



Welcome Back!!

I know its been six months since our last issue and so much has changed! Since the last edition there have been 2 institutions that have started their own puppy programs! Now there are a total of 13 institutions with programs...that is half of the DOC's prisons! With that being said, I don't think anyone can argue that the puppy programs are not good for the DOC. Below is positive feedback that was received after the publication of the first newsletter in December 2014.

Absolutely love it. This certainly is impressive.
- **EDS Shirley Moore Smeal**

Great Job! Thoroughly enjoyed it. -
CC Heather Albaugh

You have perfect timing. I just received a research request this morning concerning our canine training programs and my knowledge of the programs was limited to one or two very short sentences. Thanx!
- **Research Manager Joe Tomkiel**

I am a fan...Wow really great -the inmate quotes was genius. - **Rob Rosa, NLOL-USA**

This is great! It appears to be so beneficial to both inmate and canine.
- **Treatment Specialist Lynn Neal**

Such informative newsletters will pay tremendous dividends for all parties. Is a nice deserved touch for inmates and personnel.
- **Retired Superintendent Lou Folino**

I know you had many contributors, whose stories and pictures you had to edit and format. A mammoth task that you did beautifully. The piece you knitted together is very inspirational and makes me proud to be part of the DOC!
- **Rev. Ulli Klemm**

This has truly exceeded all of my expectations. I honestly didn't know what to expect, but this is absolutely incredible. -
AOII Michael (Skip) Bell



The Facilities with Puppy Programs:

SCI Albion

SCI Greene

SCI Benner Township

SCI Mercer

SCI Camp Hill

SCI Muncy

SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Coal Township

SCI Smithfield

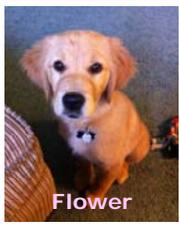
SCI Forest

SCI Somerset

SCI Graterford

SCI Somerset - Canine Partners for Life

SCI Somerset is proud to announce that we will be partnering with Canine Partners for Life (CPL) to bring their canine training program to our facility. We began the process of implementing this program at SCI Somerset in December 2014, and we are scheduled to receive five puppies in May 2015.



We formed a committee of our staff from a wide variety of disciplines throughout the institution, and we have been very busy making sure that we are prepared to take on this venture. We are currently making preparations to the facility to prepare for the arrival of the puppies, such as constructing an outdoor play yard. Another area of preparation that has been a significant undertaking is the laborious screening process that has been completed to select handlers from the numerous inmate applications received. Through this process we have arrived at a pool of 15 approved inmate handlers, many of which are currently serving life sentences.



We are scheduled to receive 2 Labradors and 3 golden retrievers in our first training class. They will be two- to three-months old when they arrive at SCI Somerset, and they will reside on the housing unit with our inmate handlers, who will train them in basic obedience skills and socialization. We were very lucky that a retired employee from SCI Somerset has volunteered to be the volunteer trainer for CPL at SCI Somerset. She will be coming to the institution on a bi-weekly basis to provide training to the staff and inmates involved in the program.



An important component to this program is the staff volunteers who take the dogs on outings into the community and on weekend visits to their homes. This exposes the dogs to many places and things that they are unable to experience in the prison setting. The dogs are housed at the facility for about a year, before returning to CPL's training facility at about 14 months of age to further their training in more advanced skills needed to help their future recipients. CPL works diligently to pair their service dogs with disabled individuals with all types of needs and SCI Somerset is glad to be able to assist in furthering such a great cause.

Melanie Pyle
Unit Manager



Reception held the day the puppies arrived.



*I might not be able to talk,
but still have two ears to listen.
I might not be able to say I support you,
but my eyes can still speak volumes.
I might not have a shoulder to cry on,
but I have fur you can use to wipe away your tears.
I might not have two arms to hold you,
but I'll stand steady by your side just the same.
I promise to try my best to make you laugh,
even when you feel like crying.*

*With a love that is unconditional,
and loyalty everlasting,
Your Dog*

By Cheryl Goede

Join us at The German Shepherd Dog Community on Facebook

Hope - Hounds of Prison Education: Update

RTU Visits

Various HOPE dogs have been taken to the Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) at Camp Hill by the HOPE program block counselor. Details are also being worked out to have a HOPE dog visitation with RTU inmates.

Geese Abatement

SCI Camp Hill had a problem with geese droppings in the inmate softball field area. Activities staff met with the HOPE volunteers and discussed ways the HOPE dogs could be effectively used to deter the geese from remaining on the softball field without encouraging the HOPE dogs to view the geese as prey. A consensus was reached in that an activities specialist would escort a HOPE handler and dog to the softball field each morning. The HOPE dog would remain on leash inside the fenced softball field area if geese were present on the field and only allowed to walk around the inside perimeter of the fenced in area. It was soon found that the mere presence of the HOPE dog was enough to deter the geese from staying inside the fenced in softball field. Once the geese left the area, the HOPE dog is allowed to be off leash to play in an area over an acre in size. A win for the Activities Department and a win for the HOPE program.

HOPE Commercial

A HOPE program commercial is currently being played on the inmate TV channel. This is in addition to a HOPE pamphlet which is provided by the Initial Reception Committee to all new general population inmates. The commercial shows the duties and responsibilities associated with becoming a HOPE handler; as well as to provide contact information for those interested in volunteering for the program.

Jen Digby, the former HOPE program unit manager, shares her thoughts on the program: "In the three years of overseeing the HOPE Program, I got the privilege of meeting a multitude of dogs, each with their own unique demeanor. This program provides a positive atmosphere and a sense of accomplishment for those inmates who chose to take on the challenge of preparing these dogs for a second chance at life. It also provides a positive aspect to the workplace for staff to meet, interact and potentially provide a home to these dogs. I thoroughly enjoyed overseeing this program, interacting with the dogs and working alongside the volunteers that help to make this program possible."

Current Dogs:



Archer Madison Leo Humphrey Pepper Ivy Jack

*Scott Whalen, Unit Manager
SCI Camp Hill*

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

The CARE Program publishes a newsletter to coincide with each group of dogs that comes through SCI Mercer. The newsletter includes articles on a multitude of dog-related issues, such as training and healthcare to name a few. However, the main reason that the newsletter is produced is to distribute information about the current dogs so that, hopefully, they will all find forever homes. The primary handler for each dog writes a letter detailing what the dog has learned while in training. The following letters were written by the handlers of our current group of dogs that were scheduled to graduate on June 2nd.

ANGUS



Hello, everyone, my name is Angus. I'm a beagle/hound mix (two-to-four year old) who loves attention and people. If you're looking for a chilled out companion, you've found him. Some of my favorite sports are fetching the ball, playing tag, and wrestling with other dogs. I'm well versed in rules of the house and always on my best behavior inside. You can run your errands without fear of me chewing anything up or getting into trouble. When you return, I'll greet you with my happy smile and be excited to see you again. I'm very well trained and for a treat I will gladly perform sit, down, stay, sit pretty, shake your hand, and pray for you. I'm an eager-to-please, quick-to-learn, soft-furred companion. I want nothing more than to be your best friend. I still maintain my hunter instincts, so if hunting rabbits or birds is one of your past times, I can help with that, too. So good-

bye for now, and I look forward to meeting you and giving you a fist pound and a tail wag.

DOZER



Hi, my name is Dozer, I'm a two-year-old beagle mix. I'm heartwarming and love the outdoors. I'm really good on a leash, so you can walk me anytime of the day. My fur is so soft, you will love me. I'll love back harder. I love attention, I'll let you know when you're not giving me any attention. I'm a little toy aggressive with dogs I'm not familiar with. I sometimes bark, but it's nothing serious. I love to play with dogs. I love squeaky toys. I love the tennis ball ones. They're my favorite. Other than that I do a couple things: sit, down and stay. My recall is good and I know I'm good with it. I'm so gentle with a lot of love to give. Pick me.

