



Welcome Back!!

As the holiday season is upon us, before you read the articles within, let's take some time to reflect on those loved ones (family, friends, coworkers, or pets) who are not able to be with us whether it be due to a relocation, active military or those who have passed.

Since the last edition there has been one institution that has started their own puppy program! Now there are a total of 14 institutions with programs...and more institutions working on setting up puppy programs, so stay tuned!



The Facilities with Puppy Programs:

SCI Albion

SCI Houtzdale

SCI Camp Hill

SCI Mercer

SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Muncy

SCI Coal Township

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Forest

SCI Rockview

SCI Graterford

SCI Smithfield

SCI Greene

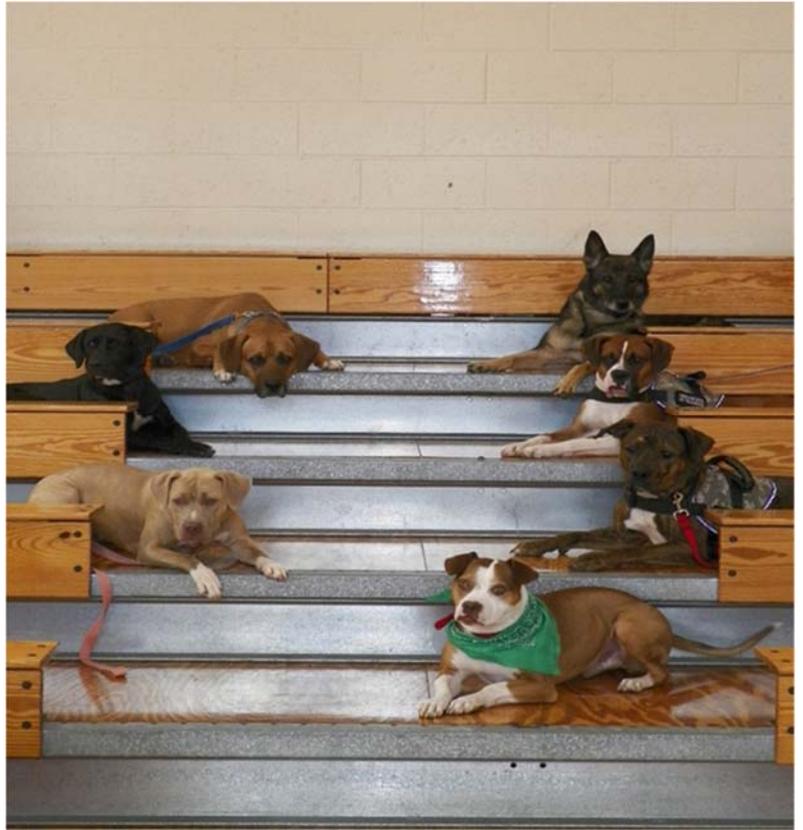
SCI Somerset

SCI Forest

SCI Forest would like to introduce from top left to right: Bam a Mastiff mix, Fina a German Shephard, Sassy a Lab mix, Eddie the Boxer, Pretty Girl a shy Pit, Timber a Boxer Pit mix and Duncan an adorable Pit who thinks everything is a toy to be played with. The dogs finished training in November. A new group of dogs arrived earlier this month. We have been busy networking to get more Veterans program contacts and to better acquaint us with agencies that work with PTSD vets. Our goal is to get our dogs to the local heroes that truly need them.

We had some special training going on with Eddie, Fina and Sassy. They wanted to tell you about it themselves as they are very excited! Here are their latest interviews:

"Hello, my name is Eddie! That name was chosen for me by a very special girl who I am in training to help. You see, she is in a wheelchair and needs me. I am learning to walk with a chair, be calm and just let her know I am here. She is very special, as she needs someone to always be with her and let her human family know when something is wrong. I just love her and I know she loves me. The only name she could say was Eddie, so I took it! Personally, I think Sir Eddie the Great is better, but I keep that to myself. As you can see I am the handsome one two dogs down on the right side of the picture."



Fina also went through some more intensive training. Here is her latest press release:

"I am Fina, the beautiful, at least that's what I have been told. I am 7 years old and really want to help someone. I was so bored in the cage at the shelter that I convinced the humans to take me to P.A.W.S. There, I met someone who was in the war and is having a hard time. I fell instantly for him and him for me, so I am learning how to take care of him. I am learning to turn on lights so he never has to go into a dark room. I open doors and look in rooms for people and even let him know when people come into the room he is in. He gets nervous in crowds, so I will be trained to be right by his side so all he has to do is touch me to know he will be ok. I am being trained to take care of one of our nation's heroes. I am being trained to help someone with PTSD. As you may have figured out, I am the top dog on the right...personally, I am the top dog on the totem pole!"

Sassy will be used for a very special purpose. Here is her take on it:

"I am called Sassy because I am in charge, all the time, well not really all the time. When I am in training to become a therapy dog to a therapist in a hospital I am not in charge. I am the best student in the class. No one does it better than me. When I am on the playground, it's another story. I have to be the best, and the fastest. Second place is not an option for me. We are working on my focus right now. I seem to be, as my humans say, "a little scattered." I lose my focus because I get distracted and forget that I am supposed to be calm and collected. I love what I am doing, but I am still young. As I get older I will get more focused and will exceed all expectations for me. I am the black shiny star on the left."

*Brenda Haupt
Unit Manager*

SCI Forest cont.

The remaining four dogs each have their own take on life at SCI Forest. This is what they have to say:

"Hello world, my name is Timber! I am a big, loveable brindle bundle of joy. I am calm, cool and collected. I think of myself as Cool Hand Luke. I can also open my door and take a walk whenever no one is looking. The best part is everyone loves me so I never get in trouble! My favorite friend here is Pretty Girl, she is awesome, and here is what she has to say."

"I am the prettiest pit you will ever see. I tend to be shy, but I love you and will never let you down. I am the best shade of grey/tan you will ever lay eyes on. I got my name because everyone who sees me says, 'Oh, what a pretty girl.' I get overwhelmed with all the activity but do absolutely fantastic in a controlled setting. Timber and I like to play with Bam. Bam is a huge nut who loves to lay around on pillows. He tends to steal them off the beds of the human. He says it's his mission to get as many as he can. He declined comment that's why I have to explain him to you."

Duncan chimed in on the interview with, "Life is great here and I love it." He says his favorite thing to do is sit on people. His comment to that is, "Where else am I going to sit? I have to sit on someone." Duncan has a constant smile because of his under bite and he loves to run fast. Any dog smaller than him is considered an interactive squeaky toy and he tends to treat them as such.

