

June 2017

Volume 4: Edition 1

*All
Paws
On
Deck*



Happy Summer, Everyone!

First, I would like to say thank you for your continued support in our puppy programs. It has been a great pleasure of mine to be able to put this newsletter together since its inception. I would like to officially announce that we, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, have reached our goal and all state institutions, who are able to facilitate a program, have puppy programs! Let's take a minute and let that soak in. All state institutions means 24 prisons have programs...**24!** When we started the All Paws On Deck newsletter in December 2014 there were only 11 institutions that had programs. This means that in 2½ years the DOC has added 13 puppy programs statewide. Now let someone say puppy programs in the jails do not work, hmm...

With that being said this is the 6th newsletter, can you believe it! Please read the articles within and if you would like to share your thoughts, please send them to me. I would love to include them in my December edition.

Thanks and enjoy!
Deanna Stager

The Facilities with Puppy Programs:

SCI Albion

SCI Benner Township

SCI Camp Hill

SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Chester

SCI Coal Township

SCI Dallas

SCI Fayette

SCI Forest

SCI Frackville

SCI Graterford

SCI Greene

SCI Houtzdale

SCI Huntingdon

SCI Laurel Highlands

SCI Mahanoy

SCI Mercer

SCI Muncy

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Retreat

SCI Rockview

SCI Smithfield

SCI Somerset

SCI Waymart

If you would like to start your own dog program at your facility contact:
Daniel Lorditch, Activities Coordinator, AOII (dlorditch@pa.gov).

Any materials for publishing should be in word format and submitted to:
Deanna Stager, SCI Graterford (dstager@pa.gov).

Previous editions of "All Paws on Deck" can be viewed on the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov.
Select the "About Us" drop down menu and then "News Releases/Newsletters" and then "Newsletters."

SCI Muncy

Staff and Dogs Attend Community Education Event

On May 3rd, 2017, a number of staff and dogs were able to attend a community education event at the Warrior Run Fire Hall in Wastontown, Pa. This event was designed as a way for local kindergarten classes to expose the students to the functions of various agencies including the hosting fire department, the local police department and the CPL program at SCI Muncy. Stations were set up to allow the children to learn about many topics including fire safety in the home, operation of fire suppression equipment, gear worn by firefighters, police department activities and a police horse.



Sapphire (L) and Tellie (R) pose with a police vehicle.



UM Eli Stevens speaks to students about the CPL program at SCI Muncy

The SCI Muncy CPL station consisted of an overview of the program as well as a demonstration of service dog skills. CPL dogs, Telli and Sapphire, attended along with SCI Muncy staff M. Bitler (CTII), R. Wintersteen (PSS), C. Fallon (PSS), M. Alexander (Educ.) and E. Stevens (UM). The entire process of raising a CPL dog was explained, from the time a dog is received at the institution to the placement with a recipient. Staff explained to the children how the dogs progress through a curriculum, in the same way that they as students do. It was also explained to the students what the meaning is of a service dog's vest and what it means when they see a working dog.

After the presentation about CPL's program and SCI Muncy's role in the program, the children were given the opportunity to greet and pet each dog. This appeared to be the favorite part of the station for most children. It was a good opportunity for the students to get to pet the dogs, but it is also an important part of the dogs' socialization training. For obvious reasons, most dogs raised in a prison have limited interaction with children. Although some handlers who have children take their dogs to the Visiting Room for visits the dogs generally are not exposed to the sight, sounds and overwhelming energy of a group of kindergarteners.



Telli poses with a fire truck.



PSS Christine Fallon poses with a large horse and Sapphire

The dogs all did very well and the children were also well-behaved. This community event was a great way to show the public that there are positive things happening within our correctional facilities. It was also an opportunity to both provide socialization for the dogs and educate children about how to interact with working dogs. Community events are made possible by the hosting agencies and the cooperation of the SCI Muncy administration, but they are successful because of the hard work of our staff volunteers. Thank you!

Eli Stevens
Unit Manager

PSS Russ Wintersteen speaks with a student as he pets CPL dog Sapphire. This was the last group of the day and Sapphire was showing her exhaustion.



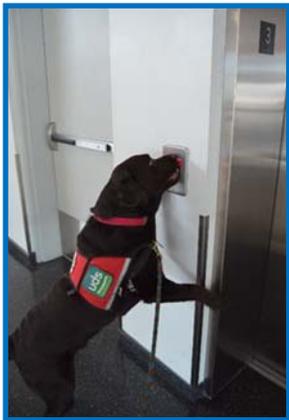
CTII Margaret Bitler looks on proudly as UM Eli Stevens demonstrates commands used by CPL.

SCI Houtzdale

The SCI Houtzdale R.U.F.F (Relying Upon Furry Friends) Program released its four pups to United Disabilities Services (UDS) for advanced training on March 6, 2017, and April 5, 2017. Murray and Renner were the first two pups to depart the facility. Since that time, reports received from UDS have been positive. Both pups are gaining valuable experience in the area of exposure to new sights and sounds with the intent of improving their socialization skill set. Since moving to advanced training Murray and Renner have visited schools, various places of business, area shopping centers as well as UDS events. Their progress as well as the strong foundation they received when partnered with inmate handlers has been noted. UDS has indicated that both pups have already met with two prospective consumers.



Brodey and Abel departed the facility for their advanced training on April 5, 2017. Thus far, Brodey is off to a fast start and is exceling in his new environment while Abel has struggled in some areas. Specifically, he has experienced high degrees of anxiety when exposed to certain situations. That said, UDS has been very pleased with each dog's knowledge of taught commands. The coming months will be vital in regards to each dog's candidacy at becoming a service dog as on average only one in four successfully completes the program.



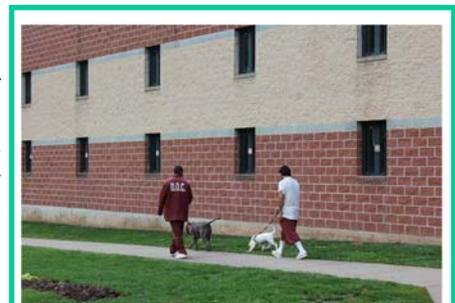
With the first class of pups departing the facility came new challenges. The inmate handlers initially struggled with the void created by their departure as training the canines is a 24/7 job. Additionally, inmates residing on the Veterans Service Unit as well as throughout the facility noted their absence and greatly looked forward to the arrival of the second group of puppies which happened on May 22, 2017. The prison received two yellow and two chocolate Labrador retrievers.

The inmate handlers involved with the program used the down time to brush up on training aspects of the program with the hopes of becoming better handlers when the new pups arrive. Staff also used the time to replenish supplies and to modify certain aspects of the program with the hopes of creating a better learning environment for the pups and inmates alike.

*Craig Petulla
Unit Manager*

SCI Coal Township

SCI Coal Township has partnered with Hero Canine Consulting, LLC, a professional dog training and behavior consulting business. Hero provides a monthly one-on-one training session to the handlers and their paired canine. Volunteering their time and expertise to Coal Township's FIDOS program, Professional Trainers Lisa and Silke train FIDOS handlers in training methods that are easy to implement and highly effective. Hero also makes available educational materials to each handler and has donated training books to the program. The educational materials enable the handlers to continue learning until the next session. FIDOS handlers do a fantastic job. They are dedicated to the program, which is evident in the care they provide for each dog that enters the program. SCICT is thrilled to be partnered with Hero training program and look forward to what the future holds.



Two SCICT FIDOS handlers training on leash walking.

*Trisha Kelley
Superintendent Assistant*

SCI Graterford

Stay Tuned!

Stay Tuned!

SCI Graterford is currently working with the Penn Vet Working Dog Center (PVWDC) to develop a program to train scent detection dogs at the institution. PVWDC is the nation's premier research and educational facility dedicated to harnessing the unique

strengths of our canine partners and producing an elite group of scent detection dogs for public safety and health. Penn Vet Working Dog Center bred puppies (Labrador retrievers) will enter the puppy prison program at eight weeks of age and be raised and trained by the inmates through 12-16 months of age, or until ready for career placement. A litter of puppies will be split (four will start at the PVWDC and four will start in the prison) and have a rotation of two weeks in prison, two weeks at the PVWDC, throughout their training; each inmate team will have two different dogs they are training. A Penn Vet Working Dog Center trainer will work with the inmates weekly – initially two-three days per week, then reduce to one day per week. The PVWDC puppies will be trained by inmates in the following: agility, husbandry, obedience, search and scent detection. The PVWDC graduates from the prison program will be eligible for any of the following careers: search & rescue; explosive detection; medical detection; or specialty scents like bed bugs or other invasive species. Graduates from the prison program will not be placed in careers in narcotics detection. This intensive training program will consist of two-three months of classroom learning for the inmates, two days per week, prior to the arrival of the puppies.