GUCCI



Hello there, my name is Gucci, and the most important thing you need to know about me is that I'm absolutely adorable! Now let's get the specifics out of the way. I'm a brown/white pit bull/lab mix and I'm approximately 9 months old, which means I'm still a puppy. In fact I'm so energetic and playful, I'm the very definition of a puppy and my picture is surely in a dictionary somewhere. I love humans. I'm so cute they can't help giving me lots of attention, it gets me so excited I sometimes forget my manners and will jump up, but I'm working really hard to be a good dog. I also love playing with other dogs but can get myself a little worked up sometimes and can play a little rough and I have to be separated. I just want to have fun and play and don't realize I'm being bad. My trainers are working on this with me and I hear I'm getting better. Also, just so you know, I love playing with balls, especially if they squeak, and playing tug with a rope. I enjoy training and am doing well even though I'm easily distracted. I can "sit," "down," "stay," "heel," and "come," but am quick-to-learn and am sure I can do more. My leash walking has some issues. I am fine if it's just me and my human, but if

I see another dog, I will try to get them so we can play. I am a sweet, affectionate dog who will love you forever, so come and take me home.

MAXWELL



Hi everybody. My name is Maxwell. I'm a ruggedly-handsome boxer mix. I'm nearly one year old, and I'm a great big puppy that loves to play and is eager to learn. Lately I've been learning a lot from the guys here at Mercer. They've been teaching me all of my basic obedience commands. These include sit, down, stay, heel, come, off and no. I've also learned pivot, return and back up. For fun I've learned a paw full of tricks. These include shake, high five, fist bump, roll over, spin, crawl, bow, weave between your legs, and I can balance a treat on the tip of my nose then catch it whenever I'm told yes. I can also do this with a ball. I enjoy performing for a paw full of treats. I also enjoy playing with my puppy pals and get along well with others. My favorite toys are a tug rope and a squeaky tennis ball. I love company and I'm excited to meet you. Please bring Pup-poni or a squeaky ball and we will be best buddies.

Hopefully your new Buddy,
Maxwell

PATRICK



Hello!

My name is Patrick and I'm a one year old pit bull mix. I am presently at the CARE program learning all of my basic obedience. Since being here I have learned how to sit/stay, down/stay and the come command. I am house trained so you will not have to worry about me having an accident in the house. I also learned how to do a few tricks that we could have fun with. They are shake, high five, roll over and leave it. I'm a very laid back dog, but I do like to play with other dogs. So if you are looking for a loving, loyal companion look no further. I am the dog for you. I would love to be able to sit on the front porch with you or go for walks. I just want to make you happy. I'll be waiting for you.

Love,
Patrick

C.A.R.E. - cont.

MALLEY



Hello my name is Malley. I'm a fawn colored beauty who loves to be loved. I will be very loyal to you once we bond and connect. I'm very good on a leash and will be at your side almost always, except when there is a bird close enough for me to try to capture. I've yet to get me one, but I'm gonna keep at it. I've learned a lot of things while here at the CARE program.

- * Sit
- * Sit Stays
- * Down
- * Down Stays
- * Sit front
- * Heel
- * Give my belly
- * Shake your hand
- * Play fetch
- * Give kisses
- * Play keep away (that's my favorite)
- * Take treats nicely (love to be hand fed)

I do have a weakness - "Kong balls." They are my absolute fave. I just love to have fun as much as I can. I'm very obedient and my boundaries are good. I'll be your life long loyal sidekick. I'm yours for the taking, let's do it.

Love,
Malley (AKA Titchba)



SCI Greene - CPL Prison Pup Program



Our 5 female yellow Labradors are currently 16 months old and have passed all their training evaluations. Our pups; Ameer, Amber, Zin, Suka and Goldie are scheduled to return to CPL this month. We are planning a celebration for graduation prior to the pup's departure. CPL will be providing us with new puppies upon returning our current group. All of our pups passed the Penn Hip test and are currently slated for service dog work. Ameer is being considered for a breeder based on her awesome hip test.

On May 5, 2015, the CPL Program at SCI Greene was featured on WPXI news. The segment was very positive, extremely well done and overwhelmingly well received by the public. Kudos to our two handlers who volunteered to be interviewed for their efforts. They did an excellent job.

Currently we have 15 volunteer inmate dog handlers. Our handlers have shown extraordinary dedication to this program and CPL. These men continue to work together daily to train the dogs while maintaining institutional jobs and attending training at least twice a month with CPL Trainer Erica Seaver-Engle who is assigned to Greene.



In addition to their CPL duties, many of our handlers are also Peer Support Specialists and take the pups to our RTU to assist them in working with our C and D code inmates. This has been a very positive and cooperative effort at Greene in helping inmates with mental health concerns. Our pups have gone out on many home visits in the last few months thanks to the dedication of our staff volunteers.

We currently have 26 volunteer staff who assist with the program in a variety of ways including outings, and vet visits.

SCI GREENE CPL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Robert Gilmore
Tina Staley - Program Director
Lt. Eric Grego - Security Liaison
Lt. William Schamp - Security Liaison
Marvin Cumberledge - Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Smith - Committee Chairman

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

Training Tips

Just a Few Minutes a Day ... Dog Training for the Busy Pet Parent

Overtime at work. Business projects. Kids' school activities. Online college course. Eating. Sleeping. Keeping your sanity. Oh, and your beloved pet(s) vying for your attention. We each have our lengthy list of responsibilities and commitments, some of which we're passionate about, others we'd like to forget about. Sound familiar?

As pet parents, we all want to spend quality time with our pets and train them to show good behaviors and skills at home and in public. We want our dogs to "sit pretty" for guests, to not beg at the dinner table, to avoid decimating the couch. The idea of devoting hours each week to training classes, however, just doesn't seem workable in our busy schedules.

Whether we like it or not, our pets are learning from us every moment. *And they pay very good attention to what we like or don't like.* Pat Miller, renowned dog trainer and contributor to *Whole Dog Journal* says, "Dogs are constantly being reinforced for behaviors – by the owner, by others, and by the environment. [Positive reinforcement includes attention, treats, toys, etc.] Behaviors that are reinforced increase in frequency, durability and strength. It behooves you to pay attention to what's happening in your dog's world so you can make sure he doesn't have the opportunity to be reinforced for behaviors you don't want, and even more importantly, so you can make sure you reinforce behaviors that you like."

And it only takes a few minutes a day.

Think about your daily routine. You're up early getting ready for the day and, if your dogs are like mine, they are wide awake too. Here's a bit of my routine: "Come" gets my dogs up and going, followed by a treat. "Wait" at the top of the stairs allows me to descend without getting entangled in doggie excitement. Another "Wait" to discourage bolting out the door and the dogs are let out to potty, often followed by an energizing walk. Once home, "Come" gets their attention again, and they know breakfast is on the way. We practice a few tricks at their breakfast bowls – Sit, Down, Roll Over, Shake, etc. – before releasing them to eat. Voila! Training!

Afternoon and evening provide more opportunities for built-in training fun. Watching TV? Grab a few treats (reinforcement) and practice a few of your dog's favorite skills or tricks during the commercials. Chores to do outdoors? Pack along a few treats or favorite toy and your dog can practice heeling, waiting, coming to you, and/or fetch as you work. If you have time, there's nothing like a good walk to work out your dog's energy. Mealtimes reinforce behaviors you practiced in the morning, and bedtime routines can get your dog in the habit of enjoying his/her crate or bed. Congrats! You're training your dog!

I love Pat Miller's term for this method for busy people: "no training-training." Of course, once you start incorporating these few-minutes-a-day tips, you'll find your creativity bubbling up with new ways to involve your dog in your daily routine. "Sit-Stay" while coffee is brewing. A game of fetch while you help the kids with homework. The possibilities are endless!

And y'know what? In just a few minutes a day you'll be doing what we pet parents love to do best – catching our dogs doing something right and rewarding them for it.

Happy Training!

*Erica Seaver Engle, CPL Trainer
SCI Greene*



The Misconception Of Pit Bulls

"A breed is like a suit of clothes, it doesn't tell you anything about the dog inside." ~ Cesar Millan



The media and internet have led to many misconceptions of the pit bull breed. While it is true that some of these dogs have done some terrible things, it must be remembered that when you put the statistics into perspective it only represents a small percentage of the millions of good dogs that belong to this breed. Yes, statistics can be manipulated to represent whatever view a person wishes to portray. Here are some common pit bull myths and the facts to dispel those myths.

~ Pit bulls have lock jaw.