Our trainers love the dogs they get and it's always a proud, emotional day when the group leaves. This group of dogs seems to have stolen their hearts more so due to the missions they are being trained for. The trainers all took part in the specialized training for Eddie, Fina and Sassy, and they are learning so much about the dog training process. The staff here at Forest have come to expect great things from our dogs, and the trainers continue to impress us with what the dogs can learn. We love to rescue the dogs, but in reality they rescue us.

Brenda J. Haupt
Unit Manager

SCI Graterford



Graterford's RTU (Residential Treatment Unit) is partnering with the New Leash on Life—USA program to provide RTU inmates with weekly access to a therapeutic dog. Prior to being adopted to its forever home, the therapeutic dog practices its therapeutic skills with RTU inmates. Currently the therapeutic dog "Paige" has been servicing the RTU. Many of the inmates who struggle with mental health issues on the RTU have been interacting with Paige by feeding and petting her. This interaction has been helpful in motivating RTU inmates to spend less time withdrawing in their cells and more time utilizing their social skills. The therapeutic dog has been a welcome addition to Graterford's RTU.

Tiffany Ray, MEd LPC
Psychological Services Specialist

It is wonderful to see a specific inmate here as he interacts with Paige. He swore he would never get another dog after losing his beloved pet after he came to prison. He has had little hope, and we have been very concerned since he will complete his sentence and be released shortly. Perhaps he can learn that he can enjoy another pet and look forward. Also, an inmate who is hearing impaired would not at first come near the dog. He was afraid, but now he pets her and gives her treats. Meaningful victories within walls.

Pamela Jacques
Corrections Counselor 2



Veterinary Services for CPL Dogs at SCI Muncy

Like humans, events in a dog's early life are likely to determine the dog's behavior, personality and socialization. The first year of a dog's life is also a crucial period for the dog's long-term physical health. As such, the CPL organization has a standardized veterinary care schedule for each dog. This schedule specifies dates for vaccinations, physical exams and other procedures. By using a regimented schedule, in conjunction with skilled veterinary staff, the program ensures that each dog has the best opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

It is very important that the veterinary care dictated by this schedule is followed within the set timeframes. It would be challenging to do this with one dog, but it is even more challenging to follow these protocols with six dogs of various ages. Luckily, the CPL program at SCI Muncy works with three local veterinary hospitals which offer complimentary care to the dogs as a public service.

Currently, three veterinary clinics sponsor CPL dogs at SCI Muncy. The sponsors are:

- **Lewisburg Animal Care Hospital** (Lewisburg, PA)
- **Companion Animal Hospital** (Selinsgrove, PA)
- **Loyalsock Animal Hospital** (Williamsport, PA)



Each clinic sponsors two dogs. The office provides free services including routine exams, vaccinations, specialized testing, flea and tick medication, heartworm medication, spay/neuter services and emergency care as needed. The CPL program at SCI Muncy is very fortunate to have three high-quality offices that provide services free of charge. Young dogs can be challenging in terms of their medical needs. Often there are medical conditions that begin to manifest in early puppyhood and having good doctors is important for diagnosing these issues early so that the dogs can be treated, or preparations can be made for the dog to fulfill a different role due to its special medical needs.



In addition to the regular developmental issues associated with young dogs, puppies have a noted propensity for getting into trouble. The handlers work hard to "puppy-proof" their living spaces, but the puppies seem to be able to seek out inappropriate items wherever they may be. In the past, dogs have been treated for eating rocks, parts of chew toys, a dead bird and various stinging insects. We have also had broken bones, allergic reactions, a variety of cuts and bruises and so on. This unpredictability means that skilled and available vets are a necessity.

In most cases, a vet visit is scheduled by a staff member and the dog is taken to an outside vet by whomever is available. This includes after-hours scheduling for emergencies, as well as late-night and early-morning drop-offs/pick-ups for procedures. The staff volunteers and the veterinary offices do a great job ensuring that the dogs receive appropriate and timely care. It is not an easy process to track or arrange, but the cooperation of all the people involved is a great asset to the program.

Recently, the CPL program has also been lucky enough to start receiving services from a veterinarian who visits the prisons in order to provide the needed services. Two of the younger dogs are sponsored by Companion Animal Hospital, and Dr. Jayne Kubat has been kind enough to visit the facility in order to see the dogs. These visits occur outside of the secure perimeter but on state grounds. The doctor is able to check the dog's health, measure its vital statistics and provide other services. This is a very beneficial arrangement for SCI Muncy because fewer hours need to be taken from staff member's regular duties.



This is one example of a great veterinary service provided by our sponsoring veterinary hospitals, but we appreciate all of the care that is given to the dogs. The fact that the services are provided for free is a huge help to the program, but it is evident that the doctors and other veterinary staff who are involved genuinely care about the dogs and support the mission of the CPL organization. We couldn't do it without them!

Eli Stevens,
Unit Manager

* Pictures are of CPL dog "Binky" during a recent visit from Dr. Kubat at the facility.*

SCI Houtzdale

SCI Houtzdale is initiating a canine program in December 2015. This program is a collaboration with United Disabilities Services (UDS) located in Lancaster, PA. When we began researching canine programs that would be a good fit for Houtzdale in September 2014, staff visited several institutions that already had intact canine programs. SCI Pine Grove was one of those facilities. We were so impressed by TAILS that UDS was contacted in the hopes that agency would agree to partner with HOU in our endeavor to start such a worthwhile program. UDS decided to try a second prison pup program and now HOU is ready to welcome 4 Labrador puppies. The institutions that had programs up and running were extremely helpful in giving direction to the staff at HOU. We formed a steering committee of uniformed and non-uniformed staff that have worked diligently to **insure** the success of this program. We began with a contest to name the program that involved entries from staff and inmates. The name RUFF, Relying Upon Furry Friends, was chosen from over 500 submissions. Six staff members then participated in a week-long training at UDS headquarters in May 2015. Our staff will train the inmate handlers how to train the dogs. Preparation continued throughout 2015 with the development of a local policy, upgrades for the canine recreation yard, inmate selection and training for the program, staff and inmate education, selection of a logo and murals for the housing unit. We suffered a minor set-back due to the budget impasse/travel ban, but UDS solved this problem by offering to come to Houtzdale to complete the staff training in December. What we thought would be a delay to RUFF actually turned into a plus because staff will be training with our four puppies in December and they will stay at Houtzdale when the trainers from UDS leave. We are positive that RUFF will live up to the standards set by the many other Pennsylvania correctional canine programs that have come before us.