*Laura Banta
Deputy for Centralized Services*

Types of Dog

I	O	E	R	E	L	I	E	W	T	T	O	R	T
F	S	E	R	L	S	O	O	U	N	E	H	E	E
E	H	B	E	A	U	H	A	U	H	I	H	C	R
C	E	R	H	C	O	R	G	I	I	L	A	O	R
O	P	E	C	D	N	U	O	H	S	L	R	E	I
T	H	X	S	R	I	G	I	S	D	O	S	C	E
R	E	O	N	D	D	R	O	A	H	C	N	G	R
D	R	B	I	G	S	L	L	D	C	U	R	L	D
R	D	A	P	H	A	M	H	O	L	E	E	C	B
G	S	D	H	H	A	U	S	I	L	L	U	I	E
R	O	I	I	T	D	E	E	E	C	E	U	L	A
R	E	R	I	H	R	H	R	A	D	R	T	B	G
D	M	A	S	T	I	F	F	C	L	U	R	E	L
E	N	B	L	A	T	S	E	T	T	E	R	E	E

- HOUND
- COLLIE
- DALMATIAN
- MASTIFF
- SHEPHERD
- BOXER
- CHIHUAHUA
- ROTTWEILER
- TERRIER
- PINSCHER
- BULLDOG
- BEAGLE
- SETTER
- CORGI

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9/>

Hounds for Heroes



SCI Dallas

On a 10-acre campus just 50 miles outside New York City, miracles are happening! This is home to the Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs®. On campus, prison trained dogs are given tailor made training for their veteran. VetDogs' staff expand on the prison training for the specific needs for the selected veterans. To date, America's VetDogs® have provided "236 service dogs, 38 PTSD trained dogs, 141 Guide dogs, nine to veteran related facilities, four seizure alert dogs and five Combat Operational Stress Control dogs." The dogs are provided to a veteran free of charge. In this day and age, this is truly incredible! VetDogs estimates the cost of breeding and training is more than \$60,000 per dog.

After months of preparing, Sarg, Colonel and Knight joined us in December 2016. Shortly after, Knight was replaced with King Phillip, our "golden" boy. He was joined with Sparky, Splash and Quinn (all brothers) in February. Arrangements are being finalized for the third group of puppies arriving in late June. Our goal is to train 12 canines on a rotating basis. Handlers meet with the trainer weekly and learn new tasks and continue to practice old ones on a daily basis.

Public puppy raisers pick up the dogs on weekends to socialize and familiarize them with items not found inside the institution such as car rides, children, escalators and elevators. For example, Sarg can often be seen at the local Chuck E. Cheese®, the grocery store or Panera Bread®. The weekend raisers are selected by America's VetDogs®. If you are interested in becoming a weekend puppy raiser, or making a donation, the information can be obtained on their website www.vetdogs.org.

Vetdogs not only provides assistance to veterans it helps people focus on the dog and not the veteran's disability. Also, "the dog provides additional motivation to a disabled veteran to give them the strength to conquer the new challenges they face," says America's VetDogs®.

Special thanks to the Hounds for Heroes Committee Members: CCPM Goyne, Major White, UM's Marsico & Verbyla, CEVC Novak, CC's Mangan, Cicerchia, White, Lyons, CAS Kline, AO Dent, CO Maskalis and CT Fisher. These staff are dedicated to the success of the program and many also volunteer to provide transport for veterinary visits. Also thank you to Supt. Mahally, all staff that have supported the program and noteworthy are those that donated training items; such as, canes, wheelchairs and collars.

The handlers were tasked with preparing articles using an online dating theme. Who knew we had so many comedians at Dallas? Following are their entries. They are obviously proud of the dogs and it shows in their article submissions. Enjoy!!!

*Michael Goyne
Program Manager*



This 4 foot by 6 foot canvas mural is displayed on the Hounds for Heroes unit. Painted by Ray S. "aka Rock"



My name is Splash, and this is the whole poop and nothing but the scoop so help me kibble!

I am a wonderful black Labrador retriever puppy. I also have a great temperament. I just love people and going to school. Right now, I am in high school. I am learning so many cool things like fetch/give, take it, touch, down, sit and of course, say hello! I just love putting my butt to the ground when my handlers say, "Sit." The other day I heard I will learn 50 commands and I won't quit until I mastered them all! I love all my puppy toys, and learning is such a joy. After high school, I will attend college, some day graduate and then my handlers say I can date! Then I will em 'bark' upon my new journey of finding that special veteran whose life I can change by being his/her companion. Making tasks of daily life easier for us to enjoy together!

Hello everyone, my name is Colonel. I'm eight months old and 72 pounds of pure muscle with stunning brown eyes and a shiny black coat. My interests are playing fetch, meeting new people and most of all, my playtime in the doggy yard. Oh, did I mention I have very large paws?

When I'm training, I take it very seriously. I want to be the best service dog I can be and make my veteran proud to have a dog like me. This is who I am...A Service Dog! Up until yesterday, all the younger pups looked up to me and thought I was the most outgoing and fearless of all the super pups at Dallas. But now I fear my secret has been revealed and they've discovered my kryptonite! This past weekend I saw a scary machine with 18 funny feet that my weekend raisers called an 18 Wheeler. I was frozen with fear, yes fear! So to comfort me through this traumatizing experience they lovingly decided to take me to see a giant bunny rabbit with two humongous hind feet. I wanted nothing to do with him either! When they gave me the command to "say hello," I was not having it but I did remember another command which was "leave it" so that's what I did. I left that big ole Easter Bunny in my dust! Now I fear the other pups look at me differently. I just want to bury this secret like an old bone! Hopefully, none of these brave vets will ever, ever hear of this! One day, I will be the greatest service dog since Charlie, who I saw on Good Morning America.



(SCI Dallas continued on next page)

SCI Dallas cont.



My name is Sarg. I am a black Lab and I am seven months old. I have been at SCID since I was 11 weeks old. I have been growing pretty quick while I've been here. I'm really tall now and weigh over 50 pounds. I'm not the biggest pup here, but I am definitely the most handsome! I have been busy learning a lot of commands. I have picked up most of these quickly and those I haven't, my handlers have helped me to learn by showing me what they wanted. My buddy Colonel and I are at the top of our class. We get to go to the dining hall while our handlers eat so we can learn how to behave in a restaurant setting. This is so we will be prepared for when we get to meet and live with the veteran we will be paired with.

All of this training I am doing now will help me to be able to assist my veteran in many ways and make his/her life easier. I can't wait until I graduate and be such a positive part of someone's life who needs me! I have learned at least 23 commands already and there is a bunch more I will learn during my stay here. I have also learned a lot of practical things that will help me in my life's travels. Like not chewing on things that aren't mine and leaving the trash can alone. And of course, only going to the bathroom when and where I am allowed to go. One of my commands is to go to the bathroom on cue, which I have mastered. No standing in the rain for a long time for me and my handlers! Once they give me the cue, I get right down to business! My handlers treat me real good and show me plenty of love and attention. I also have weekend handlers that take me out into the community so I can socialize with places and things I can't meet here at SCI Dallas like trains, buses, trucks, cars, children and other dogs. I even met the Easter Bunny and got to play with two guinea pigs. They are my pals so I wouldn't hurt them. I fit in real well here. So many people around me enjoy talking to me and petting me.

I even look the part which is why I think I fit in here so good. Just like most of the men around me, I am also tattooed. I have a number tattooed in my ear so I can be identified by our organization. It didn't hurt and it looks really cool! I also have my own picture and number hanging on the cell door, just like my handlers. We are expecting some more puppies soon so I am looking forward to meeting them. There are six of us for now. Hopefully I will be able to talk to you more later! Bye!

Hey, my name is King Phillip but my friends call me King. I'm everyone's yellow teddy puppy at least that's what all the ladies say...

I love people and great big hugs! My handlers are my two best friends. They are okay for humans. At least I think that's what they call them. Lets just call them "People Dogs" because we are all one pack. Yeah, that sounds better! I sure do give them a hard time but hey, what can I say? I'm a puppy and I'm royalty!!!! More importantly, I'm working hard with my handlers so one day I'll reach my goal to graduate and become a working dog for a brave veteran!



Enjoying the sunshine after training

I've heard my handlers say that "life is not about yourself but what you can do to help others in need." I'm still a young pup with milk on my breath but I say, "Woof" to that because I now know what I have to do to one day graduate and help a veteran in need! Time to eat!!!!



Hello. I am a very smart 4½ month old black Labrador puppy. I am a part of the Hounds for Heroes program at SCID. I am learning how to be a service dog so that one day, I can help a hurting veteran have a better life. I take my training seriously and love to learn new things. I already know over a dozen commands like stay, take it, give, sit, down and walk. One day, I'll have mastered about 50 commands. I love to play with my brothers, Quinn and Splash. We were all born on the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We also play with our cousin, King Phillip. I love to chase leaves and wish I could fly so I could catch one of those pesky pigeons. I also love going places with my weekend puppy raiser. I am growing very fast and can't wait until I am a big dog like my uncles, Sarg and Colonel. I like to have fun and you can often see me around the institution on various adventures with my handlers. When I graduate, I am going to make my handlers and the Hounds for Heroes staff so proud by being the best service dog I can be for my veteran. Looking forward to meeting you! — Sparky

Hi, Guys and Gals. My name is Quinn. My name is Irish for intelligence in case you were wondering. I use my intellect to make up creative ways to con kibble out of my handlers. They've caught on to my schemes so it's a constant battle of the wits and if you are not one of my handlers...the con has already been put into play. Once you've caught on, it's already too late. I've made off with my payday. You've been gotten by me!

