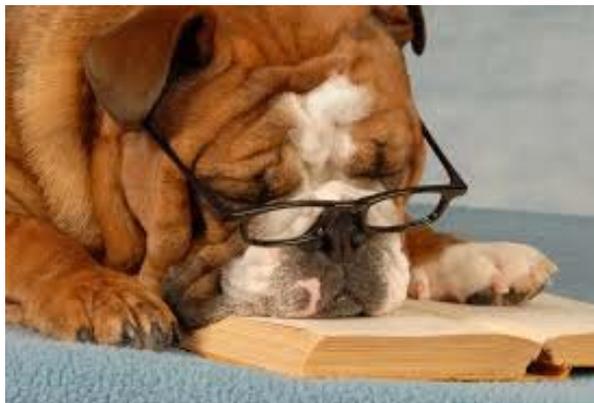


🐾 *All Paws On Deck* 🐾

December 2014

Volume 1: Edition 1

**Welcome to Our New
Semiannual Newsletter!**



All Paws On Deck is a place where staff and inmates alike are able to share their views and news related to the different dog programs throughout the Commonwealth of PA.

Welcome...

...to the First Edition of *All Paws On Deck*. The newsletter will be published semiannually. We hope you will take the time to read the articles within and share any ideas or comments you may have.

This newsletter will be state wide to include all facilities that have dog programs and will consist of facility progress, accomplishments, etc. The goal is to bring awareness to the different types of puppy programs which are supported by the Department. Hopefully it can be used as a re-entry tool and motivational piece to educate not only the inmate population, but staff as well on a variety of topics.

Dog training has been a unique part of Pennsylvania's state prison system for the past 12 years. Whether trained by inmates or employees, all dogs have left our prisons better prepared to be companions or co-workers.

In the process, the dogs have provided an invaluable training program for Pennsylvania's prison inmates, helping in their rehabilitation process as well. The success of these canine graduates gives the inmates a sense of pride, accomplishment and an opportunity to give something positive back to society.

The dog programs in Pennsylvania's prisons are as diverse as our state. Here, inmates rehabilitate and teach socialization skills to unwanted shelter dogs or nurture puppies to become service dogs for people with physical or emotional needs. Dogs are trained to work in the prisons, to sniff out drugs, alcohol or electronics, or helping to protect prison property by herding geese.

Each program is as unique as the people – and dogs – who are dedicated to its success.

If you would like to start your own dog program at your facility contact:
Michael (Skip) Bell, Activities Coordinator, AOII (micbell@pa.gov).

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



The Facilities with Puppy Programs:

SCI Albion

SCI Greene

SCI Camp Hill

SCI Mercer

SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Muncy

SCI Coal Township

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Forest

SCI Smithfield

SCI Graterford

Who is New Leash on Life USA & What Are They All About?



New Leash on Life (NLOL) USA is a non-profit organization based out of Philadelphia, PA. The dogs are saved from at-risk shelters and brought to SCI Graterford for obedience training and socialization to prepare the dogs for adoption. The training program consists of a 12-week dog training curriculum for the inmate participants called "Saving and Reclaiming Lives." "Saving and Reclaiming Lives" is an assistance dog training program that benefits veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and their families. This program prepares dogs with specialized skills to support wounded warriors who experience the impacts of PTSD. The inmates attend workshops on life skills, job readiness, basic animal care and positive reinforcement training with the possibility of earning internships in the animal care field when they are paroled. During the 12-week training program the dogs live in the cell blocks with their inmate trainer 24/7. This helps to build a strong bond both between the inmate trainers and the dogs helping to make the dogs more desirable for adoption or as an assistance dog and to ensure long term success for both humans and canines.

NLOL-USA has trained a variety of dogs at Graterford including four goose dogs, two of which were trained especially for SCI Albion. One of the two goose dogs remains a resident of Graterford, and the second was adopted but returns for 'work' each day helping to maintain the goose population. (*Stay tuned for future article!*)

On June 5, 2014 SCI Graterford held the first ever TEDx event in a Pennsylvania correctional facility. NLOL-USA Director of Operations Rob Rosa was invited as a representative for NLOL-USA to share his own personal experience of how a canine program much like this helped him during his own incarcerated. (See www.youtube.com and search for TEDxGraterfordStatePrison for Mr. Rosa's presentation.)

Since the start of NLOL-USA at SCI Graterford in April 8, 2013, they have had five classes with 25 inmate graduates. Sixteen of the participants have since paroled. There have been eight returning citizens who participated in post release support, seven internships have been offered (six of which have been accepted leading to six job offers) and three have retained employment to date. On November 13, 2014, they started their new class with four dogs and seven inmates with graduation planned for January 2015.

Together, SCI Graterford and NLOL-USA have rescued 22 shelter dogs, and 100% of those dogs passed their Canine Good Citizen test and have been placed in forever homes.

*Deanna Stager
SCI Graterford*



Training Tips

I have the honor of being a part of the most amazing team that I know...
New Leash on Life-USA.

I am the dog trainer that works with the inmate handlers at SCI Graterford. All of our dogs have to go through basic obedience with the end result of earning their American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Certification (AKC GCG). The handlers are required to train with their dogs on a daily basis and make sure they get plenty of exercise.

Exercise is really mandatory for all dogs. The way that I break that down is physical and mental exercise. I think we all understand the physical exercise part; walks, hikes, playing with toys and running, but what is mental exercise? Mental exercise is also referred to as mental stimulation which comes in many forms. Training your dog — whether it be basic training, advanced training, tricks or rally, agility — always will be number one in my book, but I love to get creative with other activities too.



One of my most favorite things we started with our current session is using a toy called Kong Wobbler. It's a funny shaped treat dispensing toy with a hole on the side of it. The catch to this is I never use treats for this interactive toy but I use their dog food. This allows dogs to "work" for their food instead of eating out of a bowl. Their food is their paycheck so to speak, and their job in this activity is to figure out 'how do I get my food out?' The way that this particular toy works is the food is put inside the wobbler, the dog needs to then push the wobbler over on its side — either with their nose or paw — in order to get out their food. Sound easy? Sometimes it takes dogs some time to figure this puzzle out but once they do they will love it.

I like training to be fun for the owner/handler as well as the dog, so this is one of many examples of having fun with training. The dog is also entertaining himself with a toy that magically dispenses food and he has earned it. If you have a dog that eats fast, this is a sure-fire way to slow them down a bit. Treat dispensing toys are a great way to keep Fido's brain sharp and teaches him how to make good decisions.