Abel



Murray



Brodey & Renner
(Reece)

*Joan Bailey
Unit Manager*

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.

I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the overworked shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms.

I would promise to keep her safe.

I would promise to always be by her side.

I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

SCI Somerset

SCI Somerset's Canine Connection Program has been very active since the last issue of the newsletter. We received our five female pups, —three Golden Retrievers and two Labrador Retrievers — on May 12, 2015. We were fortunate enough that we were able to get two sets of sisters to complete our program, the Golden Retrievers are all from the same litter, as well as the Labradors being from the same litter. The last six months have passed like a whirlwind and our girls are growing SO quickly! They have all successfully passed their 4 month and 8 month evaluations through the Canine Partners for Life Program. We are currently working on Part 2 of the Canine Partners for Life training curriculum and preparing for their 12 month evaluations that are to be held in February 2016.



It is quite amazing the difference that a few pups can make in the demeanor of an institution. Staff and inmates alike have grown to love these girls and look forward to seeing them around the jail. They really do become like the mascots of the institution! They travel throughout the institution with the inmate handlers or staff handlers. Some of the areas of the jail that they frequent are Activities, Yard, Library, Chapel, Medical, Visiting Room, Barber Shop and the Special Needs Unit. We frequently have requests from staff that they visit the other housing units as well. We are so proud of them and how quickly they pick-up on the training commands.

In the picture you will see the evidence of some Halloween fun that we had with them. In the back row are the three Goldens; Donut, Madge, and Flower. In the front row are the two Labs; Whitney and Mino. I'm not too sure that they enjoyed that photo op as much as we did.

Melanie Pyle
Unit Manager

SCI Mercer



The dog handlers in the C.A.R.E. Program were recently asked to write an essay stating the reasons why they wanted to be in the program, as well as what they hope to gain from being in the program. Many of the handlers had several of the same reasons for wanting to be in the program: first and foremost, their love of dogs and wanting to provide the dogs with a second chance at a good home by resolving the issues that brought them to the shelter. In addition to helping the dogs, the handlers believe that the dogs also help them. They stated that caring for the dogs teaches them responsibility, patience and a good work ethic. They feel that the dogs are therapeutic and help them to deal with the stress of being in prison and dealing with the crimes they

committed. Many of them hope to utilize the skills that they have learned while in the program once they are released into the community.

The C.A.R.E. Program sponsored a Daffin's candy bar sale to benefit Strayhaven Animal Shelter. All candy bars were purchased by inmates. A grand total of \$1487.50 was donated to Strayhaven. Pictured is Lisa Graves, Program Coordinator, presenting a check to Britney Sanfilipo, Director of Strayhaven. We are currently in the process of planning our second candy bar sale to coincide with the holidays and hope to be able to donate an even larger sum of money to the shelter this time.

Lisa Graves
Unit Manager

SCI Camp Hill - Hounds of Prison Education (HOPE)

A Program of the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance

The HOPE Program was launched in March of 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 PA State Correctional Institute 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.

HOPE Dogs at SCI Camp Hill:



*Scott Whalen
Unit Manager*

MADISON'S JOURNEY

This past September long time HOPE resident, Madison, finally “paroled” to her forever home. A young, beautiful red-nosed pit bull, she came in to the prison in June of 2013 after having been rescued from a known dogfighter in the city of Harrisburg. Understandably, among her issues was an extreme reactivity to other dogs, to the point that she would turn and try to go after whoever was closest to her (usually her handler) whenever she’d see another dog. Her inmate handler put his heart and soul in to her training – lots of focus and impulse control work. After a while, Madison became tolerant of the other dogs in the program, but as a volunteer when I took her on field trips outside the prison and we’d encounter another dog, it was pretty much a nightmare. Her handler continued working with her, never giving up. I started to see some changes when we’d go out. It became easier and easier to get her attention when we’d come across another dog. Then it got to the point that many times, she’d just completely ignore the other dog.

Even though Maddie was more than ready for adoption, no applications were coming in. Everyone at the prison loved her however, so she was more than welcome to stay. Finally Madison’s perfect match came along after 2 years, 3 months in the prison.

The day of Madison’s adoption was bittersweet. Everyone of course was elated that Maddie was going to a loving home and naturally her handler was extremely sad to see her go. But he was also proud – proud of Madison for having come such a long way and for having learned to trust and proud of himself for helping to change her life.

That day walking with Madison out of the prison for the last time and having watched her transformation from the beginning, I was reminded that kindness and patience are powerful tools.



Madison showing off at the playground

*Margie Stewart
HOPE Volunteer*

SCI Smithfield

We currently have four pups in the program: Preston, Norm, Sargent and Rafter. Preston and Norm are returning to CPL in the next few weeks for the next phases, so we are looking forward to the arrival of our two new pups. Preston is entering the home companion-training phase, while Norm will continue his service dog training at CPL.

There are currently nine handlers. Additional potential handlers have been interviewed for the program. The handlers are carefully selected and must pass a screening process and finally be approved by vote sheet prior to participating. The handlers continue to work every day independently, as a group and continue their ongoing training with CPL twice a month. At the last CPL training, we were introduced to Cindy and Buck who will be taking over the CPL training responsibilities at Smithfield.

In addition to their CPL training, the handlers take the pups to the SRTU and medical department to assist those inmates who would benefit from a visit and interaction with the pups. The handlers also take the pups to the visiting room for socialization.

On October 14, all four puppies were taken to the Huntingdon Area Middle School for a visit. The puppies were part of the Positive School-Wide Behavior program at HAMS. During the visit, there was a brief presentation of CPL, the pups and their daily lives and training. The students involved in the presentation are part of a "lunch bunch" where students come together once a week to discuss social issues and struggles as a middle school student. The students had time to interact with the puppies and ask questions about the program.

As the holidays are right around the corner, the puppies are part of the inmate Holiday photos. Inmates who wish to have their holiday photos taken with one of the pups can make that request. The puppies are also going to visit a local nursing home as part of their Christmas party hosted by the staff at SCI Smithfield. The puppies will have the opportunity to interact with the residents of the home and put smiles on their faces.



Left to right: Radar, Norm, Sargent, and Preston

Radar is a 9-month old golden retriever. Radar is a visiting pup on a trade for Rafter. Norm is a 14-month old black Labrador retriever. Norm will be leaving in December to progress to the next phase of his training. Sargent is an 11-month of black Labrador retriever. Preston is a 15-month old standard poodle who is also leaving in December to enter home companion training.