Did I mention that I'm in training to be a service dog? I also wear a uniform. It's a yellow cape with black writing on it that says, "Future Assistance Dog, America's VetDogs, Veteran's K-9 Corps®." It's a total lady magnet! It's just like Marine Corps dress blues. It's no big deal...just playing my part to help our great veterans live a better life. I like walks around the compound with my handlers and I learn my commands quickly. I work hard and when I play, I play just as hard so much that I've been nicknamed, "The Mighty Quinn" and "Quinnzilla." Now, ladies, I know what you're thinking, please don't misconstrue my confidence for arrogance. I can't help that I believe in myself and the mission I'm working to accomplish.

K-9 Quinn was fortunate to have former United States Marine Veterans Kyle R. and Brett W. from the Veteran's Service Unit at SCI Dallas as handlers. Veterans helping veterans...What more can be said?



SCI Waymart

I am proud to announce that since beginning the Furever Friends program in October of last year, SCI Waymart has found forever homes for nine dogs! Waymart currently has six dog handlers and three dogs. Nala and Shya are eight-year-old sisters who were surrendered to the shelter when their elderly owners were unable to care for them. They are very gentle and sweet but do not get along with other dogs. They do not have to be adopted together and do well together or apart.



Clay is a two year old beautiful, affectionate Terrier, American Staffordshire/mix who loves to play! Clay was rescued by True Friends Animal Shelter in Montrose, Pa., prior to coming to our program. He was going to be euthanized at a shelter in New Jersey. Clay loves all people, but does not get along with other dogs. He would make a great companion!

Since October, Waymart's maintenance department has been busy making a beautiful dog adoption board and converting a storage closet into the "Dog Wash." The dog adoption board has both previously adopted dogs and dogs that are up for adoption. The dog wash is equipped with a hand held showerhead, large dog wash area and a "Barks and Bubbles Dog Wash" sign.



The dogs bring joy everywhere they go to both staff and inmates. The dogs in our program have regular visits in the FTC, PCU and ICU units. If you would like to adopt one of our dogs, please contact Unit Manager Bobbie Bassett via email or phone number 570-488-2624.

Bobbie Bassett
Unit Manager

Pawprints In The Sand

Always a warm comfy reminder at the foot of my bed.
Sometimes you do silly things and I'd just shake my head.

At the first light of dawn, a paw would fall upon my face
I'd rub your head and give you a warm embrace.

You'd bound out to the beach with me following close behind
We'd wander and wonder, never knowing what we'd find.

Every day you've been with me, a constant companion who was always there.
The end was near and it just didn't seem fair.

Eventually it was only me there in my bed with no one to lick my face or my hand
I miss the good times we spent together; I miss your pawprints in the sand.

~ *Author Unknown*

SCI Fayette



Jack

Our dogs are finally here! Jack and Akuma arrived at SCI Fayette the afternoon of Monday, May 8th, 2017. Both dogs are pitbulls. Jack is an energetic, one-year old pup, and Akuma is a laid-back, six-year-old. Both dogs took to their new environment very well and both were well-received by both staff and inmate, alike.

In the near future, we will have staff from the Human Animal Rescue (formerly the Animal Rescue League of Pittsburgh & the Western PA Humane Society) come in and provide training to the inmate dog handlers, unit staff and select other staff involved with the D.A.W.G. program.



Akuma

Should you have any questions regarding the D.A.W.G. program, please contact UM Palmer or UM Byers.

Rebecca Palmer
Unit Manager

SCI Rockview

What is a "Service Dog"? A service dog is one who is specially trained to provide assistance to people who have physical disabilities, mental illness, or other illness or disease. Though service dogs are trained to perform physical tasks, the dog may be needed to provide comfort and emotional support to its owner as well. There has been an enormous increase in the use of service dogs over the past decade. Through clarification of federal, state and local laws, service dogs are now allowed virtually anywhere a human can go. It is not uncommon to see a working dog at the grocery store, in a school, or at your place of employment.



Tony relaxing while his partner attends a class.



Natalia providing comfort to a toddler during nap time.

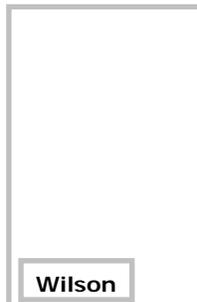
It has now been over a year since SCI Rockview began the canine training program with the support of New Leash on Life USA. We have seen four dogs complete their first phase of training while residing at SCI Rockview for approximately one year. Nine inmates spend their days and nights, working with the dogs. The hard work and dedication has paid off with two of the graduates becoming service dogs and two being placed into the homes of deserving military veterans. Natalia is now providing therapeutic support in an early intervention center for toddlers. She has been such a positive influence in their facility that they are adding a second dog to their staff. Tony is working hard with his new partner to learn specific tasks to mitigate their disability. The mobility and retrieve skills he learned at Rockview have greatly improved his handler's quality of life. He is also practicing relaxing in all sorts of environments.

With months of experience and training under their belts, the handlers have begun training the second round of canine residents. Canines Wilson, Dani, Luke and Randy are the newest four-legged additions to the population at SCI Rockview. Everyone at Rockview has quickly taken a liking to the pups, who already seem right at home in their new environment. The handlers were eager to begin training the pups. It gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing that the dogs they train may become a vital tool to someone in need.

Howard Hoover
Unit Manager



Luke



Wilson



Randy



Dani

SCI Laurel Highlands

Bill Ladika, therapeutic recreational specialist, is an active volunteer in the Canine Partners for Life puppy program at SCI Laurel Highlands. Approximately one year ago, Bill decided he wanted to do more than take the pups home, he wanted to involve the community. He contacted numerous local school districts and inquired about bringing the dogs to educate the students and socialize and train the dogs. Several schools responded with enthusiasm, especially schools with special education/life skills programs and a partnership began.



Going to the schools has many benefits. First and foremost, it is excellent training for the dogs. They are able to interact with large groups of children and also work on their ability to avoid distractions. It is great community relations for our facility and the children have an opportunity to learn about service dogs and how to behave with them. The reward for Bill is to see the kid's expressions and their excitement when they see the dogs. Many of the children may actually be recipient eligible and Bill believes he is delivering the mission of the program to those in need.

The school program has been a win/win situation for the pups as well as the kids and we look forward to continuing next year.

*Ralph Dibridge
Unit Manager*

SCI Somerset

The Canine Partners for Life (CPL) dog program at SCI Somerset has continued to stay busy since the last newsletter. We have nine Labradors of varying ages that are currently participating in our training program: Bosco, Peaches, Nana, Louise, Dagny, Abigail, Coy, Olivia and Sweet Pea. Bosco and Peaches are expected to continue on to their next phase of training at the CPL Kennel in June 2017.



The inmate mural painting crew at SCI Somerset were able to transition our Weaning Program Room from an empty office into a masterpiece fit for some amazing little pups!



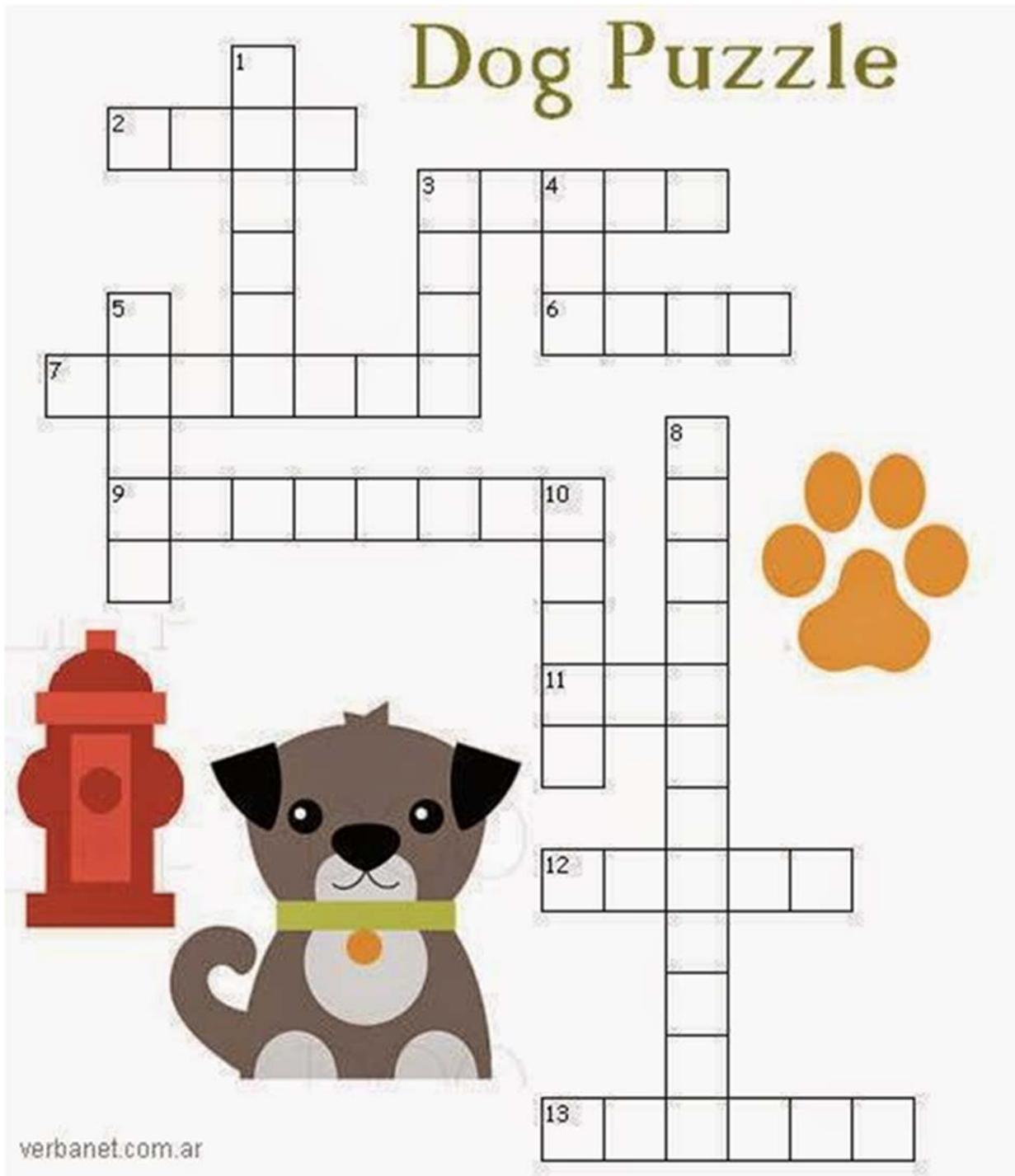
A picture of Fredda and a group picture from her litter.