Mental stimulation allows dogs to release excess energy that they have too! All of our dogs practice Nothing in Life is Free in our training program, which means they earn everything that they receive. If you don't keep your dog physically and mentally stimulated in a positive way he will find another outlet to keep himself busy, which is not always the right decision. Some dogs can literally run all day long, but do an hour session of dog training and they can barley lift their head off the ground. When they're done they are so exhausted.

Does your dog have excess energy even after walks or just in general?? Think about adding more mental along with your physical stimulation to their daily routine for a happy well balanced satisfied pooch!



Jennifer Green, CPDT-KA
Trainer, New Leash on Life USA

SCI Albion - CPL's Prison Puppy Raising Program

Founded by Executive Director Darlene Sullivan 25 years ago, the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) provides highly-trained service dogs for individuals with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. CPL is a nationally-recognized leader in the assistance dog field and is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). To date, Canine Partners for Life has placed more than 600 service and home companion dogs in 45 states.



It takes two years to raise and train a CPL service dog. For the first year of their life, CPL dogs are raised by either a community volunteer puppy raiser or go into the CPL Prison Puppy Raising Program (PPRP). This innovative program is located in eight prisons throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland. Currently there are 32 puppies in the program. The puppies are taught basic obedience by inmate handlers under the supervision of CPL's volunteer trainers and staff. The inmates have to meet strict criteria to participate in this very popular program. They must have a record of good behavior and have no history of abuse. Each puppy when it arrives at a prison is assigned two handlers. They feed, care and train the dog keeping it with them in their cell. The puppies live with their inmate handlers 24/7, gaining valuable experience and socialization. At 14 months of age, the puppies return to the CPL campus in Cochranville, PA, to enter CPL's state-of-the-art kennel and begin advanced service dog training. At approximately 20 months of age, they are partnered with a CPL applicant. They go on to transform lives in ways that are almost beyond the imagination, enabling their human partners to live fuller, more independent lives. But the PPRP puppies will always carry that powerful bond with them of their first home and their first handlers after leaving their mother and littermates. They never forget.



Boots, Fuji and Harley.



Currently, SCI Albion has three pups from CPL; Boots, Harley and Fuji. Boots and Harley are both yellow Labrador retrievers, and Fuji is a black standard poodle. All three pups are 10 months old. So, they will be training at SCI Albion for at least another two months. The pups will then transition to CPL's facility in Cochranville, PA, when kennel space becomes available. Each of the pups has their own quirks, but are progressing on schedule. We currently have 10 inmate handlers, but we are always looking for interested individuals to act as alternates or possible replacements. The majority of the inmate handlers have been with the program since its inception at SCI Albion. The inmates are all long-term inmates, with most being lifers. There have been 43 CPL pups pass through the program at SCI Albion (please see the attached list.) Eighteen pups are now full service dogs, 13 are home companion dogs, seven have been released, and the remainder are still in training at CPL or SCI Albion.

I recently attended CPL's fall graduation to see four of the dogs that had been at SCI Albion graduate. Uncle Ed, Magic and Wallace are now full service dogs, and Proski is a home companion. It was very nice to meet the recipients and see the "finished product." The recipient that received Wallace, a black lab from SCI Albion, stated during her graduation speech, "It is amazing that it took two inmates to raise this special dog in order to give me my freedom." All of the recipients repeatedly expressed their gratitude toward the CPL staff, our inmate handlers and our institutional staff. SCI Albion has been involved with the CPL program well over 10 years now, and the benefits to our inmates, staff and the recipients are too numerous to count.

*Roderic Shower, UM
SCI Albion*



Magic, Wallace and Uncle Ed attending CPL's fall graduation



Goose Dogs

We currently have two goose dogs that we received from SCI Graterford's New Leash on Life program, which rehabilitates shelter dogs that were at risk for being euthanized by providing an initial obedience course and then advanced training in herding behaviors. Our goose dogs, Steele and Dixie, have been at SCI Albion since early spring. Both dogs are a blue heeler mix. Since their arrival our goose population has notably decreased. Both dogs have become acclimated to the institution and have become well-liked by both inmates and staff.



FIDOS – Fostering & Improving Dog Obedience and Survival



Layla – female,
10 month old,
Rottweiler



Canine handlers and Amy Eckert from Brierwood Kennel.



Roxie - female,
3 year old,
German shepherd



Nala - female,
2 year old, boxer

The FIDOS program is up and running at Coal Township for its third class thanks to the help of staff volunteers and 12 inmate handlers.

FIDOS started in July 2014 with the arrival of its first group of dogs from Brierwood Boarding Kennel and Cattery, in Pottsville. They provide the obedience training twice a week and handle all phases of the adoption process.



Lucas – male,
3 yr old,
Shiloh shepherd

The first class consisted of five pups: Sadie a 4-month-old pure bred German shepherd, Maggie a 1½-year-old Griffon, Tito a 1½-year-old pure bred Yorkie, Shakespeare a 1-year-old Australian terrier and Charlie an 8-month-old female pug/beagle mix. All have been successfully adopted. Shakespeare will be traveling to Florida twice a year with his new owner. Maggie is being trained as a therapy dog who will be visiting nursing homes, state hospitals and helping children become familiar with dogs and their treatment. When adopting dogs through Brierwood they include the spaying/neutering, rabies, distemper combo, heart worm test, deworming, flea treatment, microchip and basic obedience training.

Staff and inmates have expressed positive feedback when asked about the program. Many positive comments have been made relative to the great job the inmate handlers are doing with care and training the dogs. Housing unit staff commented that it appeared inmates with mental illnesses seemed to be socializing more. The program has somewhat helped inmates with issues related to separation from family, friends and loved ones....causing them to focus on providing the dogs with training and love and giving them reason to avoid trouble. One of the handlers said he "feels good everyday knowing that he is helping save a dog's life. When the dogs leave our facility, it's as if they are brand new dogs."

Also adopted through the second cycle of program was Monty a 1½-year-old Basenji mix, Gizmoe a 1½-year-old Lhasa Apso, Bowie a 9-month-old terrier chow and Shay a 7-month-old elkhound. Still available for adoption are Squiggy a 1½-year-old Maltese/poodle and Archie a 3-year-old miniature poodle.

*Jill Bright
FIDOS Volunteer*

*Trisha Kelley
Superintendent's Assistant*

Since article submission Squiggy and Archie have found their forever home!