Kammy Laird
School Principal

Inmate Testimonials

"This is why I want to be in the CARE Program, it starts with the fact that I always love dogs and grew up with dogs always in the house. The program has given me a wonderful opportunity to acquire a skill that I need to be successful on the streets and in the meantime gain friendship and companionship with these dogs. I have a lot of time to do still and ever since I joined the program, I have learned how to be more responsible, loving, caring and patient. It feels good to wake up in the morning and to know I have real responsibilities and purpose for the day and that I'm needed and wanted. The best part about the program is the dogs getting a higher adoption rate. To see them develop socialization skills and watching them improve over the 2 months they are here into adoptable dogs. It is amazing how the arrival of the dogs on the housing unit has created such a positive reaction with both staff and inmates. Finally, I like to share my thoughts on the program itself: in the 4 years of being in the CARE Program, I got the privilege of meeting a multitude of dogs "28 to be exact" 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 was one of the "Blue Print Crew" that started the program and I still believe in it. I would like to thank all the staff members who help make this a successful program. I would not have had this great experience if it was not for CARE and the staff at Mercer for believing in me and trusting in me and my work ethics."

Eric P. (Handler since 8/23/11)

"Getting them adopted is the biggest reason why I do what I do. And the fact that I fall in love with every one of them is both a blessing and a curse! The patience that I have learned and the sense of compassion I have grows with every dog I train. I also think that another one of my biggest reasons for being in the program is to show that people's attitudes and personalities can be changed, molded and formed just like the dogs that we work with. I can take a troubled, problematic dog and 'fix' him or her to be a productive member of K-9 society just like myself and that personal growth is what I strive for and the CARE Program helps me to do that on many levels."

Joseph C. (Handler since 2012)

"Dogs do speak,
but only to those
who know how to
listen."

The Dog Connection .TV

"I wish to stay in the dog program as long as it can continue to be a positive way in which I can help the community by training and preparing neglected dogs for placement in loving homes. For me personally – I can empathize and relate with the dogs we get – most come in abandoned, scared, lonely and may or may not have made mistakes which resulted in their being here. But, the transformation you begin to see in some of these animals as they become accustomed once again to human interaction, as they come to know love, commitment and concern from their handlers – that's what gets me. Because it's not until you overcome that emotional setback with the dog that you truly make him/her fully receptive to your training and spark the eagerness to please – that for me personally makes an optimal training/companion animal. It's also about the changes the daily interaction with the dogs bring about in me personally as well. Being in prison – having committed actions that go against my upbringing – dealing with loss and guilt and deciding upon a new way of life and commitment to sobriety – all this is magnified by my lifestyle as a dog handler. I'm able to avoid the typical negativity associated with the prison lifestyle and focus on the task at hand of rehabilitating the dog. Because in rehabilitating the dog – I'm also rehabilitating myself. It also makes me feel less disassociated with society and home – makes me feel like a human being again."

William M. (Handler since March 2015)

"CPL was a God send to me. It was a journey raising and training different pups. It helped me re-find my humanity, it taught me to care and love for another unconditionally, without understanding the kind of love that was going to be returned tenfold. My most profound experience was crying for a dog I helped raise for under a year, 'Hancock.' When he was neutered, the vets couldn't stop his bleeding and the way this information was given to me, well, I thought he was going to die. It was the first time I have prayed for a pet since I was a child. When I think of that it gladdens me to know that this unbelievable dog is going to change someone's life. Thank you for the opportunity to better someone's life."

Inmate "C"

SCI Albion



September of 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the Canine Partners For Life Prison Puppy Raising Program coming to SCI Albion. Since its inception in 2005, a carefully selected group of dedicated inmates have worked with 47 dogs, raising puppies from the time they are 8 to 10 weeks old until they are about 15 months old. These pups are part of the Canine Partners For Life program, which trains and places service dogs to assist individuals with many different types of disabilities. The service dogs are able to perform tasks that otherwise would require the assistance of another person, so they give their partner a degree of independence.

While at the prison, the handlers teach their pups basic obedience and provide their complete care – feeding, grooming, training and socializing these dogs to be confident in any situation they may encounter. The pups stay in their handler's cell, go with them to their work sites within the prison, go to chow and to any other activities, groups or classes that they have during the day. Normally there are five pups being raised at the same time, so they do have canine playmates and have play time and exercise time routinely during each day, plus they get lots of attention and love from their handlers and many others – staff and inmates – within the facility.

The staff person who coordinates the program at SCI Albion is Unit Manager Roderic Showers. Mr. Showers said, "I have been working with the program for a little over two years. I have enjoyed working with the inmates that are involved as well as the pups. It has been a sincere joy to watch the pups grow from little ones into assistance dogs. My observations of the interactions with the handlers, staff, recipients and the pups have been priceless to me."

He and five other staff members take the pups to their veterinary appointments with the three area veterinary hospitals who sponsor the pups and provide for their health care during this important first year in the program. The pups are being sponsored by the Twinbrook Veterinary Hospital in Erie, the Albion Animal Center in Albion and the Crawford County Humane Society Veterinary Hospital in Meadville. A group of community volunteers assist with socializing the pups, taking them out to public places or keeping them for an overnight to attend social events, go shopping or any public activity that is available and getting them used to riding in the car. Ruth Prest, the CPL prison puppy liaison volunteer, and some of the other volunteers provide a training session at Albion and also at SCI Cambridge Springs, for handlers and pups, twice a month, to work on obedience skills and keep track of each pup's progress. Mrs. Prest remarked, "This is an amazing program, not only for what difference the dogs can make in the lives of their final recipients, but also the difference they make at the prisons while they are being raised! These puppies start to work their magic even while they are babies, warming the hearts of those who care for them!"

When the pups complete their first year of training and leave the prison, they travel to Cochranville, Pa., near Philadelphia, to the headquarters of Canine Partners For Life, where they live in a state-of-the-art kennel with 30 dogs and work with professional trainers to learn service skills like retrievals, opening doors, turning light switches, assisting with dressing, providing support for walking and many other helpful tasks. Many of these dogs are placed with people who need support to walk without falling, or who are confined to a wheelchair and need retrieval and door opening skills. Many are also placed as medical alert dogs for people who experience seizures or have cardiac conditions. The dogs are able to alert a person with a seizure disorder well in advance of their oncoming seizure, so that the person can get to a safe place and not fall or be injured.