It is believed that pit bulls are able to lock onto whatever they bite making it impossible to break free. When in fact their jaws exert less force than the jaws of Rottweilers and German shepherds. Yes, they have strong jaws which make them more powerful and stronger than many other breeds. Their body composition can be compared to one of a body builder. Just because a body builder may be stronger than another person, it does not mean that that person is any less gentle or friendly.

~ Pit bulls are not as intelligent as other breeds.

Some people believe that pit bulls lack the intelligence of other large breeds such as Labradors. However, pit bulls are actually easy to train. They have a natural desire to please their owners and a strong willingness to learn their commands. They are also great climbers, some can even climb trees. They also love puzzle toys and hide-and-seek style games.

~ The term "bully breeds" indicates these dogs are inherently mean.

Breeds such as bulldogs, mastiffs, Staffordshire bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, boxers, bull terriers and pit bulls are all dogs referred to as bully breeds. Which means they all have bulldog origins and are descendants of the original English baiting dogs that were bred to grip and hold bulls, bears and other large animals. So the term "bully breed" does not refer to their behavior, but their origin.

~ Pit bulls are commonly bred for fighting

Due to largely publicized cases of pit bull fighting rings, people have been led to believe they are only bred to fight in a ring. What many people do not realize is pit bulls were bred for physical tasks such as hunting and assisting in the bull ring. The majority of breeders today have chosen to breed pit bulls as family pets because they are so good with children. In fact, pit bulls were once known as "nanny dogs."



~ Once a fighting dog, always a fighting dog

Her name is Vivian Peyton. Vivian Peyton was rescued from the Animal Care and Control facility in Philadelphia where it was suggested she had a history of being used as a bait dog, with scars bearing witness to her past. New Leash on Life - USA saw hope in her and she was pulled and placed into their three month prison dog program. Vivian Peyton was adopted by Michele Pich who is a veterinary grief counselor at the University of Pennsylvania's Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. Michele saw potential in Vivian and went through the process to have her trained as a therapy dog. On her own time Michele visits children at the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia and now takes Vivian with her. While at the Ronald McDonald House she will share a special story, "There was a little girl who, since she had some surgery, has some scars, and used to get picked on in school." "Vivian used to get picked on by bullies, and even though she has some scars, she has been able to rise up beyond that." This past November Vivian Peyton was honored, for the third time in a row, as the Purina Therapy Dog Ambassador at the National Dog Show at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. Vivian has also made appearances on local and national television shows.

SCI Smithfield - CPL Program



On Jan. 25, 2015, SCI Smithfield celebrated the Canine Partners for Life Prison Pup Program by hosting a banquet for the inmate handlers, volunteers and staff who assist with the local program. Dan Lorditch and Ross Miller from the DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services were in attendance, along with Dr. Ellen Dziedzicki from Faithful Friends Veterinary Center in Huntingdon, Pa.

The event began with opening remarks from Program Coordinator Mandy Biser. Superintendent Kevin Kauffman then spoke about his personal experiences with a service dog and how this had a positive and meaningful influence on the quality of life for his family. Deputy Superintendent Jay Whitesel spoke of his support of the program and the influence the pups have on the culture and climate at Smithfield. The dogs have a calming effect on both the staff and inmates. Four of the inmate handlers then spoke on their personal experiences in the program and how it has allowed them to mature and become more responsible. You could see the pride on their faces when the handlers were telling stories of how the dogs they raised were helping others. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, none of staff from CPL were able to attend the banquet. Darlene Sullivan, executive director of CPL, did send a touching letter commending the men for the job they do with raising the dogs and encouraging their continued participation in the program. Each handler was given an opportunity to take photos with their dogs and were given a personalized photo album picturing each of the dogs they assisted in raising at SMI.

Since the inception of the Canine Partners for Life program at SMI, we have raised more than 30 service dogs. Our dogs visit the infirmary, visiting room, and make weekly trips to the secure residential treatment unit. We recently began a new photo project to benefit the program. General population inmates may now purchase Pup Photo tickets allowing them to take a picture with one of our service dogs in training and send the photo home. Tickets can be purchased for \$1 through the commissary, and all proceeds go directly back to the prison pup program.



Mandy Biser, CCPM

Dear Handlers and Staff at SCI Smithfield,

If ever there was a bad time for a snowstorm this was it! I was really looking forward to celebrating with you at your banquet and getting to visit again. For the seven years that CPL has had a puppy raising program at SCI Smithfield, you have, together, been changing lives in a truly meaningful and significant way. I know that you don't often get to see your work's end product (although you've been lucky to have Tina and Clifford visit) - but I want you to know that EVERY day—the dogs that you've raised, trained, and most importantly LOVED are transforming people's lives.

Handlers—your dedication to CPL's mission and to your individual puppies is simply amazing. As trainers you've grown and improved and your dogs are proof of that. I know that raising a puppy in that environment isn't easy, that you have to give up a lot to be a part of this program—and I thank you for that! I thank you for putting personal gain and benefits on the back burner to help people who are truly in need. I speak for every graduate in the program when I say to you—your kindness, your work, your heart has changed our lives for the better. We can dream bigger, live larger, and feel safer—thanks to you!

Staff members—I know that having one more program is often difficult—and that our program is quite labor intensive and often thankless. So, today, I want to thank you also. For all those vet visits, for listening to and addressing the handlers' concerns, for loving (and perhaps spoiling a bit) those puppies, for advocating for the program within the institution, and quite simply—for caring! You too are making it possible for these pups to get the solid foundation that they need to become the awesome service and companion dogs that they are destined to be.

To all of you celebrating at this banquet—every day our graduates smile more, do more, give more because of you. Canine Partners for Life simply could not make this mission a reality without you. Your puppies excel, they are well prepared for their second stage of training—and most importantly they are prepared for the many varied expectations that will be placed upon them when they step into their roles as partners.

Independence is beautiful—and your support—the gifts that you share—make it all possible!

I'll hope to see you in the spring—when the weather warms up. In the meantime keep up the great work and know that all of CPL, and all of our graduates are thanking you and appreciating all that you're doing!

Darlene Sullivan, Executive Director/Founder

Inmate Testimonials

The NLOL program has given me a wonderful opportunity to explore new and uncharted territories within myself and the dogs that I work with. I have acquired a skill on how to train animals and in the meantime gained friendship and companionship with these animals. I have learned how to be more responsible, loving, caring and patient. It feels good to wake up in the morning and to know that this animal trusts and depends on me. As the senior coordinator of the dog program, I have a great deal of responsibilities, and for the first time in a long time feel like I am needed and wanted. I would not have had this great experience if it was not for NLOL and the staff at Graterford for believing in me and trusting in me and my work ethics. So for that, I thank you and encourage everyone to at least give it a try.

Shawn L.



I personally love the dog program and all it stands for. The program helped me to get in touch with a part of myself I never thought I had. The best part is hearing the joy and difference the pup has brought into someone's life and knowing that I had a small part in that being possible.

Carlos C.



My thoughts on the puppy program here at Smithfield are very positive. To have a dog in my care is a great thing because not only do I have someone to talk and play with but train for a purpose, too. Which brings me to say that these dogs are needed more than we know. So as we give a piece of ourselves to training the dog, we know that it is going to someone who is in real need of their help and love. So, just know that no matter how bad your situation is, there is a piece of you out there with the dog giving back.

Gregory S.

**In my darkest hour
I reached for a hand,
and found your paw.**



"This program has really made me look at life in a positive light again."

"Whoever said you can choose your friends but you can't choose your family... well then you need to visit your local pet rescue because with a dog you can choose both your friend and your family."

"I love training these dogs, it is truly satisfying knowing that because I have trained a dog her/his life will be better."

"I read somewhere that when you offer yourself to others you get a helpers high. Helping has a way of helping you. These dogs certainly have a way of helping us all."

Inmate Testimonials (cont.)

How many times have we heard the old saying, "Dog is a man's best friend?" I've never understood that. Mainly due to my minimum experience with dogs. As I sit here today, I can honestly say that it's true! Love, loyalty, acceptance, obedience, and many more, all are traits that I'm learning from a dog. I'm 35 years old and I'm learning from a dog.

I once was given the privilege to be a handler for a lab mix by the name of Haley. I called her the, "Haley Monster." Far from a monster she was, she suffered from a hip/spinal cord injury at the hands of a neglectful, previous owner prior to her being in the HOPE program.