Inmate Testimonials

I was always fond of animals, especially dogs. I thought I knew all there was to know. Joining the dog program gave me an escape from the hectic environment of being incarcerated. I've had one basic dog, one service dog, one therapy dog and most recently I have a goose dog. Each one taught me how to show empathy and compassion on different levels. Each dog loved me unconditionally, for who I was and how I treated them. They didn't know we were in jail, or what I did to wind up here, they didn't judge me. It gave me a great sense of pride each dog I helped save and train. The responsibility of having a dog helped keep me out of trouble, as it is very easy to get caught up in jailhouse politics. Just knowing that the dog needed me, saved me many times. Whenever I faced a challenge or adversity, I knew I could retreat to my dog and either go for a walk or help that dog with its problems. Having these dogs showed me that I do have softer side. I've learned a lot about myself throughout this program. I definitely will take what I learned and apply it to my everyday life when I go home. And you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Matthew R.

"For me it is the satisfaction of knowing what these dogs are off to do when they leave here and that I gave a piece of myself to train the dog to help those people."



"A little piece of us leaves with each dog we train. We also feel that we are giving back to society even though we took from society with the crime we committed."



"It's been a lot of fun. I cannot see myself doing anything else...I'm grateful to have had the privilege to take responsibility for my life, at a cause no less, giving back to the community. These dogs come from all different walks of life, to each one a rough road, it's my job to help smooth their path. The days of neglect and hunger are over, the threat of being euthanized is at its end. They can finally have peace in their lives and that alone gives me peace in mine."

Corry R.

SCI Greene CPL Prison Pup Program

Started in 1989, Canine Partners for Life is a non-profit corporation that provides certified service dogs to people with disabilities. It was started in state prisons after a nun, who ran a number of prison programs in Maryland, wrote to state prison officials and suggested it. The proposal was then presented to PA prisons in 2002, and State Correctional Institutions at Cambridge Springs, Muncy and Graterford were the first to respond. Since that time the project has been expanded to Albion, Forrest, Smithfield and most recently Greene. The staff at Greene began the process of bringing the program onboard in October 2013 and received five female puppies on March 26, 2014.

Our five female yellow Labradors are currently nine months old and have passed all their training evaluations to date. Our pups; Ameer, Amber, Zin, Suka and Goldie have all been very responsive to training. Recently they completed the Penn Hip test, and we are awaiting the results. This test is one of many factors that are crucial in the consideration in their career as a service dog. The pups are scheduled to complete their training at SCI Greene in the spring of 2015 and will then go on to an additional year of specialized training at CPL's compound in Cochranville, PA.

Currently we have 14 volunteer inmate dog handlers, many of which have extensive time to do or Life sentences. Inmate handlers have been carefully selected and must pass a rigorous screening process



and finally be approved by vote sheet prior to participating. The program is currently housed on a L3 unit and only L2 and L3 inmates are permitted to apply. Once approved to participate, the inmates in the program attend several months of training with CPL. Handlers are volunteers and are not paid or compensated for participating in this program. They continue to do their regular jobs throughout the institution in addition to their CPL duties. Ten of the handlers are assigned to five dogs as primary and secondary, while the remaining four alternates provide supportive services for the pups and handlers. These inmates have shown remarkable dedication to this program and CPL. These 14 handlers work together every day to train the dogs as well as attending ongoing skills training at least twice a month with CPL Trainer Erica Seaver-Engle who is assigned to Greene. Mrs. Engle has proven to be a dedicated, organized and valuable member of the CPL team at Greene. Her commitment has made the integration of this new program a smoother process for both staff and inmates.

It is apparent in everyday interactions with the handlers that the CPL

program has instilled a sense of responsibility, purpose and discipline in them. Inmates involved in the program have reported that it has truly changed their lives for the better. Additionally, the overall mood since the arrival of the pups on the unit and in the prison has shown marked improvement. Inmates report it brings back a feeling of being human and "normal" to their lives. Many of the inmate handlers are also peer support specialists, and the pups assist them in helping many of our C and D stability code inmates throughout the institution.

Staff members also have the opportunity to volunteer with this program and take a pup home for training. We currently have 26 volunteer staff who assist with the program in a variety of ways including outings and vet visits. As a volunteer, staff must complete a four-hour training course with Canine Partners for Life. Staff volunteers are an essential part of our program.

Once the pups have completed all of their training, they will go on to assist an individual with a disability. Eventually the dogs will learn how to do such chores as turn on light switches, help a person change clothes, retrieve such items as a phone and do similar duties that help people become more independent. This program is truly extraordinary and making a difference in the lives of all that it touches.



Above: Suka enjoying the fall foliage, Ameer our little devil, and Goldie ready for Halloween in her cat ears.



A note from our CPL Trainer Erica Seaver Engle:

Hello All, I joined the CPL team in May 2014 as one of three volunteer Prison Puppy Trainers working eight institutions across Pennsylvania and Maryland. My previous experience includes work in wildlife biology, adventure education and animal sheltering. No matter the work or interest area, my passion is education, creating positive space for the brilliance of students to shine and being a lifelong learner. As for working with SCI Greene? I have been impressed since day one by the enthusiasm and professionalism of both puppy handlers and staff, as well as the administration's support of the puppy program. I look forward to each and every Wednesday training, when I know I'll work with puppies and humans bringing out the very best in each other. Raising a puppy is a huge commitment, let alone raising a puppy on his/her way to service dog status. SCI Greene has jumped in with all four paws, and lives will be changed forever because of these inmates and staff.

SCI GREENE CPL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Robert Gilmore
Tina Staley - Program Director
Capt. Thomas Armstrong - Security Liaison
Lt. Jeffrey Tony - Security Liaison
Marvin Cumberledge - Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Smith - Committee Chairman

Lou Giachetti
Jamie Reader
CO1 Christine Smith
Sharon Goulding
Nedra Grego
CPL Trainer Erica Seaver-Engle

Pups Assisting Wounded Soldiers (P.A.W.S.)