In addition to the service dogs, CPL also places home companion dogs, usually with children or teens who are autistic or with elderly people who can benefit from having a canine companion but who aren't able to raise a puppy. Of the 47 pups that have been raised at SCI Albion, 18 have graduated as service dogs, 15 have graduated as home companions, 7 have been released because of a medical issue or a behavior problem, 2 are currently in the kennel at CPL and should graduate in summer 2016 and 5 are currently working with the handlers in the prison. Since the program started at SCI Albion, 19 inmates have gone through the training and worked with pups.

When they are placed in their forever homes, these remarkable dogs provide emotional support and physical assistance to their partners who are disabled. But earlier in their lives, they provide their inmate handlers with a sense of purpose and a way to contribute to society, as they lay the foundation of the dog's training during this critical first year. As one handler said, "Seeing the photos of the dogs with their new recipients and just knowing that I had a part in making someone's life better is the most rewarding experience for me. The puppy has also taught me a lot about patience and unconditional love. These little guys teach us as much, if not more, than we teach them. They help soften the harsh realities of life here and bring smiles to lots of faces, even the hard ones. I just need to say, 'Thank you!'"

When they are placed in their forever homes, these remarkable dogs provide emotional support and physical assistance to their partners who are disabled. But earlier in their lives, they provide their inmate handlers with a sense of purpose and a way to contribute to society, as they lay the foundation of the dog's training during this critical first year. As one handler said, "Seeing the photos of the dogs with their new recipients and just knowing that I had a part in making someone's life better is the most rewarding experience for me. The puppy has also taught me a lot about patience and unconditional love. These little guys teach us as much, if not more, than we teach them. They help soften the harsh realities of life here and bring smiles to lots of faces, even the hard ones. I just need to say, 'Thank you!'"

SCI Albion cont.

And another handler said, "Being a dog handler to me means that I have the opportunity to be a positive and lasting benefactor not only to an individual, but to society as a whole. It gives me a sense of pride and gives meaning to my life. It also means that I'm tired a lot!" - and he grinned!

One of the most recent service dogs to graduate from SCI Albion was Ranger, a tall yellow Labrador Retriever. He is currently providing assistance to a woman from New York who deals with a number of serious medical conditions. Ranger provides support and balance for her, alerts for cardiac issues and uses his skills to reduce her fatigue level and more! With Ranger's help, she can put aside her cane and not use it again!

Our current pups include Jerry a Red Standard Poodle, Banks a Black Labrador Retriever, Fidget a Black Labrador Retriever, Chadds a Yellow Labrador Retriever and Rushie a Black Labrador Retriever. Banks and Fidget are half-brothers and Chadds and Rushie are brothers. Jerry should be transitioning to the kennel at CPL within the next six to eight weeks.

*Ruth Prest
CPL Prison Puppy Liaison Volunteer*

Goose Dog Update

It's Year #2 for the Goose Dog Program at SCI Albion and it has proven to be very successful one. Steele, Dixie and Sadie love their job and enjoy the freedom that comes with going outside to work despite the perils of snapping turtles, ferocious beavers and determined deer ticks. We have seen a reduction in the goose population of approximately 90%. Staff and inmates have benefited by this by no longer having to navigate past territorial geese and/or the evidence of the presence of geese.

The program has had many unexpected benefits. It has increased the confidence and patience of those directly involved with the dogs as well as see the formation of some future entrepreneurial plans for the handlers when they are released back to their homes. Sadie, Dixie and Steele continue to be a great stress reliever for the inmates on the unit as they are always up for a game of catch or tug of war or to just sit quietly when someone is upset. The unit dogs have acted as a point of commonality for the staff and inmates. Staff has enjoyed weekend visits with Steele and Dixie and frequently bring in dog treats for them especially around the holidays.

We look forward to the upcoming year with our Goose Dogs.

*Roderic Showers
Unit Manager*

SCI Benner Township



SCI Benner Township's "A Dog's Tail from Jail" recently celebrated its 1 year Anniversary in August. On 8/27/15, the program was honored by a special celebration held on K Unit, where the dogs are housed with their handlers. The celebration included program participants, the canine provider, inmates housed on K unit, staff and the participating veterinary hospital.

First dogs arriving at facility.

Greyhounds CAN sit!!!

Pam Graci, our canine provider and trainer, was the guest speaker. Ms. Graci expressed her gratitude to the facility staff and handlers for allowing this program to be successful. She thanked BEN administrative staff, for without their help and support, transitioning into this program would have been a harder task. Maureen Casey of Metzger's Animal Hospital was able to attend, and the veterinarians and their staff was also acknowledged for their on-going support and care of the dogs; they have been very gracious with their time and resources to see the dogs as soon as possible when needed and each trip there has gone smoothly because of the dedication of their wonderful staff team.

Cake - YUM!!!



Ms. Graci spoke of the trials and triumphs that come with starting a new program that involves so many different challenges: finding appropriate dogs for the program, determining how to get them in and out of the facility, getting to know the staff and inmates involved, the gratifying moments of the dogs and trainers accomplishments and the joy of the dogs finding their families.

Celebration Day.

Our handlers were given the opportunity to show off their dogs and to speak to the crowd of what the program has meant to them.

*Billie Rupert
Unit Manager*

SCI CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS CPL

Meanwhile down on the ...

Our five boys, (The Fab Five) Astro, Axle, Davy, Quincy and Ritz have had a summer that has been filled with fun, fun and more fun. It has been a summer filled with laughter as we watched them swim in their new pool, only to find out that all Labs do not like the water. We have had the joy of having visiting pups from SCI Albion, who took no time in fitting in our beloved Astro (Black poodle, brother of Ritz) released from the program. It has truly been bitter sweet for all the handlers, but the sweet always seems to outweigh the bitter and it has been a time in all of our lives that we will not soon forget. This summer has not only been an experience but a wild and crazy adventure.

On August 31, 2015, the poodles (Astro and Ritz) celebrated their first birthday and you will never guess where we went for the celebration—Hawaii! Yes, we all packed our bags and went to that beautiful paradise with its crystal clear blue water, sandy beaches and awesome skies. Astro and Ritz were surprised when all of their friends, Axle, Davy and Quincy, came as a guests to their luau. The affair was catered by a special friend and she made them personalized placemats and kabobs. They all were decked out in leis, grass skirts and party hats. The menu also included cookies and cupcakes for dessert. There was also a photo shoot taken on a surfboard. Later the photographer took pictures of the Fab Five in the beautiful flower garden atop a layer of soft, green velvety grass. Once the party and photo shoot were over, the pups were pretty pooped and took a long siesta.