We have hosted our first litter of puppies through our weaning program, which was a definite learning experience! We welcomed Fredda and her litter of 8 black Lab puppies on December 12th, when the pups were about three weeks old. CPL staff trained the staff and inmates involved in the expectations of the program when they dropped off the pups, and we were off and running on a new adventure. The inmates worked night and day, tirelessly, with these little pups. You would never imagine how time consuming it is to provide the care to a litter when you are trying to not only meet their basic needs but to also begin working on their obedience and desensitization. The weeks flew by and the pups grew quickly! On January 12, 2017, CPL staff returned to complete temperament testing on the pups and they moved on to their next training stop on January 13th. It was so hard to say goodbye to those little fur balls, but we were thrilled that we were able to keep two from that litter for our own training program. So we have had the pleasure of watching Coy and Abigail grow from three weeks old to their current age of six months old!

We look forward to continuing on this journey and watching what a difference these dogs can make in their recipients' lives!

Melanie Pyle
CCPM (Acting)

Dog Puzzle



verbanet.com.ar

Across

- 2. the loud, sharp sound a dog makes.
- 3. a cute young dog.
- 6. what dogs wag when they are happy.
- 7. you use this to walk a dog. (pl)
- 9. sit, heel and stay are... (pl)
- 11. dog's hair.
- 12. to follow or go after someone or something you want like dogs after cats.
- 13. dog house.

Down

- 1. roll over, shake hands, say hello are... (pl)
- 3. a dog's "hands" or "feet". (pl)
- 4. a domesticated animal; also to stroke or caress gently.
- 5. to go and get something. "Go ...!" What you might shout after your dog while throwing a stick into the yard.
- 8. dog doctor.
- 10. smell like a dog does.

Answers on page 16

SCI Albion

SCI Albion CPL pups continue to be busy supporting and educating their communities!



CPL puppy Toto recently spent a day with two first grade classrooms at Erie Rise Leadership Academy Charter School to teach the children about working dogs and dog safety. The classrooms read children's books about working dogs prior to Toto's visit and were eager to share with Toto and his handler all they had learned. Toto demonstrated his service dog skills and his ability to be patient and calm while he met and answered questions from many children and school staff. Toto participated in an art activity, a reading activity and lunch with the children. School policy prohibits us from sharing photos of Toto with the kids, but here he is relaxing with his handler between activities.



The puppies aren't ALL work and no play! They also find plenty of time for fun adventures, like visiting the farm with a volunteer! Here Philip meets a horse with volunteer Heather Benek.



CPL handlers and puppies also recently teamed up with Ardis Walsh (of Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response) and her therapy dog, Murphy, to give a presentation at the Crime Victim Center of Erie's 2017 Conference. Philip, Malcom and Murphy assisted CPL volunteers Ruth Prest and Miranda Galbreath as well as Ms. Walsh to teach attendees about various types of working dogs, their training and the experiences of individuals who partner with these dogs. Philip and Malcom waited patiently for their turn to show off during the presentation!



CPL puppy, Moby, recently teamed up with an SCI Albion volunteer to give a similar presentation on working dogs at the Pennsylvania Association of Probation, Parole and Corrections 2017 Conference at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos!

Moby and his volunteer partner gave two presentations to Parole, Probation and Corrections staff from across the state about how the presence of working dogs benefit inmates, staff and the individuals who ultimately partner with these dogs. Moby also found out what parts of the resort's water park are service dog-accessible!



CPL pups Malcom, yellow Lab from SCI Albion, CoDa and Flick from SCI Cambridge Springs accompanied volunteers Heather Benek, Lori Jez and Walt and Ruth Prest to attend the premiere showing of the documentary film, "Letting Go Of Adele," a story about the person who was matched with the first cardiac alert dog placed by Canine Partners For Life. Adele is a black Lab who was raised at SCI Cambridge Springs and placed with Marty, to alert to her cardiac condition that caused her to pass out with no notice. Prior to having Adele, Marty was passing out multiple times a day, falling, having concussions and many related physical issues. Adele was able to alert to her episodes and let her know whether to stop walking, sit down or lie down until her heart rate returned to normal. The film was about their partnership and Adele's eventual retirement as a service dog and Marty's new partnership with her current service dog, Hector. The movie premiere was part of the Cleveland International Film Festival, so there was an awesome crowd and the pups met and helped to inform a lot of people about the service dog industry and CPL's program. The theater attire for CoDa and Flick were hand made by their handlers from SCI Cambridge Springs! They looked pretty dapper!



CPL puppy John and volunteer Ruth Prest visited the Conneaut Lake Historical Society meeting on 3/20/17, to educate attendees about service dogs.

*Miranda Galbreath
Unit Manager*

Words From Our Trainer



Ms. Angela or as we call her "our angel."

SCI Dallas is one of 12, and one of the newest, of America's VetDogs® prison dog programs. My experience has been nothing but stellar! From the very beginning, there has been tremendous enthusiasm and continued support, starting with the institution's leadership down to the inmate clerk. The program was implemented in record time, from our initial contact to the day that the first group of dogs arrived, it took no more than six months which is extremely fast for a program of this kind.

Today, after only five months in existence, we have an amazing group of six pups at SCI Dallas, in two age groups. The younger puppies (about four months old) are currently learning their basic obedience skills. Things like sit, down, wearing their vests and walking on a loose leash. Our older dogs (seven and eight months old) are already preparing for their first internal obedience test and have just started with basic service dog tasks such as picking up an item from the floor and bringing it back to their handler, an important task especially for our clients with mobility limitations. Our next steps will be teaching the dogs to open and close doors and push light buttons. That's where the real fun starts!

I have seen tremendous progress in the inmate handlers. While some had experience from other prison dog programs, others came into the program with little to no experience and they have all progressed tremendously! Not only do they know how to train their dogs, they also take much pride in caring for them, nearly 24/7 – brushing, bathing, preparing them for vet visits and even brushing their teeth.

SCI Dallas has provided all the equipment necessary to train these future service dogs, like a wheelchair and walkers, a place bed, grooming table and even a dog bath! A library of dog-related books was established, so the inmates both in the program and in the general population can read about training methods, learning theory, dog body language and daily care.

The support by the staff at SCI Dallas has been nothing short of amazing. Everyone involved is enthusiastic and helpful and is constantly coming up with their own ideas on how to promote the program within the prison. For every new pup that arrives at the prison, we need two additional handlers and I regularly interview interested applicants. If approved, I encourage them to attend the weekly training class to give them a head start before they are paired up with a dog. That makes for a smooth transition and will ensure a warm welcome when our next group of puppies arrives, scheduled for early June!

Our program is supported 'on the outside' by a group of dedicated families who live in the vicinity of the prison, called weekend puppy raisers. They pick up the pups every Friday and return them to the prison on Sunday night. During their 'furlough,' as the inmates say, the dogs learn things we cannot teach them within the institution, such as socialization with traffic, stores, parks, etc., as well as impeccable house manners.

It's fascinating to see the progress from week to week. Our inmate handlers are extremely dedicated to their dogs and proud of the contribution they make helping our disabled veterans lead an improved life with a service dog by their side.

What matters most to me is for everyone to understand that this is a team effort. Only if the inmates learn from each other, help each other with their dogs and are supported by leadership and staff, plus our dedicated weekend raisers on the outside, we can bring our dogs across the finish line. I am proud to be part of this endeavor and I'm sure our team at SCI Dallas will send out many awesome dogs who will successfully do their important job at the side of a disabled veteran.