Barney and his veteran along with Wags 4 Warriors founders Frank and Jen De Lorenzo

The purpose of the PAWS Program is to train rescued dogs basic obedience skills to enhance their chances of being adopted out to good homes in the community and for evaluation by the Wags 4 Warriors organization to provide companion service dogs to PTSD veterans. Inmates in the PAWS Program are assigned to house a dog in their cell and are tasked with training the rescued dogs according to the Training Procedures presented by the PAWS Volunteers which includes the PAWS Professional Dog Trainer. Dogs are in training for approximately six to 12 weeks or longer if the needs of the dog warrant a longer stay (most stay longer, we like them). When the dog is deemed ready for adoption/evaluation and a home has been approved, the dog will be removed for placement and a new dog will be brought in to begin the program. If the dog is selected by Wags 4 Warriors, then our inmate organization (Hope for Change) pays the shelter adoption fee for the dog and the dog is then placed

with Wags 4 Warriors to continue the training in preparation of being a service dog. The veteran gets a free service dog due to Hope for Change paying the fee. We have graduated 39, with five of them going as service to dogs to veterans. We have six that are picked out and waiting to participate as soon as the six we currently have graduate.

*Brenda Haupt, Unit Manager
SCI Forest*

Why Dogs Rub Their Muzzles After Eating

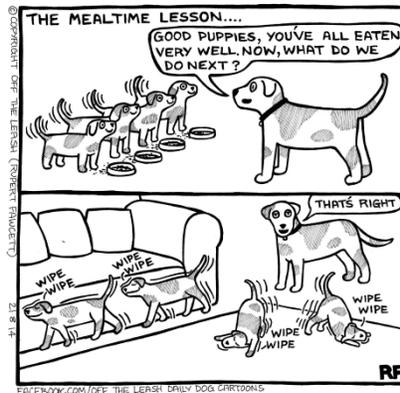
Dogs are curious creatures with frequently bizarre behaviors. Normal behaviors for canines may puzzle humans, and a dog rubbing his muzzle is just one example of this. There are several sound reasons why dogs rub their muzzles after eating.

History

The ancestors of dogs, who lived in the wild, did not have access to kibble. The instinct to clean their muzzles of the blood of their prey is ingrained within canines. Sometimes this behavior shows up in domesticated dogs.

Function

A dog's sense of smell is one of its primary forms of communication. By rubbing muzzles after eating, dogs may be better able to enjoy the smell of the meal.



Considerations

Like humans, dogs can develop allergies to the ingredients in their food. If a dog is allergic to an ingredient in its food, it may rub its muzzle to scratch an itch.

Speculation

Some behaviorists credit muzzle rubbing as a symbolic act of triumph, while others feel that the dog is merely expressing happiness over having eaten.

Warning

Rubbing of the muzzle may indicate a foreign body is stuck in the teeth or nostril. If the foreign object is embedded into soft tissue, it may need to be surgically removed.

A Rescuers Creed

I shall be a believer of all that is good in man and of all that is deserving in animals.

I shall plead for their lives, campaign for their safety and uphold their right to a natural death.

I shall seek out the injured and the maimed, the unloved, and the abandoned and tend to them in their last days.

I shall not forget their place in the hierarchy of life, nor that we walk in each other's paths.

I shall bear witness to the wonder they bring into our lives and to the beauty they bestow upon our souls.

I shall renew their spirits when they are waning, bind their wounds when they bleed, cradle them when they whimper, and comfort them when they mourn.

I shall be near them in their hour of greatest need - a companion and friend when the time has come.

I shall watch over them and console them and ask that the angels gather them in their arms. From the creatures of the earth

I shall learn the fruits of compassion and undying love, and

I shall be called the beloved of God. In their company

I shall indeed be blessed.

~ Susan M. Pearson

SCI Cambridge Springs Pup Program

SCI Cambridge Springs was the first prison to establish a pup program in Pennsylvania in 2001. We started out with four labs...two black and two yellow (Camper, Patch, Duffy and Harry). A total of 66 puppies have been raised for Canine Partners for Life.

*It takes a village...*We have had several volunteers and employees helping to make our program the success that it is. Primarily, the Activities Department and unit manager are responsible for the maintenance of the program. We have one regular volunteer who comes in for trainings every other Friday and serves as a liaison between the prison and Canine Partners for Life. The combination of the three are responsible for vet visits, socialization, training, grooming and ordering/maintenance of food and supplies. We have recently added eight volunteers to the program to aid in vet visits and socialization. Outside volunteers take the pups out of the institution and to the library to have children read to them. They also take them to church, the supermarket, department stores and even the gym.



Bertie being read to at the library

Currently SCI Cambridge Springs is raising three puppies (Jayke a yellow lab, Banjo a red lab and Bertie a yellow lab who is the brother of Banjo). After their year of basic training, the pups go to CPL's training facility to learn more advanced skills needed to help future recipients.



Jayke as a puppy

All of our dogs are progressing nicely except for the occasional "whine" when their handler is out of sight. They are "busy bodies" so the handlers are kept busy making sure they don't "scarf up" a sock for breakfast. Jayke loves other dogs however his training seems to go out the window when he meets a new canine pal. Bertie sometimes doesn't seem like the typical lab. He must be concerned about his figure because he occasionally turns his head up at breakfast. His handler kindly offers the diva a second chance at breakfast a couple hours later.

Our puppies are permitted pretty much anywhere in the institution. They are very rarely left with a handler in the cell. Their most favorite place to go by far is the warehouse! It's almost as if they sense they are in jail and the warehouse is their ticket to freedom. The automotive instructor has his own bag of treats which I'm sure has *nothing* to do with their love of being "outside the gate". The dogs are exposed to things they wouldn't otherwise be exposed to in the institution such as large trucks, dollies, carts, moving equipment, hoses etc. Other interesting places the puppies go are the greenhouse, medical appointments, visiting room, custodial arts room and even the "hair salon".



Banjo at a local dog park

The puppies get pictures taken with the handlers at the end of their stay. The handlers make a scrapbook of their first year of training that is given to the pup's recipient after he graduates. The pictures with the handlers are usually done a few times a year and get to have their pictures with the general population twice a year. The pictures also give the handlers a scrapbook of dogs they've helped to train.