Haley was my best friend. No matter what pain she was in, no matter what was going on, I'd walk into the cell and she's wagging her tail, panting, and super excited to see me! She never asked for anything in return except to be loved.

I'm now the handler of a miniature poodle named Pepper. Even his name is funny. Pepper is almost the complete opposite of Haley. While Haley was more laid back, Pepper wants to run and play. He's taken to me over these last 2 1/2 weeks. He's just a funny, little dog. Once you get to know him, you'll love him as well.

So now that I've been given Pepper, he's entrusted me with his well being. Right now, Pepper and I are working on social skills. It's not easy, but he's getting better. At the same time, he's teaching me patience.

Why not let Pepper or any other dog or pet teach you something? Why not return the favor of being a dog's best friend? It's more than giving a dog a second chance. It's more than just helping out. It's about showing our compassion as human beings. It's about giving that love to someone/something other than ourselves. Young, old, black, white, none of it matters. These dogs only ask to be loved and cared for, the rest will fall in place.

To those that read this, I challenge you! I challenge you to care. I challenge you to show your compassion by reaching out and adopting! Allow your new best friend to meet his/her new best friend. I thank you for this opportunity. I thank you for all that you've done and will do.

God Bless
An inmate dog handler at Camp Hill

Dear Donors and Supporters of New Leash on Life,

I wanted to write a letter to express the enormous amount of gratitude I have for your continuing moral and material support you have given to me personally.

I was released from SCI Graterford in September 2014. While at Graterford I took part in the New Leash on Life program three times. To say that it had a profound effect on my life would be an understatement.

First off, when I was released, I was blessed with an internship at a great animal shelter in Philadelphia. After the internship was complete the staff at New Leash helped me write a resume and helped me get another job at another great place in Philadelphia. They spoke on my behalf to the management and were able to convince them to give me a chance despite my past criminal record.

After I was hired, I learned that there was a uniform requirement. It was an expense that I could not afford. New Leash on Life turned to you, the unbelievable supporters of this amazing organization, for help. Within 24 hours I had everything I needed to report to work and then some.

The truly amazing thing is that, for all intents and purposes, New Leash had fulfilled its obligation to me yet they continue to support me in ways that go above and beyond their responsibilities. My only wish is that other people in my position who are still incarcerated could know that people like you are out there and want to see us succeed. I truly believe that the rate of recidivism would go down. Sometimes all it takes is to know that people really want you to succeed with no ulterior motive.

One other thing, while working at the animal refuge and after training dogs with New Leash on Life in Graterford, I was compelled to enroll at Animal Behavioral College. So far, after six stages, I have a high A average and am very excited with my future as a professional dog trainer.

I honestly don't believe that any of this would be possible without your support and the people at New Leash on Life. So from the bottom of my heart, and a promise to make a difference with the opportunity that I have been given, I say; Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Humbly and gratefully yours,
A returning citizen

SCI Graterford - Goose Patrol



Before

The goose population has been a problem at our institution since before I started in 2005. In 2007 the Fire/Safety Department received special permits from the PA Game Commission to remove a certain allotment of geese yearly. When the problem did not get any better, something had to change. In the late spring/early summer of 2010, Goose Chase, a bird repeller was purchased and it worked, however it was too costly. So the research continued. In the fall of 2010 they tried using cardboard coyote cutouts and would move them weekly to try to "harass" the geese and deter them from the area. That only worked for so long until the geese started making their nests under them. It was then decided...we needed dogs. And that's where New Leash on Life – USA came in. In the beginning of 2013, NLOL was introduced to SCIG and by the end of the first session in May, we had our first goose dog.

Finding herding dogs was not a problem, the problem was finding the right breed. The border collie breed tends to be soft and in the prison environment would more than likely crumble and not be able to handle the stress of the atmosphere. And that's when the cattle dog breed was looked at. Cattle dogs tend to have a stronger personality, are tougher and can stand up to the pressure of their surroundings.

What I found interesting was geese will fly back each year to where they were hatched. So with that being said, trying to eliminate the goose population is nearly impossible. What our goal is, is to harass them enough to the point they do not want to return.



During



After

When training the dogs they need to have these main qualities: the drive to chase (not to gather the geese), the biddability (to listen for direction/recall) and the impulse not to kill. This is why not all dogs are made for the job. The dogs need the basic obedience skills but the main skill they need is their recall. Recall is paramount. The dog and their handler must have a connection. The dog has to be able to listen and focus on their handler's commands during intense distractions.

Our canines and their handlers have now been able to go to the next level in herding and have modified their technique with specific herding commands. The training NLOL-USA provided to our handlers has helped with other institutions as well. Currently, we have trained a total of four cattle dogs, two of which were trained especially for SCI Al-

bion to help with their goose population, one that comes back to "work" every morning, and a second that stays at GRA. Recently, we received a third cattle dog, this one is planned to stay at GRA as well.



Boomer



Cash



Faith

*Deanna Stager
Clerk Typist 2*

SCI Benner Township's "A Dog's Tail from Jail"



The first dogs for "A Dog's Tail from Jail" arrived at SCI Benner Township on 10/9/14. The K Unit inmate handlers assigned to the program had been training for that moment months before the first dog came in. They were reading, watching training videos and doing hands-on training with our program Training Volunteer, Ms. Pam Graci. Ms. Graci is well acquainted with training in both the real world setting and as a former SCI Smithfield CPL dog trainer. Ms. Graci owns and operates Wags and Woof Dog Training, a local dog training business. Not only has she graciously offered to volunteer her time to our program, she has organized the effort to bring local rescue programs on board. Our program's vision is to rehabilitate dogs from shelters that may not have an easy time finding homes. Ms. Graci does a temperament test of all the dogs before their arrival to ensure that they would be appropriate for the "Big House", as it can be a very overwhelming experience for the dogs. The handlers are then tasked with working on the dogs' socialization skills as well as teaching them basic commands.

We currently have three rescues that have agreed to be a part of this program. They are Pets Come First Rescue Shelter and Nittany Greyhound Rescue who have been with us from the start, and recently the Huntingdon County SPCA has joined us. At the present time we have had a total of 15 dogs enter this program, with 11 leaving the institution with new homes.

During the initial period of handler training (Aug. to mid-Oct.), the unit was buzzing with curiosity and excitement as inmates and staff prepared for the admission of the first four dogs. The unit was adapted to meet the safety requirements of our four legged guests, and car loads of accessories were brought in and set up. Dog-loving staff, also excited with anticipation, provided numerous donations of treats, toys, coats, etc., to welcome the new receptions.

In mid-October when the dogs arrived, it was like Christmas morning as the dogs made their way to the unit. Staff and inmate faces lit up as each dog was brought in and fussed over. Pairing of the handler team and dog was identified and handlers were put to the task of teaching the greyhounds to tackle the stairs. Handlers learned the importance of teamwork and following directions as they coached the dogs up the steps one by one. They experienced the sense of satisfaction and pride when their dogs succeeded and they heard the applause of surrounding staff and peers! The inmate handlers are doing a fantastic job working with and training the dogs. It's amazing how the arrival of the dogs on the housing unit has created such a positive reaction with both staff and inmates.

With each task that the dogs accomplish, the handlers feel the heartfelt gratification inherent with training. Michael, one of the handlers, comments that "my days are now filled with lots of love, caring, joyful and positive thoughts." They are learning the importance of positive reinforcement as a teaching tool, how compassion is rewarded with a wagging tail, gentle lick of the face and accolades from others. Lorenzo, another handler, remarks that "seeing these dogs succeed at the things we require of them is very rewarding." Handler Travis comments that "this program is one of the most pivotal experiences in many of our lives and I'm overwhelmed to say I take part in it."

Continued on page 14

SCI Benner Township's - cont.

The addition of A Dog's Tail from Jail is a win-win as inmates learn the benefit of how life skills such as discipline, cooperation, team work, empathy, unconditional love and mutual respect can transfer from training a dog to be acceptable in society to helping themselves become acceptable in society. Handler Chuck says that the program "has taught me patience and understanding. If you can be patient and consistent, you can get the results you are seeking." Andy, another handler, states that "our program is mutually beneficial to the dogs as well as the handlers." It has taught them that although there are no "do-overs" in life, there are second chances and opportunities. Handler Roland says "this dog program is a perfect example that everyone deserves a second chance."