Ms. Angela, Prison Puppy Advisor America's VetDogs

SCI Benner Township

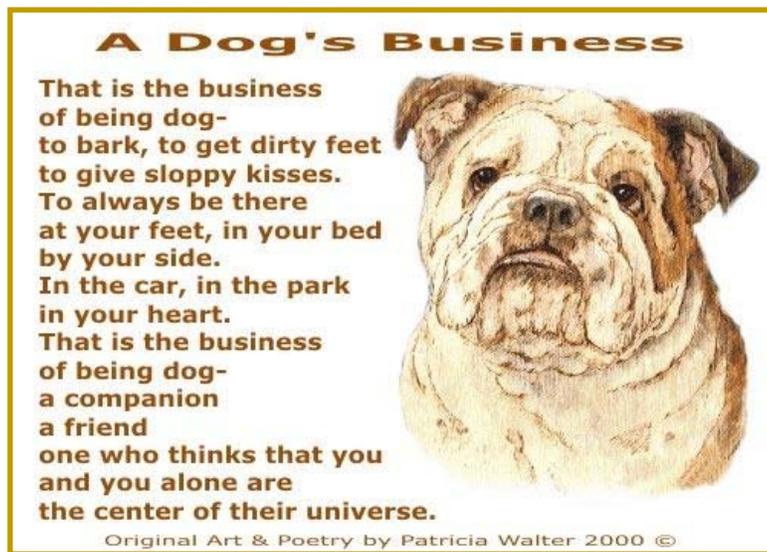
SCI Benner's "A Dog's Tale from Jail" is soon to celebrate its third Anniversary! We have seen some changes within the program over the past several months with new handlers coming on and more to follow. We recently have begun to see more Greyhounds come into our program as more and more race tracks around the East Coast begin to close with changes coming from state legislatures. We are proud to help out these canines! Grey's have such varying personalities that many people are not aware of until they have the pleasure of getting to know the breed.

Some Greyhound information from our Greyhound provider at Nittany Greyhound Rescue found on their website...

- Most Greyhounds are 2-5 years old when they retire from racing. Occasionally, younger or older Greyhounds may be up for adoption.
- Greyhounds typically weigh 50-75 lbs, but some Greyhounds may be larger or smaller. Females are usually smaller than males.
- The average lifespan of a Greyhound is 12-15 years, so you can look forward to many years together after adoption.
- With a shorter, less oily coat than most dog breeds, Greyhounds require minimal grooming, and are sometimes a good match for people with allergies.
- Greyhounds are quiet! Many Greyhounds bark very little or not at all.
- Have a favorite color? Greyhounds come in almost every color imaginable. There are 18 colors officially recognized by the National Greyhound Association, with countless variations of each one.
- Greyhounds are bred to be sprinters, and require little exercise compared to other dog breeds. They prefer to spend most of their day asleep in bed.
- Although large, Greyhounds make good apartment dogs. They're popularly known as 45 mph couch potatoes, and their gentle nature and low exercise needs mean they can adapt well to apartment living.
- Greyhounds are affectionate, sensitive dogs who bond closely with their owners. Many do well as family dogs, though some prefer a quiet home without children or other pets.
- Though bred to hunt small game, Greyhounds can do well in a home with small animals. Our Greyhounds need to pass a test to help us determine if they are small animal safe before we place them in a home with cats, small dogs, or other small pets. Some Greyhounds may have what is called a high prey drive, and these dogs cannot live in a home with small pets.
- Greyhounds spend much of their downtime at the racetrack in a large crate, and many Greyhounds enjoy having access to a crate at home. Crates can be a wonderful way to give your Greyhound a safe place all their own to sleep while you're away, or just when they need a little "me" time.

As we at BEN have been shown by these wonderful canines, while truly a breed of their own, Greyhounds are a quite special and wonderful dog in their own right.

Billie Rupert
Unit Manager



SCI Greene

Here at SCI Greene we are currently training five pups of varying ages. Bingo, our oldest pup, is awaiting a kennel date. Cassidy, Kona and Nike continue learning new skills. We recently received Benson, a 17 month old male Lab, to work with our handlers at Greene.



On Sunday Feb. 26, 2017, Staff handlers and five pups joined trainer Erica and her husband to visit St Peters Lutheran church. The church congregation donated funds to CPL in order to pay for Pet First Aid training.



Bray made a friend!



Rene, a pup from our second group, gave birth to three beautiful healthy pups in March. All three are doing well!! She had two boys and one girl. We are hoping the little girl will join our Greene team!!

In March, SCI Greene hosted special guest, Mike Schwarz, a freelance photojournalist who is putting together a story about CPL & the SCI Greene puppy program. He got some fantastic photos & also interviewed several handlers. To view the photos copy and paste this link: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/7c6Z3fCXe631/>



On March 2nd, Nike passed her four month evaluation with flying colors! Great job Nike!!!

The DOC has approved SCI Greene's CPL program to participate in a study called "I do have a softer side;" A phenomenological Investigation of a prisoner-dog relationship in the Canine Partners for Life training program. Ten inmate handlers were interviewed in June to discuss the effects of raising prison pups. We are excited to see the outcome of this research!



On April 18, 2017, Lindsay, a recipient of Canine Partner's for Life and her service dog, Amber, visited SCI Greene to speak with the handlers and staff. Amber is a graduate from SCI Greene's first litter of pups.

Prison employees, inmate handlers and volunteers attended the gathering where Lindsay spoke about how Amber has given her the gift of independence. Amber serves as a cardiac alert dog and has allowed Lindsay to move from her home in Colorado to attend graduate school in Philadelphia. Her visit was appreciated and enjoyed by all.



Our visitor Benson looking handsome at the Vet!



Bingo relaxing at IHOP!



On May 10th Waynesburg elementary school welcomed our pups and staff handlers for a reading program with Timid Readers. The children loved visiting with the pups!

SCI Greene CPL Committee

*Superintendent Robert Gilmore
Tina Staley - Program Director
Kayla Shaner- Program Administrator
CPL Trainer Erica Seaver-Engel
Marvin Cumberledge - Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Smith - Committee Chairman*

*Lt. Eric Grego- Security Liaison
Lt. Bill Schamp - Security Liaison
Lou Giachetti
Jamie Reader
Mindy Andretti*

SCI Cambridge Springs

The pups here at SCI Cambridge Springs (CBS) have been very busy with their many fans in May. On May 6th, they participated in a photo shoot. Ladies from all over campus had their pictures taken with the guys choosing from four different designs designed by ladies residing in the pup unit. Each photo was gorgeous and unique.

On May 20th, 279 ladies attended our Paws Walk to benefit CPL and to recognize the 35th Anniversary of the opening of CBS. The weather was superb. Attendees were given a chance to interact in and walk our pups and learn more about the program and what the dogs are being trained for. Several dogs from surrounding communities were present. Games were played and demonstrations in search and rescue and cart pulling presentations were given. Lily, a retired Greyhound, brought information on racing and her subsequent life on the couch. We were thrilled to have CPL volunteer trainers Ruth Prest, Lori Jez and S. Loper as well as Darlene Sullivan, founder of CPL and her service dog, Cal. Thanks for traveling all those miles and for all you for us! Proceeds from the Paws walk and photo shoot go to benefit CPL and our program here at CBS. Pierce, BeeGee, Flick, CoDa, Chevy and guest Barkus, John, Philip, Tundra, Bib and Moby thank every one for the love and support.

Our Pierce elicits many adjectives: rambunctious, energetic, vocal, speedy, fearless, agile, observant, opportunistic, short and sweet. He exhibits great joy when he meets new people and this is so contagious, and he considers himself a foremost expert in birdwatching and dandelions. When he enters a room, all eyes are on him. When he leaves, he prefers nothing remain in its original state. A frenetic bundle and a perpetual critic, Pierce barks at the three stooges on television. Larry seems to be an object of his desire. Does he identify more with Moe's fake charge personality? He won't say. At the pool, he is that rare Labrador who refused to swim, choosing instead to dip in just a paw or two, waiting patiently to chase an exiting friend. The only blonde in the bunch, he is unable to escape detection for his misdeeds — who tried to eat that library book? Pierce is small enough to stay under the radar, but his fur betrays him. Everyone knows his name. He is many things, but never boring. If you have a chance to meet Pierce, you'll be glad you did.

Hello, my name is CoDa. I am a nine-month-old black Lab, who's fun loving and adorable. I am currently on vacation in West Chester, Pa. About a month ago my pal, Malcom, and I drove to Cleveland to see the movie "Letting go of Adele." Our buddy, Flick, met us there. When we arrived, there were so many people wearing such colorful clothing. I grew up in a prison, and all of the women wear brown clothes, it was very different. The movie was about Marty and her service dog, Adele. They were the first cardiac alert team to graduate from Canine Partners for Life (CPL). I looked real nice in my tuxedo and bow tie. I just couldn't resist when people wanted to take my picture. Well, I am going to enjoy the rest of my vacation. I had a good time at the movie and thought it was awesome! When I got home my Mommies were so glad to hear I was a good boy that I got a great big yummy snack. Mmm, Mmm, Mmm.

Hi, I'm Chevy, yup like the car! I am the new pup on the block. I'm the youngest but I fit right in with the rest of the guys. I get rolled a lot during play time but I get right back up and get in the middle of the all the action. I hear I got some big paws to fill, there has been so many successful service dogs raised here, but I think I am up for the challenge! Keep a look out to see how I do!

Jamie Rodriguez
Unit Manager



Crossword Puzzle Answers
Across: 2.bark 3.puppy 6.tail 7.leashes 9.commands 11.fur 12.chase 13.kennel
Down: 1.tricks 3.paws 4.pet 5.fetch 8.veterinarian 10.sniff

SCI Camp Hill

Ms. Amanda McClung, a Camp Hill psychological services associate, relays her HOPE program experiences:

I began working with the HOPE program several months ago. I've always been interested in the program and when I finally had the opportunity to escort the dogs, volunteers and handlers around the prison, I took it! As a psychologist at the prison, I'm aware of many of the personal struggles the inmates on the specialized units endure on a daily basis. What I didn't expect, was for some of those struggles to come to light when the dogs came on the housing unit. I was informed by several of the inmates that they missed their dogs/pets so much that they didn't even want to see the dogs. This prompted me as their psychologist to aide in getting the HOPE program more involved in the units. One specific inmate that shared these concerns with me is now interested in becoming a handler due to being exposed to the dogs on a weekly basis. More evidence that the HOPE program is an amazing asset to the DOC.