****The puppy program is important for campus morale. The handlers take time whenever possible to educate the other inmates about the program. Most inmates are very respectful of "training time" and "socialization time" once they gain an understanding of the program goals. Many look forward to socializing with the puppies at the yard. They really enjoy watching them grow. Often times we hear "it makes my day when I can come up here to see the dogs and pet them." The dogs bring lots of smiles and light up many faces while brightening the days of those in the prison community.****

Chandra Rice
Acting Activities Manager

TAILS – Train, Assist, Inspire, Loyal and Serve



Milton & Dora



Solomon



Somerset

In 2013 SCI Pine Grove partnered with United Disabilities Services of Lancaster, PA, to create a program to educate inmates on how to train service dogs. United Disabilities Services is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping people with disabilities lead a more independent life. UDS services over 30 counties in Pennsylvania. In 2014 the journey began with the creation of the TAILS Program. The acronym TAILS was selected to describe the mission of the program. It refers to the five elements that the project is designed to foster; namely: Train, Assist, Inspire, Loyal and Serve. The program proves to be a win-win situation for both organizations as it will allow more service dogs to be trained and placed by UDS, as well as, providing valuable job skills to inmates to assist with their reentry into the community. UDS was chosen as the service provider for the program for three major reasons: (1) they prefer a “trainer of trainers” model, which allows UDS trained SCI Pine Grove staff members to train the inmate handlers, (2) they place their service dogs in Pennsylvania only, and (3) they place their service dogs with individuals with mobility issues and wounded veterans. SCI Pine Grove currently has five staff instructors: Unit Manager Doug Russell, Corrections Counselor Tara Marhefka, Corrections Counselor Tammy Delosh, Correctional Officer George Marsh and Correctional Officer Nishere Kemp.



Milton at the “Paws for a Cause” at Blue Spruce Park



Tammy Delosh, CC2 & Deora visiting a nursing home

A canine must be physically and psychologically mature in order to take responsibility for the high level services an assistance dog must provide. For that reason UDS service dogs are in their basic training phase from eight weeks until 18 months. Following the 18 months of basic training the dogs receive advanced training of up to six months with UDS trainers before they are placed. The type of advanced training varies and will be determined by the needs of the people with disabilities on their waiting list.

Nearly two years of planning occurred before the puppies arrived at SCI Pine Grove. SCI Pine Grove inmates currently train four Labrador retriever puppies for UDS: Somerset, Solomon, Deora and Milton. There are eight inmate handlers who were selected to participate in the program. The TAILS dogs arrived at SCI Pine Grove on April 7, 2014, and are slated to graduate in October 2015.

The canines are permitted to visit any area in the facility except the dining hall, RHU and large exercise yard. Our canines frequent the commissary, religious services, the gym and the receiving department. Each week one of the canines attends inmate orientation with a canine handler to review with the new inmates the proper way to interact with a service dog in training. The correctional facility setting does not provide all of the experiences that a well-socialized service dog needs, so trained staff members at SCI Pine Grove take the dogs for overnight trips and weekend visits. This ensures that the dogs receive proper exposure to a variety of sights, sounds, surfaces, and situational stimuli that they will encounter later on as working service dogs.



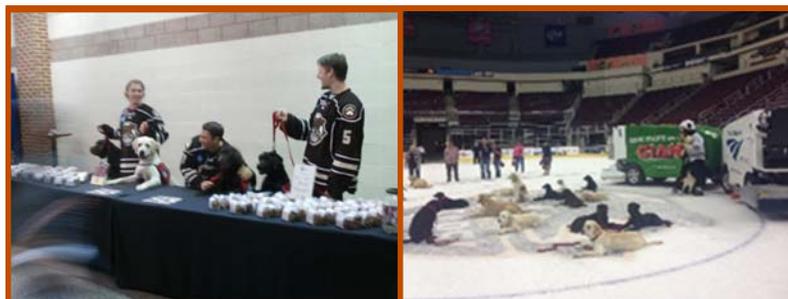
Tammy Delosh, CC2 & Tara Marhefka, CC2 visiting IUP's summer reading program with Solomon and Somerset.



The TAILS canines have been at the facility for approximately nine months. The inmate handlers and canines attend two to three formal training sessions every week. They currently know over 55 commands and are working on combining commands and performing daily tasks (i.e. opening doors, turning on light switches, etc.). The TAILS canines have exceeded the expectations of both the SCI Pine Grove staff and the UDS staff.

SCI Pine Grove is currently working with Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Adult and Continuing Education program and United Disabilities Services to provide the inmates of SCI Pine Grove with the recognition of a certificate in dog training and care. The proposed program is designed to support inmates in three very important ways: (1) by expanding their knowledge of and skills in working with dogs of various types, (2) by giving them an official form of recognition for the specialized expertise that they have acquired, and (3) by improving their communication skills and ability to work effectively with community members.

Name and Contact information:
Lori Breece, UDS Program Manager
United Disabilities Services
1905 Olde Homestead Lane
Lancaster, PA 17605
Phone 717-715-8753
lorib@udservices.org



PNG and UDS service dogs at the Giant Arena for the Hershey Bears Calendar Photo Shoot

Tara Marhefka, CCII
SCI Pine Grove

HOPE - Hounds of Prison Education

A Program of the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance

The HOPE Program was launched in March 2005 in an effort to help more homeless animals find their way into forever homes. Sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (CPAA), the HOPE Program works in conjunction with the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill, the MD State Correctional Institution at Roxbury and CPAA member rescues.

The program pairs carefully-screened inmates with needy dogs for a period of several weeks to several months. The inmates work together with a professional trainer, prison staff and HOPE volunteers to provide the dogs with basic obedience training, socialization, behavior modification and one-on-one attention. The dogs involved in the program graduate with a wealth of valuable skills that help give them a paw up on finding a home.

The inmates and the dogs live together in the cell and attend weekly training sessions. They follow a strict training regimen which provides the dogs with the structure they need to adapt into a traditional home. Many of the dogs who are involved in the program have moderate behavior and social issues, have been in foster care for an extensive period of time or just need some extra one-on-one attention to get them ready for adoption.

By the time they are paroled, the dogs have become more confident, better behaved and are looking forward to starting a new life on the outside.



Rebel

Haley

Madison

Clara

Dixon

Humphrey

Queen

Where are they now?



It was a cold January morning. I walked into my new job and there standing at the gate I saw him for the first time. I thought he was handsome and this voice in my head said, "He is going to be mine." It was love at first sight for me. I walked up to the man who was handling this handsome dog...oh yeah...I forgot to mention this handsome fellow was a canine trained to chase geese at Graterford Prison. I asked him if I could pet him. He introduced me to Johnny Cash. "This is Cash...he is going to 'Folsom Prison' so they named him Johnny Cash." I thought to myself...this is my dog...he is not going anywhere.