They are also learning how quickly their dog's progress results in saying good-bye as one by one the dogs left for their forever homes. The loss is teaching them that they are part of a bigger picture for these beautiful creatures – a happy furr-ever home. It continues to provide them with a sense of self-worth that they are making a positive contribution towards society. "It's a wonderful thing, just knowing that you're helping a dog get a second chance," says Handler Frank.

Stacy, one of our handlers that is serving a life sentence, has this to say about his being a part of the program: "what a blessing, after 30 plus years in prison, to be afforded an opportunity to help dogs become available and ready for adoption, it is truly a gift from God. Working with these dogs has not only been teaching me ways to help them, but has taught me much about myself. Grateful and thankful just doesn't seem to say it enough about such a privilege."

Staff throughout the institution have been instrumental in the success of the program. Unit staff has learned that they are a critical part of the team and have taken on a nearly parental role overseeing many of the handler-dog interactions. Several employees have made an investment and commitment through adopting program dogs, and others contribute goodies on a regular basis.

Our littlest program participant, a min-pin named Max with a big heart, was adopted by one of our staff members who reports, "Max has adapted well to his canine brother and human family. Such a caring, inquisitive and wonderful dog. Thank you, Tails from Jail! His forever home loves him to pieces."

K Unit Officer Smith says that "the dog program has done wonderful things for staff and inmate attitudes alike. Sometimes even the hardest man cannot resist the unconditional love and joy of a dog. Having four-legged furry friends on the block has definitely uplifted the spirits of many people. It is helping to teach the inmates how to be responsible and care for someone other than themselves."

A final thought begins with Handler Anthony's remarks on the program. "It gave me a great sense of pride - each dog I have helped save and train. These dogs come from all different walks of life, to each one a rough road. It's my job to help smooth their path. They can finally have peace in their lives and that alone gives me a peace in mine. 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."

... As staff members working in corrections, one can only hope that we can do the same for those in our charge...

*Billie Rupert
Unit Manager*



SCI Muncy - Community Events



Bailee during a recent presentation. (Photo by Sheila Hagemeyer)

The CPL program at SCI Muncy is fortunate to be invited to many community events throughout the year. In most cases a staff member will attend an event with at least one of the service dogs to demonstrate the skills that the dog is learning and to speak to the public about the CPL program at SCI Muncy. In the past, these events have been staged by local schools, Cub Scout troops, nursing homes and other organizations.

Community events serve a number of purposes for the CPL program and the Department of Corrections as a whole. First, demonstrations for large groups are a good way for the dogs to be exposed to a variety of sights and sounds that they may not experience within the facility. For instance, most dogs do not see small children on a regular basis inside the institution. Performing for a large group of school-age children and interacting with the students is a good way for the dog to become accustomed to children. This exposure is important, particularly for younger dogs, so that as their training progresses they will be comfortable with a variety of different settings and populations.



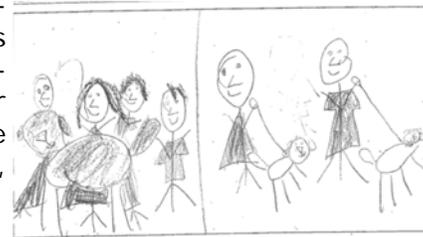
Alice (L) and Marlie (R) listen attentively during a recent presentation at Watsonstown Elementary School. (Photo by Sheila Hagemeyer)

SCI Muncy and the Department of Corrections also benefit from these presentations in that staff members are able to interact with the public in a positive manner and educate the audiences on the positive programs that take place within our facilities. Very few members of the general public are aware that there are dog raising programs in correctional facilities. By participating in these events staff are able to show the public one of the many ways in which DOC employees are improving their communities and contributing to the greater good. It also highlights how our institutions facilitate programs which allow inmates to make meaningful contributions back to society as part of their rehabilitation.



I love the poodol. I love the vvidog. I love the poodol and the vider black dog. I enjoyed that re geting the svvidogs.

The most recent public presentation took place on May 1st at Watsonstown Elementary School in Watsonstown, Pa. This school is a few miles from the prison and has hosted demonstrations of the CPL program for students on a number of occasions over the past five years. On this occasions, the presentation was conducted by Clerk Typist II Margaret Bitler, Social Worker II Lindsey Willard, Corrections Plumbing Trades Instructor Cheryl Hook, and Unit Manager Eli Stevens. CPL dogs Bailee, Alice, Maisey, and Marlie were used for demonstrations and interacting with the children. There were three presentations including grades from Pre-Kindergarten to Fourth Grade. The children and staff all enjoyed the presentation and learned about what service dogs are, how they are trained, how to interact with service dogs in public and other topics. The children also had many questions about the dogs and the program. HNT Program Coordinator Lt. Sheila Hagemeyer also graciously took photographs of the presentation to be shared with the school, CPL and SCI Muncy.



Thank you for
beg the dogs for
us to pet the dogs.
From: Aliah

This event was a great way to connect with the public and show people that the DOC contributes positively to the community in many ways. With the help of our volunteers we hope to continue to attend such events in the future.

Eli Stevens
Unit Manager

SCI Albion - CPL Program

Since the first installment of "All Paws On Deck," three of our pups have moved onto the CPL kennel for advanced training. Fuji (black standard poodle), Harley and Boots (yellow Labrador retrievers) have all moved onto their next phase of training. Currently, SCI Albion has five pups: Jerri (red standard poodle), Banks, Fidget, Rushie (black Labrador retrievers) and Chads (yellow Labrador retriever). Rushie and Chads are brothers. The pups range in age from eight weeks to 10 months. We currently have 10 inmate pup handlers and five staff members that



Banks says Feed me more



Jerri in the car

are involved with the program. All the pups are doing well with their training. We have gained in volunteers support from the community which is greatly appreciated. Two of the community volunteers, Erin and Lori, have been regulars at our training sessions and have assisted in training the inmate handlers in learning how to clip the poodles we have. Our main support from the community, Ruth, has been with the program nine plus years and has decided to call it quits. We will miss her support, guidance and positive attitude. We just learned that CPL has been named the Volunteer Group of the Year for SCI Albion, a well-deserved honor.

R.A. Showers
Unit Manager

Goose Dog Program Completes Successful First Year

It's been a year since we first introduced Steele and then Dixie to the Goose Population at SCI Albion. During the course of that year we have seen a dramatic reduction in the level of disruption that the geese have caused the institution. Steele and Dixie have taken great delight in herding and chasing the geese from inside the interior of the jail and have also started to expand their efforts to our outer perimeter and ponds. This spring began the disruption of nests and addling the eggs which seems to have been working. We currently have less than a dozen goslings compared the hundreds in years past.

It has been so successful that late last winter we decided to add a third goose dog to our program. Sadie is a Blue Heeler that was rescued from the local Anna's Shelter. She is just a year old and had been in two different homes before she found her forever home on G unit. Sadie had obviously been mistreated before being surrendered to the shelter. She was shy and timid but the staff at the shelter felt that the institution would be a perfect fit for her. It would give her routine and consistency along with having a job which gives her a sense of purpose. It has been amazing to see how the inmates responded to this shy, scared little creature. The unit has gone out of its way to help make her feel comfortable and socialize Sadie. She has become very attached to the rest of her "pack" and is always delighted to see her handlers. Sadie has been a great addition.

There have been so many secondary benefits of the Goose Dog program other than reducing the geese population. It has been refreshing to see our inmate population have an outlet to appropriately nurture and care for something outside of themselves. It's routine now to hear the inmates greet the dogs in the morning or as they see them throughout the day. The dogs add quite a bit of comic relief to the unit atmosphere.



Perhaps the biggest benefit has been addressing the fear and anxiety that the unit counselor, Ms. Jackson, had regarding dogs. When we first were identified as the housing unit for the program, Ms. Jackson was not pleased and stated, "I don't know about this. I might have to go." We believe she may have actually had packing boxes in her office. But throughout the course of the year, she has not only overcome her fear of the unit dogs but has become perhaps the worst offender for spoiling "her dogs" with treats. She greets them every morning, provides them with a snack and makes sure that they are getting everything that they need.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and lots of more positive antidotes.