As an employee, I also notice the difference in the overall demeanor of the inmates on the general population housing units. Walking on a housing unit on a daily basis is often intense and loud at times, specifically during day room. The inmates don't make much eye contact, appear very serious, and sometimes display an attitude, whether it be out of security or emotions. When the dogs are brought onto the block, the majority of the inmate population jumps at the opportunity to come out and see them. They are laughing, getting on the floor with the dogs, smiling, and acting care-free. I've heard inmates call the dogs' pet-names such as "pretty girl" or "sweetie." They appear genuinely disappointed when their time is up with the dogs and they need to return to their cells. I'm often overwhelmed with questions about becoming a handler and moving to the block where the dogs are housed so they can see them more often.

Being involved with the HOPE ladies and the program itself, has opened my eyes to the importance of pet therapy, specifically with populations where there are less interactions and loving relationships present. It's influenced me so much, that I'm looking into adopting one of the HOPE dogs myself!



Beau is a five or six-year-old pit bull mix who is deaf and blind in one eye. Beau was found as a stray and ended up in a shelter where no one claimed him. We don't believe Beau ever lived inside before. We are working on housetraining and teaching him basic commands using hand signals. Beau is extremely affectionate and loves to cuddle. We are trying to teach him how to play with toys because sadly, he doesn't even know what a ball is. For Beau's safety, he will only be placed in a home with a fenced in yard because he is deaf.

*Scott Whalen
Unit Manager*

SCI Retreat

Hope and Joy have been welcome additions to the staff at SCI Retreat. Since being at Retreat, the institution's previous goose problem is virtually non-existent. On a weekly basis Hope and Joy also make visits to the RTUs, DTU and SRTU. They also come out to RTU yard twice a week. Inmates at SCI Retreat seem to be enjoying their presence. RTU inmates have said, "Hope and Joy make it seem less like prison," "We look forward to seeing Hope and Joy every week," and "Having the dogs around puts everyone in a better mood."

*Tristan Adrian
Therapeutic Activities Services Worker*



Hope and Joy make an appearance in the visiting room for Juvenile Lifer Friends & Family Day

SCI Mercer



Matt Kerr with his dog Keenan, who is a former CARE Program graduate, during Reentry Week.

The following was provided by former inmate Matt Kerr:

Here at the CARE Program, we strive for the success of our dogs. Our training has a focus on the obedience aspect of conditioning, as well the counter-conditioning of the undesired behaviors that every dog immediately or eventually exposes. Individually, every dog is unique in this realm. It is helpful in the development of skills in handling and training. A great and satisfying feeling comes when one understands and knows that they helped in the development process of their dog. Then after the duration of their program, they go on to live a happy and healthy life with a loving family.

In the same respect, the CARE Program is doing this for the participant trainers and handlers, who are incarcerated for some form of undesired behavior and unlawful offense. It has given structure and meaning to the days, weeks, months and years. It has given skills in an endeavor with great rewards. It provides lessons in communication, particularly with staff and trainers, also on a different level with their subject dogs. It provides a balance in responsibility, which in many cases was never practiced or developed. It provides life skills, scheduling skills, comprehension skills and leadership skills. In these ways, the dogs have provided more for their humans than vice versa. The hope being that one day they, too, just like the dogs, will go on to live happy, healthy lives with their own loving families.

As a former participant of CARE, and now parolee, I wanted to share my story. After my release, I struggled with life on life's terms and got to a point where I found myself backsliding into my old thinking and was on the verge of my old actions, as well. With good communication with my family, with honesty and humility, I was able to get back on track and check my thinking before I crossed the line into action. I found my way and began focusing on the skills I acquired while in the CARE Program. Today, I run my own dog training business, "Matt's Mutts University." I have taken it even further, being granted permission by the DOC to return and share my experience and success in seminars throughout the state.

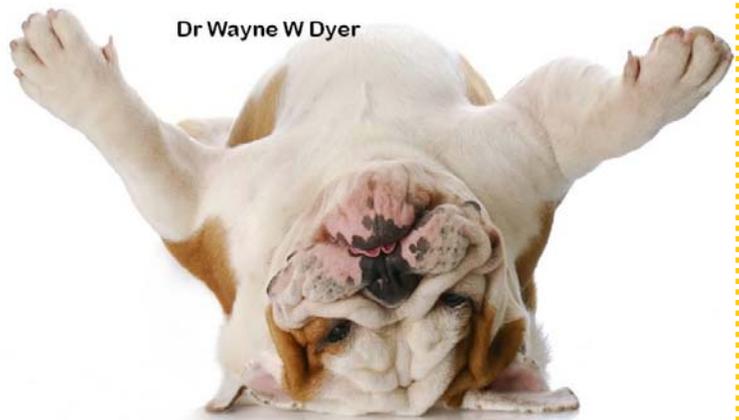
So, I think it's fair to say, whether it be by hand or paw, one washes the other. I hope that my story is testimony to that.

A current inmate in the program says:

"As the author of this article and a participant in the CARE Program for five years with more than 30 dogs, I can say without a doubt that I have received all of the rewards and skills mentioned above and more. Being recently paroled myself after about 12 years and with a lengthy list and record of undesired behaviors and offenses, I am on a different path today, as well. Whether I will work with dogs as a career or just a volunteer, I'm not sure yet, but what I do know is my life is better today and I have all my dogs to thank for this. To all the CARE Program staff who allowed me to be a part of their mission, thank you!"

If you change the way you look at things the things you look at change.

Dr Wayne W Dyer



SCI Chester



SCI Chester has a new partner when it comes to the dogs! Wags Rescue & Referral is a small group of volunteers from Bucks County, Philadelphia and Montgomery County, Pa., that was developed because they wanted to help dogs affected by Hurricane Katrina by placing them in loving and safe homes. Although Hurricane Katrina prompted a group of people to reach out and help, there are still many other natural disasters that continue to give WAGs a reason to keep going and rescue animals. WAGs continues to work with shelters down south to find loving families for their dogs. The goal of the WAGs at Chester program is to provide dogs of all ages, basic obedience and socialization training in approximately a four to six week period and then be placed up for adoption.



On April 26, 2016, SCI Chester officially went to the dogs! Twelve dogs arrived to get settled into their new home. The participation level from staff and inmates has been overwhelming. The difference in the demeanor of the facility was immediately noticed. Everyone has "their" favorite pup! They travel throughout the institution with the inmate handlers or staff handlers. They go on "rounds" in the RHU, as well as visit the inmates in the infirmary.

As of now, five of the 10 dogs have been adopted, and we are expected to get an additional ten dogs on June 10th!

If you would like to be kept up to date with information, please visit the "WAGs at Chester" website, located on DOCNet under Institutions > Chester > WAGs at Chester (located to the Right of the screen)



Please contact Program Coordinators: Ms. Mande Quinn and Ryanne Piorko for any questions.

Mande Quinn
Administrative Officer



5 Things Your Dog Wishes They Could Tell You

1. Don't be mad if I get over-excited when you come home. I just want to spend all the time I have with you.
2. Be patient with me so I can understand what you want. I promise to always try my best
3. Please don't stay mad for too long. You have family and friends but you're all I have.
4. Love me as much as you did when I was a puppy. Even though I'm bigger now, I love you as much as I always did.
5. Stay by my side in my final moments. I know it won't be easy but I need you to be with me.

Inmate Testimonial:

Other staff around the institution have been very supportive of this program. About 80% of the staff love the dogs. I've heard a lot about their dogs and how they love to see the puppies around the institution. Everyone is so amazed at the puppy's progress and their skill level.

And finally, who wouldn't want to live with and work with a dog? When I heard about this program, I jumped at the chance to work with a dog. Dogs are fun, loyal, honest and love unconditionally. They have many qualities that we strive for like playfulness, self-sacrifice and forgiveness. Dogs live in the present and are quick to forgive our shortcomings. Humans usually live in the past or their imagination of what the future may be; only the enlightened live in the present moment. Few people are capable of loving us as purely as a dog does. In many ways, dogs teach us more than we teach them. On a more practical level, dogs just make life so much happier. They remind us to have fun and not to take life so seriously. They are great ice breakers and can soften the hardest heart. Recent studies even show that petting a dog every day can improve your overall health and well-being. How could you not fall in love with those beautiful eyes and that puppy face?

In closing, I want to thank Supt Mahally and all the staff at SCID who made this program available. This program is fulfilling on so many levels and it ultimately gives us a chance at redemption by giving us a chance to help a hurting veteran who selflessly served our county to keep us safe and ensure our way of life. America is the greatest country on earth because the sacrifices of our veterans. I am grateful to be able to give back to them by training a service dog to improve their life.
- David M.



My name is Felix R. and I am a member of the FIDOS Program at SCI Coal Township. I am also a juvenile lifer.

I would like to start off by expressing my gratitude for the FIDOS facilitators for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this beautiful program that helped mold me into the individual I am today.