A few weeks passed. One of my first official duties as the new deputy superintendent was to officiate the New Leash on Life graduation. Cash was part of the graduation. I got to see him demonstrate what he had learned and see the pride and sense of accomplishment in the inmate handler's face. After that I started to take him home for weekends. After the second weekend the house seemed empty without Cash. I would seek him out at work as he went on his way with his canine partner Boomer to chase geese. It was during one of these encounters that the handler told me that Cash was no longer going to Folsom Prison. He told me Cash was going to Albion. I told him I thought Cash might be going elsewhere. One more weekend at home...he and the Boston Terrier got along famously...he fit with our family...I signed the adoption papers and Cash came home to our house.

Now Cash and I have a routine. He and I get up early go out for a nice walk before work...yes, Cash has a job. He continues to come into Graterford and provide his service of chasing away the troublesome geese from the compound daily. He is an amazing addition to our family and good citizen for his contribution to the betterment of living conditions at Graterford.



*Cynthia Link
Deputy Superintendent*

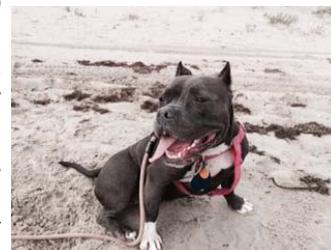


Her formal name is Layla Elizabeth Lamas Perez! She came to our home a mere seven months after our oldest dog, 'Oscar,' died tragically on January 15, 2014, when he broke his neck and we had to put him down. Though we would have gone through any expense to repair the damage, he was paralyzed from literally the neck down. My husband could not bear the thought of another dog, as the heartache was too much. I fell in love with her the moment I saw her and continued on a tenacious path to have her be part of our family. I can't tell you what a joy it is to see her every day.

So here's her story with us since we adopted her in July from the New Leash on Life USA (NLOL) program at SCI Graterford! Her breed is truly bully...she is much bigger than her two brothers, with her head size being the biggest distinction...thus she believes that everything belongs to her and everything is hers! Do not mistake that for **ANY** sign of aggression as she has **NONE**! She just uses that square head of hers to move around and to let her dad and I know that she wants something! It's quite a site! She goes for daily walks around the neighborhood and on Sundays goes for a longer (3.5 mile) walk at one of our local parks. She will often stop and just look around, because she can! She's very spoiled! One of the funniest comments that we've gotten is from a six year old little boy: "what happened to her leg?" Me, "she was in an accident and they had to amputate it." Little boy, "will it grow back?"

She will begin "finishing" classes in late October as recommended by her NLOL trainer Ms. Nicole. After which she will progress through her steps to earn her certification as a therapy dog.

I am a HUGE advocate of NLOL! Everywhere I take Layla I give people a PSA (Public Service Announcement) on NLOL and SCI Graterford! Keep up the good work. As far as Layla-Palayla is concerned, she is our heart, our joy and our baby girl.



Family vacation at the Outer Banks, NC.

And as they say, you don't rescue them, they rescue you!

*Marirosa Lamas
Superintendent*



Atco is a yellow Labrador retriever who was at SCI Smithfield from 2008 to 2009. Atco was raised primarily by Glen and Mark. As a puppy Atco was a goofy puppy. He was very smart and picked up new commands quickly. Now Atco is living in Massachusetts matched with a lady who is full of enthusiasm and hope. Atco's recipient has had epilepsy since she was 14 years old. She uses Atco as her seizure alert dog. She has violent, partial complex seizures at least once or twice a week. Atco alerts to a seizure by lying his body over hers. He also pushes the 'life alert' button which notifies his recipient partner of the seizure. Atco also provides stability and balance when his recipient is feeling weak. Atco and his recipient volunteer at a local hospital at least three days a week and bring cheer to the patients.



Radar still knows all the great training he got with HOPE. The things he was taught are all still included in his daily life. That's a large part of what makes him such a wonderful dog. He still loves to snuggle and likes to get under the covers. I always get the, "Awww mom!" look when he is told to get off the bed. He loves playing outside. We have a pretty big yard so he can really run. Sometimes he'll run laps around the house as fast as he can go. One of his favorite things is to patrol some huge old pine trees we have here. He seems to think they're like big rabbit Pez dispensers. He'll run around the trees and bunnies suddenly fly out from underneath. He'll see them but doesn't chase them. He'll keep running around the trees waiting for more to come out, like there's an endless supply. I can only hope we make him half as happy as he makes us!



Our Dog



Razor

Our dog, Razor, is an impressive creature. He is big, strong and protective in nature. All white and covered with little black spots. Definitely the cutest dog on the block! He has a black left eye and sad puppy face and he leaves his fur all over the place! We adopted him when he was about three. From an awesome HOPE trainer named Timmy. Razor knows how to sit, lay down, pray, jump high, run fast and play all day. He loves his treats and will do anything to get a crumb, snack, nibble or something. He lives for morning meal and night, when his bowl is refilled for his delight. Food, food, food is what he dreams of while he sleeps on his fluffy pillow. Razor is a great protector and guard. Not even a squirrel could sneak in our yard! He hears all that goes bump in the dark and responds with a growl and a deafening bark. Never do we feel alone, sad or low for Razor is like a big, panting shadow. Just make sure to watch your step, he's lying on the floor behind you, I bet! He likes to cuddle and to chew on his bone. He sneaks on the couch when no one is home. He was rescued to be loved and be happy, in many ways he is extremely lucky. For lots of wonderful people along the way helped him be where he is today! No more will he have to wander or roam. Razor loves his family and forever home.

SCI Smithfield Canine Partners for Life

Prison Puppy Raising Program

SCI Smithfield has been teamed up with Canine Partners for Life since 2007. At SCI Smithfield we try to get the puppies around the institution as much as possible. Puppies and inmate handlers are scheduled to visit the infirmary four days a week for an hour at a time. While in the infirmary, the puppies can visit the residents. This brings a great deal of joy to many of the inmate patients.

The puppies and handlers also go to the visiting room four days a week. In the visiting room there is a sign with the puppy's name, that invites visitors to meet the puppy. This is a great



experience for the puppies and visitors. One of the challenges that we have found with puppies being raised in the prison is the lack of exposure to children. The visiting room bridges this gap, while allowing visitors to interact with the puppies and learn about the program.

The puppies and handlers also go to the SRTU for two hours a week, accompanying an activities specialist. For many of the SRTU residents, the puppies bring great happiness. For some of them, it has been a long time since they have gotten to see and interact with a puppy.

