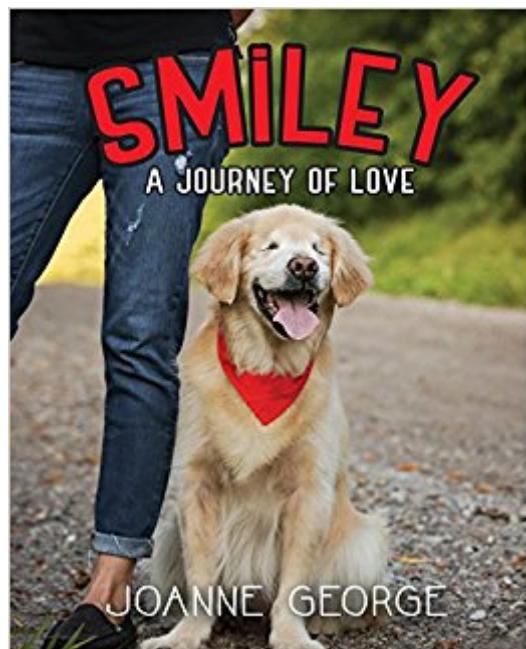


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# Smiley: The Blind Therapy Dog



## **Synopsis**

While working as a veterinary technician, Joanne George heard about a puppy mill not far from the clinic and embarked on a rescue mission with her co-workers. On that special day Joanne met Smiley for the first time. He had been born without eyes and with dwarfism and because of his time in the puppy mill, Smiley was suffering from serious anxiety. While the other dogs rescued that day were found loving homes, Smiley was going to need some extra special care. Nothing happens without practice and patience and Joanne and Smiley learned both those traits together. Gradually Smiley was able to walk off-leash and started greeting Joanne at the back door. She gave Smiley a loving home and he taught her patience, understanding and acceptance. It became evident that Smiley would be a wonderful therapy dog. Joanne and Smiley are now part of the St Johnâ™s Ambulance therapy dog program visiting nursing homes, libraries, childrenâ™s programâ™s and schools â“ making other peopleâ™s lives brighter along the way.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

"An appealing and upbeat biography of a winsome dog with a plucky and compassionate owner."â” Kirkus Reviews

Joanne George is a dog trainer and former veterinary technician who lives with her family (and Smiley) in Stouffville, Ontario. She and Smiley visit nursing homes, librarians, children's programs

and schools as part of a therapy dog program with St John's Ambulance.

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