M. Kosinski
G Unit Manager

TAILS - Train, Assist, Inspire, Loyal & Serve



Somerset with the Easter Bunny at SCI Pine Grove's Employees Association Easter Egg Hunt

SCI Pine Grove's TAILS program has had a very successful inaugural year. The TAILS canines have exceeded the expectations of both the SCI Pine Grove staff and the UDS staff. In early June, SCI Pine Grove's TAILS canines graduated to secondary training program at United Disabilities Services (UDS) in Lancaster, Pa., approximately three months ahead of schedule! At that time, four new puppies will arrive at SCI Pine Grove to continue the TAILS program.

The TAILS program was originally created as a way for SCI Pine Grove inmates to give back to the community, as well as, provide inmates with job skills. The skills that they have acquired and the lessons that they learned have changed their outlook on life and the aspirations that they have for the future. 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. While the initial mission of the program was to change the lives of those who needed assistance due to a disability as our program has progressed we discovered that the lives that were touched the most were those of our inmates. As our inaugural year comes to a close the skills and life lessons learned during the past year will stay with the TAILS inmates for the rest of their lives.



Milton and Solomon celebrating their first birthday

The TAILS canines have been very busy in the community during the last few months preparing for their new assignments.

In December and in May, the TAILS canines attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania's library during finals week as part of the university's De-Stress Fest.



Debbie Borza with Deora

In April, Debby Borza, mother of Deora Bodley, who was the youngest passenger on Flight 93, spoke to SCI Pine Grove inmates during Crime Victim's Week. TAILS canines Deora and Somerset were named to honor of Deora Bodley and her passion for animals.

In April, the service dogs also attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania 6 O'clock Speaker Series 'Until Tuesday' at the Fisher Auditorium in Indiana, Pa., to hear New York Times bestselling author Captain Luis Carlos Montalván discuss his book "Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him." Montalván, a

17-year veteran of the U.S. Army, including multiple combat tours in Iraq, honorably departed the military in 2007, and "Tuesday" is Montalván's beloved service dog who changed his life.



Ivy enjoying the Pittsburgh International Car Show

In May, the TAILS service dogs were honored at the United Disabilities Services 50th Anniversary Gala in Lancaster, Pa.



UM Doug Russell with Deora and CCI Tara Marhefka with Milton at the United Disabilities Services 50th Anniversary Gala.

Also in May, UDS Trainer Kristina Smith was honored as SCI Pine Grove's 'Volunteer of the Year.' Ms. Smith has been involved with United Disabilities Services for more than 17 years and has been very involved with the TAILS program.

In February, SCI Pine Grove officially began working with Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Adult and Continuing Education program to provide the inmates of SCI Pine Grove with the recognition of a certificate in dog training and care. The program was 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. The program consists of four 30 hour courses for a total of 120 hours. The TAILS inmates are on track to complete the program in late June.

Tara Marhefka, CCI

Positive Experiences

Margie Stewart relays her HOPE adoption experience, why she became a HOPE volunteer and the HOPE program venturing into new areas:

Danner

I adopted Danner several years ago when Danner entered the program, he trusted considered feral and even his rescue did-gram was literally his last chance. As it Soon after Danner came to live with me, I pressed with the positive impact the pro-I just needed to do something to give unteered right alongside me, lending com-dogs that come into the prison.

This past summer the prison administra-hospice patient who was in the infirmary. a HOPE graduate was asked to do this. Danner had never been in a hospital set-chairs and IV's and I knew that the visit needed to go smoothly to ensure that there will be future visits. We were accompanied to the infirmary by a unit manager and one of the dog handlers from the program. When we got to the patient's room, his face lit up. After Danner greeted everyone, he sat down next to the man getting as close to his wheelchair as he could so that he could be petted while the man talked about his dogs at home. Danner performed several tricks and commands and then stood on his hind legs to place his front paws on the man's lap. Judging from all the smiles, the visit was a positive experience for everyone involved from the patient to other inmates in the infirmary to the staff and CO's. I know it made an impact on the man – before he passed away he wrote a letter to his family, talking about the visit from the "hopedog" and how much it meant to him.



he "paroled" from the HOPE Program. When no one. He'd been picked up as a stray, was n't have much hope for him. The HOPE Pro-turned out, all he needed was a chance. started volunteering for HOPE. I was so im-gram has on both the dogs and the inmates, back. For the past few years Danner has vol-fort and support to some of the very fearful

tion gave its approval for Danner to visit a As a volunteer, I was thrilled and proud that But I was also a little apprehensive. After all, ting with all the equipment, gurneys, wheel-chairs and IV's and I knew that the visit needed to go smoothly to ensure that there will be future visits. We were accompanied to the infirmary by a unit manager and one of the dog handlers from the program. When we got to the patient's room, his face lit up. After Danner greeted everyone, he sat down next to the man getting as close to his wheelchair as he could so that he could be petted while the man talked about his dogs at home. Danner performed several tricks and commands and then stood on his hind legs to place his front paws on the man's lap. Judging from all the smiles, the visit was a positive experience for everyone involved from the patient to other inmates in the infirmary to the staff and CO's. I know it made an impact on the man – before he passed away he wrote a letter to his family, talking about the visit from the "hopedog" and how much it meant to him.

A HOPE handler & Certified Peer Specialist, Stephen S., writes about his experience accompanying Margie Stewart & Danner when visiting the same individual in the infirmary:

The Gift of H.O.P.E. – CPS Stephen S.

A lot has been written about the positive correlation between animals and good mental health. Never has it been more apparent than one day this past summer, when the administration gave their consent to allow a HOPE (Hounds of Prison Education) program dog to visit a dying inmate in the infirmary. Taking Danner through the institution towards the infirmary drew some puzzled looks. When we reached the dying man, he broke into a broad grin. Rick was in a wheelchair, but this was not a problem as Danner was only too happy to jump onto his lap. Normally he gets reprimanded for this kind of behavior, but Danner sensed that this was what he was here for. Danner did all of his tricks, but Rick was happiest when Danner rested his head on his knee and wanted to be petted. So far there has been only one visit like this to the Infirmary, although more may occur in the future. While the whole visit lasted only 30 minutes, it will stay with me for a lifetime.



Where are they now?



Ginger is a thriving HOPE "parolee." Here are some pics of her on vacation in Atlantic City. We were glad to hear that Ginger didn't like to gamble, but she loved the ocean.



Summer Safety Facts/Tips



As the temperatures rise so does the risk of dehydration and heat stroke. Just like humans, dogs get uncomfortable in high temperatures. Heat related illness can do permanent damage if left untreated and can be deadly. As dogs have a hard time expressing their discomfort, here are a few important conditions to watch out for during this summer.

Dehydration:

- * Sunken eyes
- * Depression
- * Weak pulse
- * Lethargy
- * Lack of elasticity in skin
- * Elevated heart rate
- * Loss of appetite
- * Drooling
- * Dry mouth and gums
- * Vomiting

If your dog is exhibiting these signs, mix electrolyte solution with the dog's water at a rate of two to four milliliters per pound of your dog's body weight per hour. You can also feed the dog some potassium rich foods, such as banana or nuts, so long as the dog is not allergic. You can also add a little salt, sugar, and lime juice to the water bowl.



Heat Stroke:

- * Pale gums and a bright tongue
- * Difficulty breathing
- * Weakness and/or fatigue
- * Disorientation
- * Thick saliva
- * Frequent vomiting
- * Unusual breathing (rapid and loud)
- * High rectal temperature
- * Bloody diarrhea

If you have only noticed a few symptoms, immediately take your dog to a shady area and try one of the below methods to bring down the dogs temperature.



- * Access to cool, clean water
- * A cool (not cold) bath
- * Damp towels

If your dog is experiencing advanced symptoms such as vomiting and bloody diarrhea, it is an indication that the condition is severe and you should take the dog to the vet immediately.

Below are some tips to safely walk your dog to avoid overheating and injuring the pads of his or her paws:

- * Avoid hot pavement or asphalt
- * Try to take walks on the grass or shaded portions of the streets and sidewalks. If it is too hot for you to stand barefoot then it is too hot for your dog to stand. If you cannot avoid the hot pavement then try to keep the time spent on it short.
- * Take "paw checks" Before you go out for the walk check how your dog's paw pads feel. While you are walking stop in shaded areas or on grass check each of your dog's paws. If the pads of the paws are really warm or hot, stay off the hot pavement and let the dog's paws cool down. Once the pads are cool, go home.
- * Walk slowly and avoid going long distances. It is best to stay close to your home. Keep the walk short. If you and your dog normally walk for 30-40 minutes in mild weather/temperatures of 70-89 degrees Fahrenheit, then in heat of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or hotter, a 10-minute walk would be similar to the longer walk in the mild weather.

