

## Sadie and Jack

by Donna Provance

By applying her Kids 4 Critters knowledge, Sadie, age 10, is now a dog walker and Jack the Jack Russell has a new playmate. The two couldn't be happier. Plus, they are helping Sadie's sister Jocelyn, age 7, overcome her fear of animals.

Sadie is a student of Mrs. Goeder's 4th grade class at Northwoods Elementary School, which has been hosting the Kids 4 Critters program since its 2015 inception. Soon after graduating from the program, Sadie found Jack in her yard. She approached him in the ways she was taught and saw he was showing friendly behavior such as tail wagging and rolling over for belly scratches. Because Jack was wearing a dog tag, he was reunited with his owner Melanie.

Melanie knew Jack was lonely and bored. He recently lost his companion (a brother dog) and was purposefully acting out at home with accidents and chewing things. Highly energetic, Jack can easily jump his back fence and was known as the neighborhood escape artist.

Melanie and Sadie agreed Jack needs daily walks. Sadie shared that she knew a lot about dogs and had just finished a program at school. Melanie was pleased to hear about Kids 4 Critters and felt Sadie had proven she knew how to take care of Jack. Sadie now walks Jack four days a week and occasional weekends. Melanie has told Sadie and her parents several times that Jack is MUCH happier. He is no longer having accidents, gets his energy out and therefore chews less from anxiety, and rests better at night.

Neighbors know Sadie as a dog walker. She hopes to walk more dogs this summer.



**Caption:** To Jack's delight, Sadie is now his walker. Sadie is using what she learned in Kids 4 Critters to help others and make a difference.