On September 13th, we all had to say goodbye to our beloved Astro. It was time for him to leave SCI Cambridge Springs. Everyone was sad to see him go — all the handlers, the entire inmate population and even staff who had come to know and love him. He pranced down the walk, never looking back and was taken to Meadville Airport to fly back to CPL. Astro was leaving on a jet plane, but he was never coming back again. We will miss you Astro, and we hope that you will always know how much you were loved by us all. Before leaving, Astro met Harvey, a 12-week black lab who was coming to Cambridge Springs. Astro then flew back to CPL where he began the next chapter of his life.

On September 14th, Harvey arrived at SCI Cambridge Springs. Harvey hurried down the walk and jumped into his handler's arms, giving lots of kisses. He also met the other handlers. He was tiny and sweet and stole our hearts. Harvey is a happy, smart pup who loves to train but has a playful side. Harvey enjoys squeaky toys and balls. He also enjoys playing with Axle, Davy, Ritz and Quincy (one at a time of course). He needs to be reminded that he is still little, even though he acts like he is KING KONG!!! The big boys put up with a lot from him, but draw the line when he bites on their ears with those tiny sharp teeth. He is growing up fast and is about 17 inches tall and weighs about 26 pounds. He is a joy and a lot of fun.

Our last fun-filled event took place on October 11, 2015. For the Halloween season we dressed up the Fab Five and took a trip to a haunted house with a huge cracked door covered with cobwebs. And then we visited the pumpkin patch filled with huge pumpkins. We had a great time and of course, we took plenty of pictures.

Harvey, whose name means "Battle Worthy," was a Spartan, complete with a crocheted helmet and jacket. Axle (whose nickname is "500"); that's another story in itself, was the great pumpkin, also appropriate since he is the biggest. Davy was a spider with long legs and Quincy was a bat; complete with bloody fangs. Last, but not least, was our poodle Ritz, who was dressed to the nines in a tuxedo and bowtie, as well as, a top hat and cane.

The next big celebration will be this month because Axle, Davy and Quincy will all be celebrating year #1. It is a birthday celebration – YEAH!!!! Rumor has it that their going to ride on their very own float in the Macy's Day Parade. We will make sure to take plenty of pictures.

This has been a great year for the pup program at SCI Cambridge Springs and with the arrival of Harvey, 72 puppies have touched and enlarged our hearts. WOOF! WOOF! To you all!



Jamie Rodriguez
Unit Manager

SCI Pine Grove

In 2013 SCI Pine Grove partnered with United Disabilities Services of Lancaster, PA, to create a program to educate inmates on how to provide care and train service dogs. United Disabilities Services is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping people with disabilities lead more independent lives. UDS currently 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. In June 2015, SCI Pine Grove's TAILS program successfully completed its inaugural year. The TAILS canines exceeded the expectations of both the SCI Pine Grove staff and the UDS staff. In early June, the first round of TAILS canines graduated and returned to United Disabilities Services in Lancaster to participate in secondary training, approximately three months ahead of schedule! Three of the four TAILS canines completed all phases of the training and are in the process of being placed with individuals from the UDS Service Dog waiting list. All three canines are being placed with individuals who reside in Pennsylvania, including one veteran. UDS was pleased with the outcome of the first program as typically only one out of four canines completes the program when raised in a puppy home.

On June 23, 2015, four new puppies from UDS arrived at SCI Pine Grove to begin TAILS training. Dewey, Lewes, Avalon and Jersey are the first group of canines from the new United Disabilities Services breeding program. A connection was immediately made with the eight inmate dog handlers, five of which were returning from the first program. Training started immediately!

Scottsdale Public Library Hero Day –
July 6, 2015

CCII Marhefka and Lewes with
Children's Librarian Rhonda



IUP Summer Reading Program -
July 22, 2015
Dewey visiting with students and
teachers



August 22, 2015—DOC Volunteer Banquet

CCII Marhefka with Lewes, UDS Trainer Kristina Smith with Deora, and CCII Delosh with Dewey at the DOC Volunteer Banquet.

Ms. Smith was named SCI Pine Grove's Volunteer of the Year.



Front Row from left: Somerset, Deora, and Milton; Back Row from left: Dewey, Lewes, Avalon, and Jersey with inmate handlers

Dogs in the Community

The TAILS canines have been very busy in the community during the last few months preparing for their life as a service dog.

In July, the service dogs in training attended "Hero Day" programs at libraries in Scottsdale, PA and Indiana, PA. The service dogs also attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Summer Reading Program, where students ages 8-12 read to the canines.

In August, the service dogs attended the State Volunteer Banquet at the DOC Training Academy to honor UDS Trainer Kristina Smith who was named 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. TAILS canine graduate Deora accompanied Ms. Smith to the event.

In September, the canines participated in a presentation for the Shakespeare Club of Indiana.

In October, TAILS graduates' Milton, Deora and Somerset returned to SCI Pine Grove to visit with the staff and inmates (and new TAILS puppies) before being placed in their permanent assignments.

In October, the canines attended Bark Against Violence, an event hosted by the Alice Paul House to promote domestic violence awareness. The canines also traveled to Lancaster, PA to participate in the UDS/Hershey Bear Calendar Fundraiser.

In November, the canines participated in a presentation at the Westmoreland County Obedience Training Club in Delmont, PA.

SCI Pine Grove cont.



UDS/Hershey Bears Calendar Shoot
 October 28, 2015
 Current TAILS canines Lewes, Jersey, Dewey, and Avalon join Somerset, Deora and Milton on the Ice with the Hershey Bears Mascot.



Bark Against Violence
 October 24, 2015

CCII Marhefka with Lewes (Lion) and CCII Delosh with Jersey (Turtle) attend 'Bark Against Violence' an event held by the Alice Paul House.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Certificate Program

SCI Pine Grove also partnered 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 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. In February 2015, SCI Pine Grove staff officially began teaching the course. The program consisted of four, 30 hour courses for a total of 120 hours. Some of the program topics include canine wellness, dog training in correctional facilities, animal rescue and rehabilitation, shelters, training different types of service dogs, communication skills and working with the public. Seven of TAILS inmates graduated with a Certificate of Training in Canine Training and Care in November 2015.

Tara Marhefka
 Corrections Counselor II

Dewey, Lewes, Avalon and Jersey



Round 2 Puppy Arrival Day
 June 23, 2015
 2 months



August 2015
 4 months



October 2015
 6 months



November 2015
 7 months

Frozen Pupcakes Recipe



Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 5 minutes

Frozen peanut butter banana pupcakes! 5 minutes and you're done!