At the age of 17 I was convicted and incarcerated for murder and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. I've been incarcerated for almost 12 years now and up until I joined the FIDOS Program I've been lost and was on the verge of giving up hope. I was in and out of trouble constantly. I even joined a gang just to have some kind of meaning in my life. I didn't know what to do with myself. All of that changed once I became a dog handler. I know it might sound cheesy, but it's like someone flipped a switch and I can see everything so clearly.

One of my first dogs was a Lhasa Apso. He was beaten and lit on fire inside of a dumpster, left for dead. When I got him you could still smell his burned skin. He had no name and he was from Philly, where I'm from. He was so small, scared and helpless. At that moment I knew I found my calling. Gizmo (that's the name I gave him) was able to fully recover and get adopted. After all he had been through he was still able to be a happy and friendly dog with so much love to give.

Since Gizmo, I've trained 23 dogs; from a blind puppy to a two-year-old deaf dog.

I am now certified in dog CPR and currently studying to become a veterinary assistant. Since I've become a part of the FIDOS Program I've been misconduct free and left the gang life for good. I would just like to say thank you to my grand mom who always believed in me and to all the people that's a part of the FIDOS Program who work so hard with the dogs. And, to all the people who adopted our dogs; you have given them a second chance at life and at happiness.



Zoe, Felix's current canine friend, shows his obedience at the Juvenile Lifer's Friends and Family event.

Inmate Testimonials cont

My Name is Desmond R., and I'm Colonel's backup trainer. I've been incarcerated for the last 15 years. I decided long ago resolving in my heart to do all I could to grow as a man and try to help others as opposed to hurting them. My dream as a child was to become a veterinarian because I love all animals. When I learned of the Hounds for Heroes program, of course, I was happy and eager to sign up. This is the best of both worlds for me. It serves as a platform or should I say a gateway towards redemption. Not only can I work with great dogs but it for a greater good serving a much larger purpose. That of helping to improve the life of someone who sacrificed in order to protect the freedoms and liberties of those in this country. I'm greatly appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this program which is humbling a great responsibility.

The R.U.F.F. Program has afforded me the opportunity to give back to society in a way that I never thought was possible.
- R.U.F.F. Program Handler

When we accept tough jobs as a challenge to our ability and wade into them with joy and enthusiasm. Miracles can happen!
- Robert E. and Sean S.

Dogs don't rationalize. They don't hold anything against a person. They don't see the outside of a human but the inside of a human.

— Cesar Millan —

I am honored to be a part of the Hounds for Heroes program. I have several veterans in my family and I would rather see them with a service dog than hooked on medication. I am proud to be a part of a program that will make a significant difference in the life of someone who served our country. I worked many years as a teacher's aide not knowing whether my work was making any real difference. Now, I can rest assured that I am making a real difference in someone's life.

The Hounds for Heroes program has taught me a lot. There's been challenging times and moments of pure joy. It was hard to give up Knight. He was one of the first dogs. He was sent back to America's VetDogs®. He could be difficult to work with at times but that made it so much sweeter when he made progress. We worked a lot with him and he came a long way. To let him go after three months was gut-wrenchingly difficult. In the morning, he would be so happy to see me that he would nearly break his back wiggling back and forth. That always made my day. We walked the compound a lot and he was walking so good that I would hear inmates yelling compliments out the window. It made me feel proud as he confidently strolled by my side. Knight had a lot of spirit. Everyone, staff and inmates alike loved him and still ask about him. It was bittersweet the day Knight left and Sparky arrived. Sparky is a lot different than Knight. He's very sweet and fun loving... a typical puppy. He is very smart, picks up on things right away and is so easy to work with. He loves to greet people and has difficulty restraining himself. He's such a good dog and I'm lucky to be his primary handler.

I grew up on a small farm training Hereford cows, horses and pigs for 4-H. We also worked training our four collies to herd cattle and some basic commands. Coming into this program, I thought I knew how to train dogs. I was in for a rude awakening because this program is more detailed than I ever imagined. There's a lot of material to cover and these dogs learn nearly 50 commands. I've learned a lot already but still have a long way to go. I am learning something new every day and can't wait until I see one of the dogs graduate.

The staff and inmates involved in this program have been very helpful and supportive. You can tell that they really believe in this program and want it to be a success. The staff take time out of their busy schedules to answer questions, fix problems, take the dogs to the vet and take them out on busy breaks during lockdowns. In particular, UM Marsico has gone out of his way to fix problems and keep us informed on the dog's health issues and on various training updates. The inmates in the program help each other out with training, puppy-sitting and sharing information. The guys with more knowledge help the guys who are just learning. It's pretty amazing because you see guys who normally wouldn't deal with each other in prison, helping each other out.

"This program is a light in an otherwise dark world," says David M. (Primary Handler for Sparky)

SCI Huntingdon

The PAWSabilities program at SCI Huntingdon celebrated its one year anniversary at the end of March. In the first year, we have had the privilege of training 13 dogs, 24 inmate handlers and 22 staff volunteers.

Five dogs (Rafter, Valor, Draco, Nate and Sailor) have graduated from the program and moved on to CPL to finish their specialized training.



Nate



Valor



Rafter



Draco



Sailor

It has been amazing to watch these dogs and their handlers progress through the program. The inmates have displayed a dedication to the training I would not have believed possible.

The Altar Rock JayCees held a fundraiser to help support the program during the year. This enabled staff to order items needed to facilitate the training.

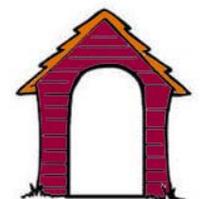
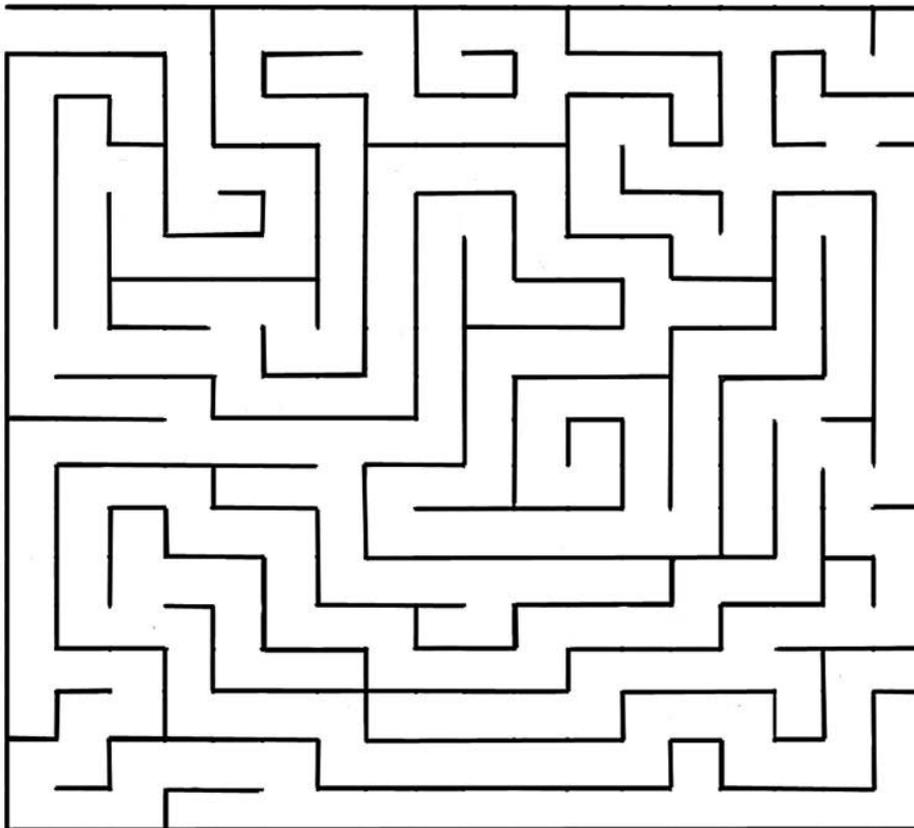
The program is currently training Carson, Denali, Major and Lance. All are black Labs and are doing well in training.

Leif, Benson, Derrick and Aiden have made brief stops (four to six weeks) at Huntingdon while to socialize to this environment.



Nate, Denali, Carson and Valor with items purchased from the Jaycee fundraiser

Michael Swartz
Unit Manager



SCI Pine Grove

Our third class of T.A.I.L.S. dogs arrived on Feb. 16, 2017, when they were 8½ weeks old. Kato and Packer are black Labs; Polar and North are yellow Labs. In the three months that they have been at Pine Grove, they have learned numerous commands. Each dog has gone home with a UDS trained staff member and has been exposed to a number of new experiences. While speaking with our current inmate handlers, they state that being patient is an important quality they have learned.

We have added four new UDS trained staff members to our compliment. They attended training at UDS in Lancaster, Pa., on two separate occasions, including one in December and one in February. At the conclusion of the February training they were able to bring "home" our new class of T.A.I.L.S. puppies. During this third class we are fortunate to have four "veteran" inmate trainers and four "new" inmate trainers. In addition to this we also have two inmate mentors" on the housing unit. These mentors assist the current handlers with training and answer questions.



Packer is our "laid back dog." He takes things as they come and does not get overly excited. Inmate Brandon L. stated, "It was a challenge at first trying to get him to listen. He refused to take treats and did not want to listen. But we stayed consistent with him and he began to come around. Every time we grab his vest, his tail begins to wag and he becomes very attentive."