If you are concerned your dog's paws may have gotten burned, signs to look for are pads that look darker than usual, redness, limping, unwillingness to continue walking, blisters, missing sections or loose flaps on the paw pad, ulcerated patches, and excessive licking or chewing of the foot. If your dog experiences any of

those symptoms, the first step should be cooling his/her paws down. Get your pet away from hot surfaces (grass is usually much cooler than pavement) and, if possible, rinse his/her paws with cool water. Burns are very painful, so the best course of action if you think your dog may have burned their paws is a trip to the veterinarian.

Air Temp.	Asphalt Temp.
77°F	~ 125°F
86°F	~ 135°F
87°F	~ 143°F



FIDOS - SCI Coal Township



Program highlights/updates

- * It's incredible to see the change in atmosphere within the institution. The dogs make otherwise pretty grim individuals a little more social and pleasant.
- * I get to take Layla (our program mascot) to school with me. She gets so excited to go over to school with me! Also, she visits the sick guys in the infirmary. She is an excellent ambassador for the Rottweiler breed and will make an excellent therapy dog.
- * Highlights of this program are that we see the transformation of highly abused dogs to confident, people friendly dogs.
- * To see the transformation of dogs that were abused is amazing. As well as the puppies that are really smart. We currently have a sheltie puppy in the program who is born to entertain and do tricks. His training has been very impressive.

How are they progressing? Provide some updates.

- * Great. Some come in so scared and seemingly traumatized. However, the abundance of love and attention has an incredible effect.
- * My dog, Sophia, wasn't housebroken but she is now potty trained.
- * They are progressing fine. Some learn faster than others but they learn at least three new commands a week.
- * My dog, as of now, can sit, stand, lay down, stay for several minutes and come to me from a far distance on command.
- * The dogs come into the program abused and afraid. They leave the program loved, confident and pampered.



Layla

Do you have any special training programs?

- * Currently dogs are preparing for Therapy Dogs International; reviewing programs.
- * Layla, the Rottie, is being trained for the T.D.I. (Therapy Dogs International) test so she can be used with the special needs inmates.
- * We have a canine CPR class with BowWowBeauty.com and Pet Supplies Plus. We are certified now!

Where are your pups now after leaving the program? (If known)

- * One dog, Maggie, does therapy work with children.
- * Our dogs in the FIDOS program have pretty much been adopted by outside families. Some have been adopted by staff at SCI Coal Township. We have had about 25 dogs enter the program within 10 months. A couple of our first dogs to enter were adopted by our superintendent and our deputy superintendent — one was a German shepherd, Sadie, and the other was a Yorkie, Tito. That was an awesome sign of support by the administration for our FIDOS program.

First round of adoptions:

Archie – Miniature apricot poodle – adopted by staff and a spoiled but great addition to their family.

Tito – Yorkshire terrier – adopted by staff and is wife's trusted sidekick, loves bacon.

Lucas – Shiloh shepherd – Adopted by a family who had a girl shepherd already, great friends, very happy.

Samson – Besenji terrier mix – adopted by a couple and is training to be a therapy dog so he can go to work with the wife who is an elementary school teacher.

Sandy – Norfolk terrier – adopted by an elderly woman and is now her best friend.

*Trisha Kelley
Superintendent's Assistant*



Maggie at the St. Patrick's Day Parade

SCI Forest - PAWS

On March 15, 2015, SCI Forest made the front page to the Tri-County Sunday paper.

Dog block at CSI Forest changing lives

By Katie Weidenboerner

katiew@thecourierexpress.com

MARIENVILLE — The “dog block” at SCI Forest has a lightness which seems uncharacteristic of a facility housing maximum-security inmates.

Upon entering, the air has a clean but stagnant heaviness and in one corner, the drab beige walls are awash with colorful murals of dogs at play with bright eyes and smiles, painted by inmates.

As the facility was in lockdown Wednesday, dogs and handlers were restricted to their cells until the ban was lifted, or until Brenda Haupt, the unit manager and dog program organizer, gave several knocks of welcome onto one of the cell doors.

Once opened, a short, muscular tan pit bull in a purple collar came bounding out, her tail whipping so wildly her whole body shook with a rippling hello. She gave small snorts of salutation as she excitedly paced back and forth between the newly rewarded rawhide on her bed in the cell and the old friend who came to visit.

“This is Hazel,” Haupt said as she patted the dog gently on the head. “She is a spoiled little baby.”

Hazel’s handler followed her out of the cell, his head

See Dog, A4



Rags, a Jack Russell terrier mix who was surrendered by his owner, has been at SCI Forest for four months. A lover of children, he is popular in the inmate visiting room where young ones are often shy and overwhelmed. He is still up for adoption. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

nearly touching the top of the doorway. Haupt called the middle-aged man a “lifer,” saying he has been in prison since he was a teenager.

Clad in work boots, brown prison scrub pants and a white T-shirt, the man, who the Tri-County Sunday has agreed not to identify, gently took Hazel through her paces — heel, sit, high fives, touches to the wall, spin, lay down — and her favorite, standing on her two hind legs. Each of the commands was given gently using both a verbal cue and hand signal.

After each of the small performances, Hazel excitedly inhaled small morsels of dog food out of the handler’s tattooed hands whilst giving him a gaze of devotion, love and adoration.

PAWS dogs are fed all of their food out of hand — never a bowl — and all food must be earned. This helps fearful dogs like Hazel trust human hands.

Hazel was found abandoned in a house with four other dogs. When she was rescued by the Elk County Humane Society, she was nearly emaciated by hunger, eating a mattress in a desperate attempt at survival.

Four months ago, she came to prison small and thin for a pit and afraid of her own shadow. At the beginning of April, she will head home to start a new life with an inmate family who adopted her.

□□□

The prison dog training program, Pups Assisting Wounded Soldiers (PAWS), at SCI Forest has trained about 55 dogs from the Elk County Humane Society, placing many with veterans through an Ohio-based organization called “Wags 4 Warriors.”

When the organization decided to work with a closer prison, Haupt connected with the DuBois Vet Center to keep the program’s mission in tact.

PAWS is one of 15 prison dog training programs across the state, but is the only one with the mission of providing dogs to vets. An inmate organization called Hope for Change even pays the dog’s \$130 adoption fee if it is homed with a veteran.

“When I started the program, I wanted it to mean something,” Haupt said. “Something positive in jail is rare — and this is definitely something positive.”

The cause resonates with Haupt personally as her son Sam is an Iraq veteran who returned home from war with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Returning from active duty, he was afraid to go out in public, uncertain of crowds, and felt a severe “otherness,” which continued until he took in a Cane Corso Italian Mastiff named Addie who began to help him navigate the symptoms of his disorder.

As a certified PTSD therapy dog, 2-year-old Addie is trained to accompany Sam in public places, wake him from nightmares and turn on lights for him so he never goes into a dark room.

“He takes her to the store, out to eat, everywhere he goes,” Haupt said of the nearly 100 pound canine. “She’s his little sidekick — well, his big sidekick.”

While the PAWS dogs don’t have the same qualifications as Addie, their time inside gives them the foundation needed to be of service to veterans.

The dogs live the life of an inmate 24 hours a day, only being banned from the dining hall. At the end of their constant training, each dog graduates with a “Canine Good Citizen” certification.

In prison, being a dog trainer is considered an elite job and is most often afforded to inmates with an upcoming relief date, however the privilege isn’t given lightly. Each applicant sits down one-on-one with Haupt in a job inter-

Continued on page 22

SCI Forest cont.

view in which she tells them to "sell themselves like a car."

Starting three years ago with eight trainers, the program now has 17 and a long waiting list of interested inmates.

Aside from being on training duty all day, each inmate has homework which consists of writing a journal about the dog and its unique traits. This road map of bad habits, special needs and accomplishments goes with the dog when it is adopted.

The dogs have responsibilities too.