Serves: 5

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1 ripe banana
- splash (unsweetened) almond milk (or water!)
- Mini & regular muffin tins

Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients in a blender; blend until smooth.
 2. Add a splash of water or almond milk until everything blends well, adding more as necessary.
 3. Pour mixture into muffin tins and freeze until solid.
- Remove from the freezer when ready to serve and allow to sit for a few minutes to slightly thaw, then pop out with a knife, stack and serve!

Notes:

*Silicon muffin cups work great for these treats!

Author: Sarah at Lolathepitty.com

Winter Safety Facts/Tips

Sweater Season:

In the beginning of the cold months, your dog's winter coat is just starting to thicken. If you see Fido shivering, put a stylish sweater on.

Chemical Hazards:

After a walk, wipe paws and belly with warm water to prevent rock salt, anti-freeze or any other chemical they potentially could lick off.

Winterize Diet:

If you have an active dog who enjoys the winter time, increase diet to 25-50%.

Toxic Plants:

Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia plants are pet poisons, keep them away from your pooch.

Chilly Conditions:

Ears, foot pads and the tips of the tail are most venerable to frostbite. Be sure to thoroughly dry your pup after being outside.

SCI Greene



Lucee

Happy Holidays from SCI Greene CPL Prison Puppy Program!

Our CPL pup program is located on K Unit, a level 3 housing unit. Currently we have 11 volunteer inmate dog handlers with multiple new candidates currently being processed. Unfortunately through both good and bad circumstances we have had to say goodbye to several handlers. However the program has been able to withstand the storm and the puppy's progress is a testimony to the fortitude of our core group of steadfast handlers.



Donut from Somerset

We currently have 4 CPL dogs on site: Jett, Lucee, Donut and Renee. Donut came to us as a temporary trade with SCI Somerset. Our 4th pup, Dusty, is currently visiting Somerset during this trade. This is our second set of pups. We are happy to announce that all passed their 4 month evaluations with flying colors. We are anticipating no problems passing our 8 month evaluations which is tentatively scheduled for early January. Our trainer, Ms. Erica Seaver-Engle, who came on board with us in May 2014, has proven to be an invaluable asset to the program in both good and bad times. She is truly a leader and both staff and inmates value her sage and thoughtful advice.

Many of the inmate handlers continue to work as Peer Support Specialists. Our pups regularly assist in helping many of our C and D code inmates on the RTU and in general population.

*Tina Staley
Unit Manager, Acting*



Jett



Notes from Erica: Our Family is growing: The 2nd year of the CPL Prison Puppy Program at SCI Greene. SCI Greene handlers and volunteers welcomed our second class of puppies-in-training in July 2015. Jett and Lucee are sisters, black Labrador retrievers with eager personalities and big appetites, from the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) breeding program. Dusty and Rene were donated to CPL from Guide Dogs International in Long Island, New York, through the service dog cooperative breeding program. (Service dog programs work cooperatively to ensure responsible breeding practices and healthy genetic lines.)

Dusty is a laidback black Labrador retriever, while Rene is an enthusiastic yellow Golden/Lab retriever mix. All of "our girls" are settling in splendidly at SCI Greene, bringing tail wags and soulful eyes to everyone they meet. We will be taking our 8-month evaluations this month, so wish the girls and their handlers luck – Dusty, Jett, Lucee and Rene are on their 2-year training journey to provide independence for a community member with a physical disability or medical condition and we couldn't be more proud!

In other news, SCI Greene handlers and volunteers are adopted grandparents, so to speak! Just last month, 30 newborn puppies joined the Canine Partners for Life family. Nine of those puppies were born to Ameer, an enthusiastic Labrador Retriever who was part of SCI Greene's first graduating class of five puppies-in-training in June 2015. Ameer is an attentive mother, nursing her weeks-old puppies with the support of Canine Partners for Life volunteers. We at SCI Greene are proud grandparents and are thankful this holiday season for the gift of healthy puppies. (Psssst ... SCI Greene is looking forward to welcoming one of Ameer's pups to our puppy-in-training team in the new year!)

In addition to our growing puppy family, I am thankful this holiday season for the myriad of people and organizations that make these prison programs happen on a daily basis: the correctional institution staff/administration, the service, guide and rescue dog organizations and especially the volunteers – inmates and community members. Because each person does his/her small part, we can all focus on the puppies and their future as service or companion animals for their human partners. Thank you, reader of this newsletter – you make the difference.

SCI Greene cont.

**A story from one of CPL's Recipients shared by our CPL Trainer Erica:
Karley & Kaiser, Fall 2013 Graduates**



Independence is such a powerful word, one that is often taken for granted. Being a teenager, like other teenagers, I want as much independence I can possibly get. But in April 2012, I was given a diagnosis that took my independence away from me, or so I thought. I suddenly went from running with my track team and playing basketball, to having to use crutches and a wheelchair to get around. I just accepted that with my new condition I now needed to give up a great deal of my independence.

Then, in the summer of 2013, I received a phone call that changed my life forever. That call came from Canine Partners for Life giving me the news that I had been matched with a service dog!

I had applied for a service dog shortly after my diagnosis, but did not realize I would get matched so soon. They told me his name was Kaiser, and we were accepted into the fall 2013 team training class. Kaiser and I connected from the very first day I met him. In only three weeks of training, Kaiser had already made an impact in my life. With Kaiser by my side to support my walking and to help me conserve my energy, I began to slowly get back aspects of my independence that I thought were gone for good!

I am now able to go out in public without needing anyone but Kaiser by my side. He picks up whatever I drop, opens the heavy doors that I can't, and helps me up the stairs I thought I would never be able to walk up again. With Kaiser at my side, I can go anywhere and do almost anything I want to. Today, Kaiser is the only one I have to ask help from. I can go up and down stairs, I can drive and I am even going to attend nursing school, all because of him.

Kaiser is my best friend and he is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I can't imagine living my life without him. My service dog has brought me the ability to be completely independent. Kaiser is my gift that keeps on giving!

–Karley & Kaiser–



Zin, Amber and Goldie on the Philly training trip



Exciting News:

Amee, one of our first pups, was selected as a breeder for the CPL program. She gave birth to her first litter of pups on 11/2/2015. We are all very proud and excited. We hope to eventually receive some of her pups to train here at SCI Greene.