Kato is our "tester." He likes to challenge both staff and inmate handlers. He complies with commands; however, you need

to "wait him out." Allen W. stated, "Kato is a special dog who is not only training to help other people in the future, but is also helping 'us,' his handlers, to learn and develop patience. Knowing the dog you trained will help someone, but you yourself will learn to develop the patience to deal with anyone and any situation." Jonathan W. stated, "The T.A.I.L.S program is a very time consuming program that can cause stress to the person. But for us that are in the program at SCI Pine Grove, its heart felt because we know that our pups will eventually be a needed help to someone else."



Polar is our "top dog." He likes to show off for everyone. Ravon I. stated, "It all comes down to the program. It is a positive, great, strong program and the program title speaks for itself. T.A.I.L.S.; Train, Assist, Inspire, Loyal, Serve." Keith T. stated, "My goal is to help everyone so that we can get out of the program to help as many people as we can."



North is our "runner." He likes to take the lead. He does listen; however, diversion is utilized. Jordan W. states, "The dog program has helped me out tremendously. It gives me responsibility and encourages me to change. It allows me to work with a dog in prison and make it a little more bearable."

Richard C. sums things up with his outlook on the program by saying, "For the first few months that we have had Packer he has been doing awesome. He is really smart and has a great temperament. He loves to train and makes working with him fun. Going through the T.A.I.L.S. program has taught me a lot. One of the biggest is patience. At time training was frustrating, but in the end it is all worth it knowing they could go on to help someone else live a better life. This program is teaching me a skill that I can use to live a productive life when I get out. This is my second time doing the program and I plan to keep going with it."

We are proud to say that Lewes from our second class is working with his potential consumer. Dewey continues to work on his secondary training. Given the success of our other dogs we are anxious to see what this current class will achieve in the future. We all look forward to raising the bar even higher.

Tammy Delosh
Counselor

Christina Smith
DATS

SCI Forest

From Rags to Riches!

Bubba, a black Lab, has a happy ending taking him all the way to Florida. Bubba arrived at SCI Forest PAWS with his father, Rebel, from very dire circumstances. PAWS, in conjunction with PUPS Providing Hope, decided to give these two dogs a shot at a better life and potentially a shot at being service dogs. The two dogs did not make it in the rigorous program to become service dogs as they had some separation anxiety issues. However, both dogs found a happy ending with families of staff at SCI Forest. One of the foundations of the PAWS program is giving inmates and dogs a second shot at life. As seen on the right, Bubba is living the life. All reports indicate that his separation anxiety has improved and he is very happy frequenting the beaches of Florida. Wouldn't we all be happy to do that!



Another success story is a German Shepard named Finn. Finn was donated to the PAWS program by staff liaison Anderson Friedline. He saw greatness in Finn and thought he would make a perfect service dog for someone. And that he did! In conjunction with PUPS Providing Hope, Finn was paired with a young college student from Pittsburgh University who is wheelchair bound. The inmates at SCI Forest trained Finn to do everything from opening doors, turning on lights, walking with the student next to her wheelchair, waking her up, alerting of emergencies and many other tasks that she had difficulty doing. The two had a bond from the start. She came to Forest to work with Finn for the duration of his training. He left PAWS to finalize his service dog certification in March and is now attending college with his person. He never leaves her side, even for medical procedures.

Lastly, our current round of dogs arrived at the facility in March. A full blooded Poodle is set to be the next courtroom service dog for PUPS Providing Hope. He is a goofy, loveable personality and is coming along nicely in his training. Three of the dogs are set to be emotional support dogs through PUPS Providing Hope with one dog potentially going to a staff member at Forest. We also have a new German Shepard puppy arriving in August that will be trained to go to a veteran in the community (through PUPS Providing Hope). Despite some road bumps, there is lots of exciting news coming out of this program that restarted back in August of 2016.

Yvette Perrin
Unit Manager



SCI Mahanoy

SCI Mahanoy started the P.U.P. Program (Puppies Unleashing Progress) in July 2016. Since its inception, we have made some great strides with the program to include regular visits with the puppies to the various housing units to include the DTU and RTU areas, two television interviews, Pet CPR/First Aid classes for our Handlers and 38 total puppies saved and adopted through our program. We started our collaborative efforts with Brierwood Kennels with six puppies in the program and have recently expanded to seven. This expansion was an attempt to include more of our offender population in the program to include some of our lifers. This is a huge accomplishment for our lifer population, not only do they have to meet the criteria to participate in the puppy program, but also to be housed on a level 2 housing unit. The first lifer participant was asked to summarize his experiences and feelings about his participation in the program. He has served a total of 28 years incarcerated and says, "I believe in second chances, which is why I believe in this program — it is a second chance for me and the puppies I get to work with." He says, "The program is helping me look within myself and know that I still have a lot of good to give and can still make a positive difference in the world."

The puppies at SCI Mahanoy are very fortunate as they do not just get great care by their handlers, they have a nice fenced in area that was created by the Maintenance staff at the institution where they can run freely and play. They have a splash pool that was donated by another staff member for those hot days and so many toys and treats that were all donated by the dedicated staff here at SCI Mahanoy. The RBO also made a nice donation to the program in which dog beds were purchased for their kennels. This is one program that has both the staff and inmate population working together for something good. It truly is Puppies Unleashing Progress.

Traci Jacobson
Unit Manager

SCI Frackville

The FIDOS program at SCI Frackville celebrated its one year anniversary in April. Since the year that we have been operating the program every dog has been placed to their forever home. The FIDOS program is not a service animal program. We received dogs from high kill areas such as Tennessee and Florida. Most of the dogs are to be euthanized and Brierwood kennels meets these shelters to rescue these dogs. Some have been horribly mistreated. The dogs after temperament testing, enter the program and learn to be socialized again and are taught basic obedience skills. Twice a week Brierwood kennels comes in to review the skills that dogs have learned.

*Stacey Dowd
Unit Manager*



Rudy was adopted in October 2016. He came from Florida with three of his siblings. He continues to socialize and play. Recently he has his first trip to Knoebels amusement park.

Just recently we received a thank you card from an adoptive family:

Dear Dog Trainers,
Thank you so much for the time and effort that you put into training Ellie. Rest assured she has a great home. We appreciate you expertise in training her.

Sincerely,
Ellie's Parents



Ellie arriving at SCI Frackville

SCI Smithfield



Barley, Sawyer, Meko and Zern

SCI Smithfield is the puppy home for Zern, Meko, Sawyer (yellow Labs) and Barley (black Lab). Several of our puppies have recently moved on for additional training. Trapper and Harper are completing their second phase of service dog training and Rafter is in Home Companion Training at the Canine Partners for Life Training Facility in Cochranville, Pa.

All four puppies are seen regularly throughout the institution. One place they enjoy visiting is the Smithfield infirmary. The puppies visit the day room and socialize in this environment. For those who are too sick to get out of bed, the handlers take the puppies to the infirmary bed and give the command 'Up' for the puppies to put their paws on the edge of the bed. Handlers say they enjoy having the satisfaction of helping someone feel better. One handler said, "It feels good to see them respond (to the dogs) when they are sick. It shows how worthwhile the puppy program is to everyone." Those living in the infirmary have said, "Thank you for bringing the dogs down, it really made my day," and "I haven't seen a dog in 25 years, this makes me so happy." The handlers never leave without getting thanks from the staff and inmates at the infirmary. They report it is very encouraging for them to see the positive impact the puppies have on everyone at Smithfield.

The puppies are also participate in the Puppy Photo Program. Once a month, on picture day, inmates can chose to have a puppy in their pictures. A handler takes the puppy to the gymnasium for participation. Participants say, "I love sending a picture home to my kids that shows me standing next to a puppy," and "My kids are happy to see me with a dog, it brightens their day." Handlers report the puppies enjoy showing off and are a natural in front of the camera. The puppies are also regularly seen in the visiting room and enjoy interacting with everyone, especially the children. They are asked to participate in photos there as well.



As you can see, the puppies at SCI Smithfield are very popular and do a lot of good work even before they are official service dogs.

*Joy Johnson
Unit Manager*

PA DOC Dog Training Programs By Facility

Facility	Type of Program	Year Implemented
Albion	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2005
Benner Township	Rondout Valley Kennel and Nittany Greyhounds Rescue	2014
Cambridge Springs	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2002
Camp Hill	Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (CPAA)	2005
Chester	Wags Rescue and Referral	2017
Coal Township	Mommy and Me Rescue	2016
Dallas	America's VetDogs	2016
Fayette	Humane Animal Rescue	2017
Forest	Beaver County Humane Society	2016
Frackville	Brierwood Boarding Kennel and Cattery	2016
Graterford	Above and Beyond Rescue	2017
Greene	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2014
Houtzdale	United Disabilities Services (UDS)	2015
Huntingdon	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2016
Laurel Highlands	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2016
Mahanoy	Brierwood Boarding Kennel and Cattery	2016
Mercer	Strayhaven Animal Rescue	2011
Muncy	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2003
Pine Grove	United Disabilities Services (UDS)	2014
Retreat	Luzerne County SPCA	2017
Rockview	New Leash on Life	2016
Smithfield	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2007
Somerset	Canine Partners for Life (CPL)	2015
Waymart	True Friends Animal Welfare	2016

NOTE: While some prisons began training dogs long before the year indicated on this chart, the year provided indicates the beginning of working with the currently listed organization.



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