazing. Bella is so much stronger. But when you have a service dog you have to
remember this is a 24/7/365 day job. Bella doesn't decide when she wants to use
George or when she wants to use crutches. George doesn't stay home alone. He is
always with us including overnights at the hospital.

Has it changed anything? Of course it has. Are their places we don't go? Yup. Does
it draw attention? Yes, at times Bella doesn't feel like saying Hi but she has to
because she isn't allowed to be rude. So before you think of getting a service dog
remember they require a lot of work, training, even after you think they are trained
there is always more they need to learn, love, time and attention. Are crutches
easier? Yup but we have adjusted our lives to include George and wouldn't change it
for anything. It's not an option to give up on him and decide one day we don't want to
put forth the extra effort.

It is a lot of effort but he gave Bella her life back so we will do whatever we can to
make him happy!
But look at that face? What's not to love?

Love Bella and George