Aside from their training, they are recruited to the psych department and special needs unit for help with therapy and provide comfort to patients in the infirmary who are terminally ill.

Dogs like Rags, a tall and spirited 10-month-old Jack Russell terrier mix, is a favorite in the inmate visiting room. The wild-haired puppy, who is a lover of squeaky toys and Milkbone biscuits, helps to break the ice, especially for children who have called to visit family members.

The dogs of Forest create cracks in the hard facades of inmates as well.

Some inmates shed tears after the dogs leave from their months long stay. Other handlers have experienced measurable health improvements through working with the dogs. For others still, connecting so intensely to another living being brings up emotions such as love and jealousy which



The relationship between Sam Haupt and his therapy dog Addie inspired his mother, a unit manager at SCI Forest to start the PAWS program, which trains shelter dogs and matches them with veterans. (Photo submitted)

have long been latent in the onerous prison environment.

Rags' handler said he intends to continue to work with dogs when he is paroled. His goal is to start by training a dog for his brother who has Down Syndrome and autism.

"I believe this program changed my entire life. The way I think, the way I do things," he said. "It's changed a lot of people in here, both inmates and staff members."

*Brenda Haupt, UM
(The Tri-County Sunday)*

SCI Cambridge Springs - CPL

In the beginning of January 2015, the skies over SCI Cambridge Springs prison started raining poodles and black labs – LITERALLY!!

The thunder of applause announced the triumphant arrival of the poodle brothers, Ritz and Astro, on Jan. 2, 2015. Ritz, a copper-colored, wolly haired firecracker with a personality to match made a loud explosion when he arrived on the scene. He definitely is no ordinary poodle. With little home training, Ritz came with a made up mind to rule this roost, pup handlers and pups alike. He probably can eat any lab under the table, and that in itself makes him extraordinary because poodles are usually finicky when it comes to eating. Ritz is really smart. He's what you call a thinking dog and you can actually see the wheels in his mind turning as he is deciding on what mischief to get into next. Being smart is good for him, but bad for us and even when he makes you blow a gasket or sends your rockets to the moon, he is so cute and loveable, that you just can't stay mad at him.

Then there is Astro, who is the opposite of Ritz. Astro looks like he is wearing a tuxedo. He is tall and regal in stature and walks with his head and nose in the air. Make no mistake about it, Astro likes the red carpet rolled out for him. His hair is soft, curly and really black, and if he misses grooming for too long, he looks like Howard Stern. He likes getting praise from people, likes meeting people, but hates too much touching. He is a fun-loving pup who surprisingly loves training, playtime and going to the yard. He loves to go on the mail run so he can strut his stuff for all the people to see.

Like two peas in a pod, Ritz and Astro are a handful for us all, and they definitely keep us on our toes.

On Jan. 9, 2015, a cloud burst dropped another set of brothers in our midst, Axle and Davy. Black as coal and smooth as silk, these two labs had something to say.

Axle, since arriving at Cambridge Springs, has acquired the nickname "Biggums." He has grown so fast and is so tall that it looks like we have been feeding him "miracle grow." He loves people and he has a really nice personality. His biggest fault is that he thinks everyone is a giant lollypop. Lick, lick, lick. We are really working on getting that trait under wraps. His tail probably could be considered a weapon because when he gets excited it looks like a boat propeller. I've had my face swatted a few times with it. He is laid back, and his favorite thing to do it just walk around with a toy in his mouth.

Continued on page 23

SCI Cambridge Springs cont.

Davy is a fun-loving dog that loves to share his toys with everyone. You could actually wake up one morning and find a bone in your mouth. What does Davy want in return for this act of kindness? A belly rub. Davy can be rough in the playground, but he is as sweet as he can be. He likes to work at the Automotive Shop and the warehouse. He likes meeting the truckers and all the people who make deliveries to the prison.

Finally, on Feb. 2, 2015, a gentle wind blew in an eight-week-old black lab, named Quincy. Quincy is affectionately known as "Eeyore" around the campus. He sits just like the lovable little donkey, rolls his eyes at you and has two speeds – very slow and stop – while walking for the first four months of his life. Can you say stubborn? He actually is very good at loose leash walking now, along with being the sweetest, most laid back dog ever. He gets excited to train, chew bones, ride on carts and chew on his brothers at playtime. He also loves going to work at Activities with Grandma, aka "the treat lady," because he knows he will get special goodies if he behaves.

These last arrivals have had the opportunity to be involved in many programs in the institution. One such program in particular is the Master Gardener program. The inmates in the progressive unit – Bravo Unit – take weekly classes from January through May to learn gardening science and techniques. This year the pups not only attended the lectures but also participated in the hands-on sessions planting seeds and transplants in the greenhouse. The pups even got their paws dirty in the excess from the seed trays. In addition, they sat through being watered thoroughly from head to toe as they watched class activities from under the screened tables.

With the last addition to the puppy program, our total number of dogs that have lived and trained here with us is 71. Since we began the program May 21, 2002, we have raised yellow and black labs, many colors of poodles and labradoodles, as well as golden retrievers. We've raised rescue pups, breeder pups, donated and purchased pups. Many have become full service assistance dogs, some were home companions and alert dogs and some were released to various good homes at pets. We even have a dog working at a DA's office to help children who are victims of abuse. Princess, from our 5th set of pups has been in service to children for several years.

Raising pups may seem like a lot of fun, but it is a great deal of work. The pups live in the rooms with us, and we are there for every part of their day ... from food, treats and water, to bathing, brushing, combing, trimming hair and nails, brushing teeth and cleaning ears. We even have to pick up their "output." Since they go everywhere with us, we often have to clean "everywhere" off their paws. I'm talking to YOU, snow, salt, mud and grass. As the pup handlers say, "MUST LOVE DOGS."

We are grateful to all for sharing space with us and the pups and for recognizing the boundaries that have been put in place as part of raising working assistance dogs. We appreciate it when you don't try to stop us when we are going out to "do business" and for your understanding when it's just not a good time to hand out for you to visit with the pups. We try to accommodate you with time to say "hello" and pet them (under the chin, not on the head please). Thank you for understanding we may be noisy on sleepiness nights with the new pups. Sometimes they need to go outside and often they just miss their moms and dads and make a little noise to say a thing or two to the new humans they live with.

We would like to thank the staff and inmates for their patience and kind words of encouragement. You help all of us in the pup program, canine and human, do a better job.

We would like to thank CPL for giving us the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful program. It has been said that "dogs leave paw prints all over your heart." So we would like to thank all the dogs who have come and gone over the years. Because of you our lives have been enriched and our hearts have been enlarged.

Inmate Handlers



Trivia

1. What was the dog's name in the Fox and the Hound?
2. No matter the breed, all dogs have ___ bones and ___ adult teeth?
3. Toto was played by what breed of dog in the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz"?
4. How many toes do dogs have on their hind feet?
5. What is the fastest dog breed in the world?
6. Who was the first dog movie star in the United States?
7. What is Snoopy's brother's name?
8. Goofy's original name was Dippy Dawg? True or False
9. The Chow is the only dog breed that does not have a pink tongue? True or False
10. What is the name of the dog from "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"?

Answers
1.) Copper 2.) 321 & 42 3.) Cairn Terrier 4.) 4
5.) Greyhound 6.) Rin Tin Tin 7.) Spike 8.) True
9.) True 10.) Max

Canine Facts

- 🐾 Sergeant Stubby, the 'Hero Dog of WWI,' once caught a German soldier by the seat of his pants and held him until American soldiers came. He also served in 17 battles, saved his regiment from surprise mustard gas attacks, and helped locate wounded soldiers.
- 🐾 A dog named Pepper was trained to detect dung of the rare Javan rhino in the forests of Vietnam as part of a WWF project aimed at estimating the remaining population.
- 🐾 A one-year-old dog had the physical maturity approximately equivalent to that of a 16-year-old human.
- 🐾 Dogs are actually right pawed or left pawed, just like people are (only with hands, of course).
- 🐾 A dog's average temperature is 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 🐾 The leading cause of foot problems in dogs is overgrown toenails.
- 🐾 Three dogs were among the Titanic survivors. Approximately 12 dogs boarded the ship with first class passengers en route to New York.



If you would like to start your own dog program at your facility contact:
Daniel Lorditch, Administrative Officer 1 (dlorditch@pa.gov).

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