Our treatment specialists also take a puppy to the RHU when they conduct their groups with D-Score inmates. Like the SRTU residents, some of the RHU residents have not seen a dog in a very long time. The wagging tail and gentle face often bring smiles to the residents' faces.

On Sept. 24, 2014, SCI Smithfield held its Second Annual Day of Responsibility. 75 inmates participated in a day focused on *Paying it Forward*. Participants enjoyed external and internal speakers including Director of Victim Services Karen Laird, the Executive Director of Huntingdon House (a local organization that provides services to victims of domestic violence) Jean Collins, and motivational speaker Kathryn Brown. One of the highlights of the day was a presentation from the SCI Smithfield Canine Partners for Life inmate handlers and Canine Partners for Life trainer Annie Savo. First, the inmate handlers explained and demonstrated the first phase of the service dog training which utilizes positive reinforcement and the *click and treat* method of training. They demonstrated the dogs' ability to walk on a loose leash, use stairs, walk beside a wheelchair, load into a car and lay down peacefully under a table while their handler eats. Next, Annie used two of SCI Smithfield's most recent graduates, Jasper and Homer, to demonstrate the second phase of training, which is done at the Canine Partners for Life facility in Cochranville, PA. At the conclusion of the day, Annie was presented with a \$250 check for Canine Partners for Life by the Smithfield Inmate Organization.

Mandy Biser, CCPM
SCI Smithfield

Tamu - a 10-month-old yellow Labrador retriever. Though he is a handful, he is full of love. He is a fast learner, but like a child, he tests to see what he can get away with.



Hoover - a 16-month-old Giant Schnoodle (giant schnauzer/poodle mix). Being part poodle his fur is hypo-allergenic. Sometimes he gets tired while eating so he'll lie down to finish. He likes to go for walks, playing with other dogs and loves treats!



Hancock is in his 2nd phase of training. He is really good at crating, he will go in and remain quiet until his handler releases him. He enjoys tugging, sliding on Frisbees, playing with partially deflated basketballs, and he **loves** cuddling.



Kody - a 13-month-old yellow Labrador retriever with a happy-go-lucky disposition. He currently completed Phase 2 of his training and is preparing to return to CPL to complete his training. He enjoys toys that squeak, catching Frisbees and playing with other dogs.



C.A.R.E. - Corrections Adoptive Rescue Endeavor

In May 2011, SCI Mercer contacted Strayhaven Animal Shelter, located in Greenville, PA, with a proposal for a mutually-beneficial partnership. The prison was in the early stages of implementing a dog training program and was searching for a local shelter that would benefit from the program. Strayhaven is a no-kill shelter, and adoption is the only way in which animals leave there. Because of this, they are almost always filled to over capacity. The premise behind the partnership was that, by providing training and socialization to the "shelter dogs" over an eight-week period, they would become more adoptable. This, in turn, would help to alleviate the pressures of overcrowding that the shelter experiences. SCI Mercer would benefit by the creation of more jobs for inmates, who would benefit from learning to be responsible for another living being as well as acquiring marketable skills for when they return to society. Plus, employees would benefit by being able to interact with dogs on a daily basis... how can you have a bad day in jail when there's always a wet nose and a wagging tail to greet you on the housing unit?

A committee comprised of SCI Mercer staff and a representative from Strayhaven met weekly over the next three months to develop a plan of action. The list of agenda items ranged from creating a name for the program to establishing the criteria for the selection of inmate handlers. The challenge to name the program was put out to all staff at SCI Mercer. In true corrections fashion, the troops responded in volumes. After narrowing the field down to the best, the committee voted, and C.A.R.E. (Corrections Adoptive Rescue Endeavor) was born.

On Aug. 24, 2011, after just three short months of planning, the first five dogs (who will forever be known as "The Blue Print Crew") were introduced to their new temporary home at SCI Mercer. Over the next eight weeks, the dogs would attend training sessions with their handlers and a private dog trainer. During these weekly training sessions, the inmate handlers were given instruction on the correct way to modify behavioral problems and how to teach basic obedience commands. At the end of the eight-week training period, the dogs were given the Canine Good Citizen test. According to the American Kennel Club, a dog is more loving and companionable after training and passing the Canine Good Citizen test. The Blue Print Crew (Bart, Luna, Sheena, Rocky and Max) passed their tests with flying colors, as have most of their successors. Once the dogs pass the test, they are "paroled" from SCI Mercer. They are then either returned to Strayhaven if they do not have an approved "homeplan," or they are paroled directly to their new forever homes. This process repeats with every set of dogs.

Beginning in December 2013, the C.A.R.E. Program expanded to house six dogs from Strayhaven and to employ 12 inmate handlers. Since the inception of the C.A.R.E. Program, 75 dogs have graduated. That total will rise to 81 after the current group of dogs graduate on Nov. 25th. Of the 75 graduates, only two still remain at the shelter awaiting approved home plans. Many of the dogs actually end up being adopted by SCI Mercer employees.

Strayhaven's adoptable dogs can be found online at www.strayhavenanimalshelter.com. They are located at 94 Donation Road, Greenville, PA 16125. Brittney or Jen would be more than happy to answer any questions about adopting a dog (or a cat) at 724-588-6161 or strayhavenanimalshelter@yahoo.com. Questions concerning the C.A.R.E. Program can be directed to Lisa Graves, Unit Manager at SCI Mercer, at 724-662-1837 ext. 1336 or lgraves@pa.gov.



This is Buddy, Athena, Mushu and Seymour. They were four of our graduates in September 2014. They are posing outside of C block, one of our C.A.R.E. Program housing units. All of these adorable dogs were adopted... two of them were adopted by SCI Mercer employees.

Lisa Graves, UM

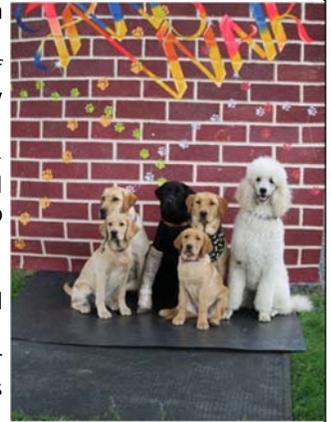
SCI Muncy CPL Program

The “puppy program” at SCI Muncy is a collaboration with Canine Partners for Life in which CPL provides dogs that are trained by SCI Muncy inmates to become service dogs. These service dogs are used for tasks such as aiding in stability, detecting and warning of seizures, picking up items and generally assisting the recipients with activities of daily living.

