



“ Having a service dog will give me more confidence to go out and do what I want to do, instead of what I have to do.

Brittney never thought she'd have a reason to slow down. Having run two half marathons, dozens of 5k's, a 10k, a 2 mile, and multiple 3k's, (her favorite), Brittney's need for speed was strong. But slowing down was something demanded of her.

It began in 2007 when an inability to hold down her food led to a diagnosis of idiopathic gastroparesis, which has left her on IV nutrition and tube feeds. As if that wasn't enough, in 2009, Brittney says she "went from running five miles at a time to barely being able to walk a block from fatigue in the span of a week." Having to deal with this in her second year of veterinary school was a tremendous challenge. By the third year, her weight loss and muscle weakness became impossible to ignore. It was then that she was sent to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester where she was diagnosed with mitochondrial disease. >> READ MORE

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“Despite how I appear on the outside—a motivated and driven individual, there is always a struggle going on,” Brittney said. In 2012, she began to experience muscle spasms that affected the entire right side of her body. Also, her foot began to turn in, making walking great lengths impossible. This time, dystonia was the diagnosis. It has since affected both sides of her body. The jerks and spasms destabilize her, resulting in falls that can occur at any time. A service dog not only helps with balance but in giving visual signals to people.

“**Helping animals is my first love.**”

“Having a service dog gives me more confidence to go out and do what I want to do, instead of what I have to do.” Today, Brittney is working a full time job in the animal industry and also runs her own part-time mobile veterinary clinic.

Brittney’s story is just one of the lives where Domesti-PUPS service dogs create opportunities for independence.

*Your gift  
will make  
a difference  
in the lives of  
people like  
Brittney*