SCI GREENE CPL COMMITTEE

**Superintendent Robert Gilmore
Tina Staley - Program Director
Kayla Shaner- Program Administrator
Lt. Eric Grego- Security Liaison
Lt. Bill Schamp - Security Liaison**

**Marvin Cumberledge - Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Smith - Committee Chairman
Lou Giachetti
Jamie Reader
Mindy Andretti**

CPL Trainer Erica Seaver-Engle

Where are they now?



Amos is from SCI Graterford's New Leash On Life-USA's 4th class. Pictured above is Amos enjoying life at home with his family. He even allows his "sister" to dress him up, but to be fair she does allow him to sleep in bed with her. And as you can tell from his jersey, Amos, like his "mom" is a big Cowboys fan.

Pictures submitted by Anita and Donald Pry from SCI Graterford



Never say to a parent it's just a dog
or it's just a cat... they are family...
they are our children!



picture taken at the farm from a gathering

I adopted the first dog from the New Leash on Life program at SCI Graterford. When we adopted our dog, he came with the name Irwin. We have since changed his name to Ivan. Ivan often spends time with me at my mother's farm where he is very occupied by the turkeys we have. He often just sits outside of their coop with his head lilted to one side confused as to why "these funny looking dogs bark so weird." He adjusted well to the horses as they continue to try to adjust to him.

We have a Siberian Forest cat who did not like Ivan when we first brought him home, but now they are often in the living room together. Sometime I even find the cat sleeping on top of Ivan when I wake up in the morning.

My family and I are grateful to everyone at New Leash on Life as well as the Graterford staff who helped start the program out in the OSU. We enjoy and cherish each day that we have with Ivan as he has become a wonderful and loyal addition to our family.

*Josef Gery, Corrections Counselor 2
Allentown CCC*

Where Are They Now cont.

They called me Oscar...

I lived at Graterford for quite a few months, before I met my "forever" family.

They said I was quite a handful when I came here, always whining and barking. That is news to me and may very well be true, however, in my defense I am deaf, and I was afraid in my new surroundings.

I am a very smart dog and I was, and still am, very eager to learn. I just needed to find someone who was willing to go that extra mile for me, with understanding, love and patience. Once I was placed with the right handler, I flourished.



I learned to sit, stay, shake, lay, play dead, heel, bow and I can even balance a treat on my nose. Some may say a lot of dogs can learn those tricks, I say, that may be true, but I learned them using sign language...and peanut butter. Not to brag but, I also prance, yes just like those big horses, I prance, and I do it proudly.

It was a chilly day in the fall when I saw my forever Mom for the first time. She fell in love with me right away. There were some who thought I was beyond help, and people asked my Mom, why she wanted me? She told them, "There is just something about him," and she wanted to make me a part of her home. My handler and my trainer had faith in me, and so did she. Sometimes that is all it takes, for someone to believe.

First she had to convince someone called the "Dad" that I would be a perfect fit, oh and those furry squeaky toys, she calls them cats, but whatever.

NLOL approved me for a home visit in late October. The rest, as they say, is history. It didn't take long to win over my forever Dad, just one day, the squeaky toys, er umm cats, are still wary of me and think I am a polar bear, but we make it work.

I finally graduated January 29, 2015, was paroled and went to live with my forever family.



I am living the dream now. I have soft warm beds to sleep or nap in as I wish. I have all the love and attention I could hope for. I am always anxious to give my belly up for repeated rubs and if my family appears busy, I just plop in front of them so that I can't be ignored. I love riding in the truck, I adore trips to the park to get my sniff on and no one can convince me that I am not a lap dog. I enjoy visiting the pet stores and picking out my own toys too. I can be as lovable as I am stubborn, I love what my life has become. I know my people adore me, as they shower me with love and kindness...okay...toys and treats too, but mostly love.

I have a new best friend, there are people called the "in-laws" and they have a boxer. His name is Gizmo. We have the best time running around free in his fenced yard. There are no rules when we are at the "in-laws." It is similar to the human equivalent of being at "Grandma's" house. Grandma lets me play with whatever I want within reason. I also get treats with no parental permission involved. Well, there is one rule, we aren't allowed to pee on the bush, Pop-Pop said so. We love spending time with each other and when I realize we are pulling into the "in-laws" driveway, I get so excited, I can hardly stand it, I can't wait to see my friend.



I really don't know the difference, due to my deafness, however my forever family has given me a new name...They call me Niko.

Jackie Wood,
SCI Graterford



SCI Coal Township

FIDOS Class of December 2015!



Ensuring the safe delivery of FIDOS participants; Mr. Dunn pushes a laundry cart with the newest arrivals.

It's a long walk to the FIDOS Unit!!



Handlers are excited to receive the new pups



Food Service staff created the perfect cake, a doggie cupcake cake. All natural dog bones were prepared for the dogs currently in the program.

Superintendent Mooney and Mr. John Dunn, FIDOS Program Manager, presented each handler with a certificate of accomplishment.



A photo board displayed pictures of all the dogs who completed the program;

47 dogs were successfully adopted after completing their training.



*Trisha Kelley
Superintendent's Assistant*

Top Dog Names of 2015

Female:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Bella | 11. Luna |
| 2. Lucy | 12. Lily |
| 3. Daisy | 13. Roxy |
| 4. Molly | 14. Zoey |
| 5. Lola | 15. Stella |
| 6. Sadie | 16. Penny |
| 7. Maggie | 17. Coco |
| 8. Sophia | 18. Gracie |
| 9. Chloe | 19. Zoe |
| 10. Bailey | 20. Abbie |

Male:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Max | 11. Oliver |
| 2. Charlie | 12. Jake |
| 3. Buddy | 13. Bentley |
| 4. Cooper | 14. Teddy |
| 5. Jack | 15. Riley |
| 6. Rocky | 16. Milo |
| 7. Toby | 17. Bailey |
| 8. Duke | 18. Buster |
| 9. Bear | 19. Dexter |
| 10. Tucker | 20. Leo |

According to Rover.com

Top Dog Breeds of 2015

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Labrador Retrievers | 11. Shih Tzus |
| 2. German Shepherds | 12. Dobermans |
| 3. Golden Retrievers | 13. Miniature Schnauzers |
| 4. Beagles | 14. French Bulldogs |
| 5. Bulldogs | 15. German Shorthaired Pointers |
| 6. Yorkshire Terriers | 16. Siberian Huskies |
| 7. Boxers | 17. Great Danes |
| 8. Poodles | 18. Chihuahuas |
| 9. Rottweilers | 19. Pomeranians |
| 10. Dachshunds | 20. King Charles Spaniels |

According to CBSNews

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

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