The dogs are received at a young age and begin their training immediately. CPL provides a curriculum which delineates what skills the dogs should learn at what age, as well as specific training methods. A CPL trainer visits the facility at least twice a month to evaluate the progress of the dogs and provide feedback to the trainers.

Currently, SCI Muncy has six dogs in the training program and 14 inmate handlers. Each dog lives in a cell with two handlers who share the daily duties of caring for and training the dog. SCI Muncy has all female dogs. Historically, there have been Poodles, Labradoodles and Golden Retrievers, but the majority of the dogs are purebred Labrador retrievers. CPL provides the dogs through its own breeding program and donated dogs from reputable breeders.

In the facility, the dogs can be seen in all areas. Because the inmate handlers all have full-time details outside of the unit, the dogs have the opportunity to be exposed to a wide variety of situations. Dogs work in the infirmary, library, Activities Department, Re-Entry Unit, outside warehouse, Maintenance Department, admissions and the visiting room. There are also special visits scheduled for the dogs to visit the MHU, RHU, SRTU, SNU and other units. The staff and inmates who interact with the dogs universally report that the presence of the dogs is a positive experience for staff and inmates alike.



Class of 2014



Presentation of 2014 Paws Walk proceeds to CPL (L-R: Megan Esherick (CPL), UM, Eli Stevens, CC, Troy Edwards).

Special events are held throughout the year that involve the dogs. The dogs demonstrate their skills at the Friends and Family Tour during Corrections Employee Week. They also demonstrate their skills for the families that visit for our annual graduation ceremony. Recently the dogs also visited during a SECA information session for outside agencies and SCI Muncy staff. An annual event at SCI Muncy is the “Paws Walk,” which allows inmates to pay for photos with the dogs, the opportunity to walk a dog and buy dog-themed items. This fundraiser is conducted by the inmates in the dog program under the guidance of SCI Muncy staff, and this year more than \$2,600 was raised for CPL by the inmates of SCI Muncy.

Because SCI Muncy has trained many dogs throughout the life of the program, there are a wide variety of recipients who currently have dogs that began their training at SCI Muncy. The website for Canine Partners for Life (www.k94life.org) has stories and pictures of past recipients and their canine companions.

The SCI Muncy program relies strongly on staff volunteers to ensure that the dogs are taken to the veterinarian when needed. Staff volunteers are trained by CPL in basic handling skills and the tenets of the CPL program. These staff members also take the dogs out for socialization and exposure to stimuli that are not usually present in a correctional facility. Examples of places that a dog might go with a staff volunteer are a high school football game, a shopping center, a restaurant or on a boat. Staff volunteers are not paid for their time outside of work with the dogs, they simply do it to ensure that the dogs are exposed to as much as possible in their first year so that they may become the best service dogs possible. Staff volunteers come from all areas of the facility including corrections officers, maintenance personnel, counselors, psychologists, the medical department and more.

Sponsorships for the dogs at SCI Muncy are provided by Animal Care Hospital in Lewisburg, PA, and Loyalsock Animal Hospital in Williamsport, PA. These businesses provide free routine and specialized medical care for the dogs in the program. It would not be possible for the program to continue to produce quality companions without the generous support of these businesses and their dedicated staff members.

SCI Muncy is very proud of its dog program and grateful for the support of our administration, particularly Deputy McGinley, Deputy Nicholas and Superintendent Smith. Although the program can be challenging at times, having supportive administrative staff makes it much easier.



Demonstrating dog skills at a local pre-

Eli Stevens
Unit Manager

Trivia

1. "Marmaduke" was what kind of dog?
2. What was the dog's name in Annie?
3. What year was the first Westminster Dog Show and what breed won?
4. What is a dog's most powerful sense?
5. According to the 2013 American Kennel Club census, what is the most popular dog breed found in the USA?
6. What is the name of the phobia for someone who has a fear of dogs?
7. How many types of pure breed dogs are there?
8. According to the AKC, what is the largest dog breed recognized?
9. How many muscles does a dog use to move each one of its ears?
10. When was the first animal (dog) released into orbit?

Answers
1.) Great Dane, 2.) Sandy, 3.) 1907, Smooth Fox Terrier, 4.) Smell, 5.) Labrador retrievers, 6.) Cynophobia, 7.) 701, 8.) the Irish wolfhound, 9.) 18, 10.) 1957

Canine Facts

~ The common belief that dogs are color blind is false. Dogs can see color, but it is not as vivid a color scheme as we see. They distinguish between blue, yellow and gray, but probably do not see red and green. This is much like our vision at twilight.

~ An American Animal Hospital Association poll showed that 33% of dog owners admit that they talk to their dogs on the phone or leave messages on an answering machine while away.

~ When your dog goes to sleep you notice he turns in a circle a few times, this is an instinct from when they were a wild dog, as they did this to pat down the grass before they slept.

~ A dog's shoulder blades are unattached to the rest of the skeleton to allow greater flexibility for running.

~ A dog's nose print is unique and similar to human fingerprints that no two are the same.

~ Dogs dream just like you. Dogs have the same brain wave patterns while they are asleep as humans. But what is more surprising is the fact that not all dogs dream the same amount. Small dogs actually have more dreams than big dogs. For example, a small dog, such as a toy poodle, may dream once every 10 minutes, whereas a great dane may have around an hour between each dream.

Winter Facts

As Winter is right around the corner below are a few things to keep in mind to help your pets stay safe and healthy while they are out chasing snowflakes:

* Keep your pets away from antifreeze. Antifreeze is extremely poisonous and can cause severe damage if your pet ingests it. Clean up any leaks or spills with products containing propylene glycol to keep your pet from getting sick.

* Wipe off your pet after playing. Other than cold toes and a wet belly, snow can cause more serious issues. As dogs or cats clean themselves, they can ingest salt, antifreeze, and other harsh chemicals. Snow or ice can also get stuck between their paws, potentially causing them to bleed.

* Care for your pet's skin. Like humans, dogs and cats can get dry skin during the winter months. Certain gels and creams can help keep your pet's paws, ears and nose moisturized and prevent painful cracking.

* Keep your pets close. A dogs' sense of smell can be hindered in freezing temperatures. This is one of the reasons why more dogs get lost during the winter than any other season. Always keep your dog on a leash, make sure he/she is wearing an ID tag and is microchipped.

*** If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pets ***