

OVERCOMING THE ODDS
A **HEALTHSOUTH** PRESENTATION

CARING COMPANIONS

The incredible story of **Scotty Crabtree** is something we can all learn something from. He's knows how special life is and he's not about to let this one slip away. With his singing popularity and his dog, Axel, Scotty is trying to get the message out on Canine Companions For Independence.

BT: I saw your story on TV one night and heard you're an incredible singer.

SC: Yes, thank you very much. I've been singing for 14 years professionally. My career has been amazing and the way it started out is even more amazing than I could think.

BT: I'm sure you shock people when you tell them that you like to sing. People wouldn't assume you would be a singer, right?

SC: People don't think I would be a singer for a living because of my condition. (He developed cerebral palsy as an infant.) I was friends with the legendary Buck Owens and I'm still friends with one of his back-up singers (Kim McAbee).

BT: Now, how did you meet Buck?

SC: Me and his back-up singer became very close friends and she took me to the side door one night. She told me to wait there. I was thinking, "What is she doing?" Later, the door opened and out came Buck Owens. Buck talked to me for around 10 minutes. We became friends after that and were for a long time until his death in 2006.

BT: Wow, that's a great experience.

SC: After that, I was on cloud nine. I didn't look at Buck as just a performer, I saw him as a performer and a great human being.

BT: I have a feeling he saw you the same way.

SC: Before my career, I told him I couldn't sing. He told me to never say I can't do something. He said I can do whatever I set my mind to. Ever since then, I've used that as motivation and tell everyone that motto. Look where it got me.

BT: What would you consider your genre?

SC: Mainly country, but I'm looking to start singing at my church, New Life in the southwest. So, I will be singing Christian music very soon.

BT: It's got to feel good making a difference?

SC: Yes, I'm making a difference for Bakersfield. I even got inducted into the Bakersfield Country Music Hall

of Fame. That was in 2013 and it's an amazing accomplishment.

BT: I've heard that you've had a band breakup, but the band is getting back together.

SC: Yes the band is getting back together, possibly a name change, but everything will be posted on my website but it's for sure getting back together. They can go to scottycrabtree.com and everything about me is up there, such as events and the book I wrote.

BT: I see you have a trained service dog, Axel. How many commands can he do?

SC: He can do a total of 25 commands. He's a \$50,000 service dog.

BT: Was he so expensive because there are a lot of hours put into training service dogs?

Laurie Fidler (Scotty's mom): Yes, they are born into the Canine Companions For Independence program. The dogs are with puppy trainers for 69 months. Then they go to a Canine Companions and are trained by professional trainers. You can't just go up to them and say you want a dog. It's a really long process, you have to apply for it. We waited one and a half years.

BT: What are some of the things Axel can do?

SC: He can sit, open doors, turn on lights, pick things off the floor, open cabinets and close doors with his nose.

BT: Wow that's an amazing dog! Who can someone call for a service dog?

SC: You can log onto my website and it's under one of the tabs titled people who help me.

BT: I'm sure they are pretty happy about you promoting their program.

SC: Yes, they are. There's tons of info on my site.

BT: What advice would you give someone who's in your situation, who may feel hopeless?

SC: If you're a human being, don't give up. No matter how frustrating things might be, you can do what you set your mind to, no matter what.

Scan the code to watch Scotty talk about the Canine Companions



Scan the code to watch Scotty sing one of his songs at the fair.



HEALTHSOUTH
Bakersfield Rehabilitation Hospital

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