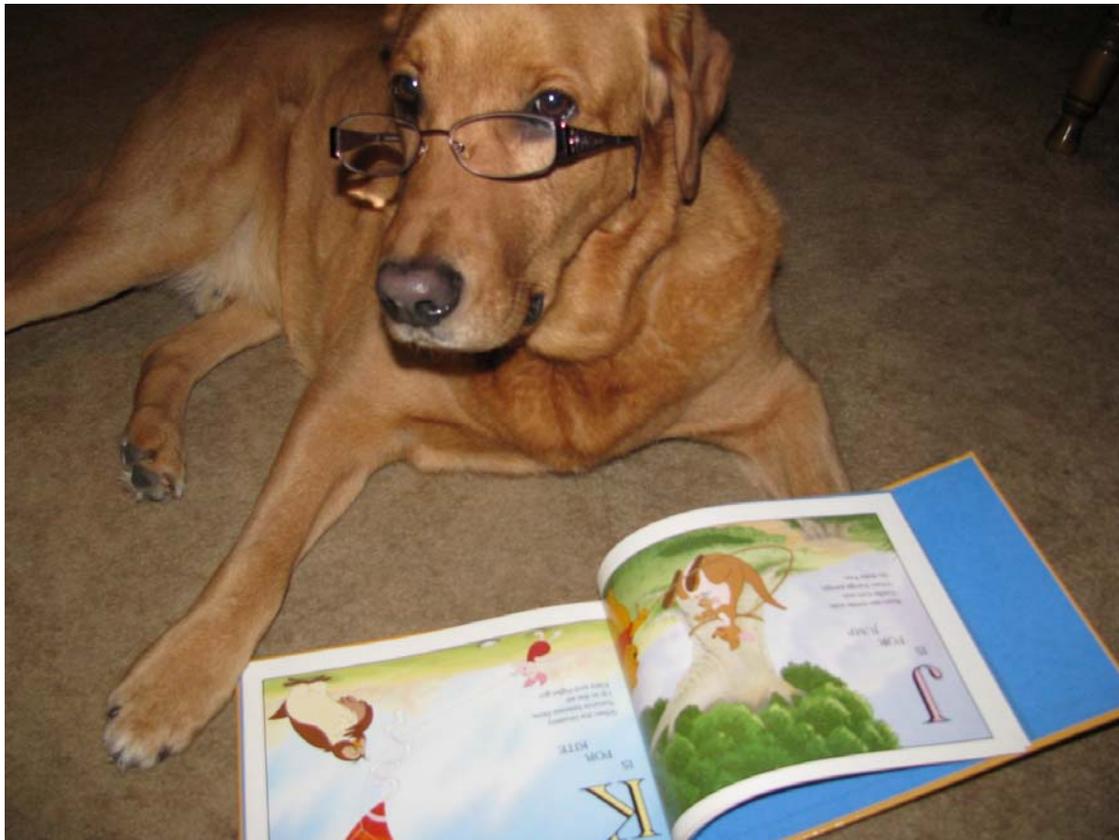


December 2017

Volume 4: Edition 2



# *All Paws On Deck*



For those that do not know, this will be my last newsletter. I am leaving my position as activities coordinator for the department through which I oversee the Canine Programs at Central Office.

When the "All Paws on Deck" newsletter first got started in 2014, there were 11 institutions that had puppy programs. Now the newsletter has grown to include articles from every institution. The "All Paws on Deck" newsletter has progressed into such an inspirational piece, detailing each facility's canine program with success stories from inmates, canines and the community alike.

I will always treasure reading this newsletter and the impact these stories tell. Reading each institution's story on how they have developed and grown, including the success of the inmate handlers, has been an amazing and rewarding part of this job. This program has such impactful benefits for everyone involved. I am so pleased that their stories are being shared with everyone in the department.

I want to thank everyone for their dedicated efforts to make this newsletter an incredible piece to read. I want to thank Secretary Wetzel, EDS Moore Smeal and the entire administration for encouraging the newsletter so that these extraordinary stories could be shared. Secondly, I want to thank the institutions for submitting articles in a timely fashion. Without your extra dedication, work and creative articles, the newsletter would not be an exciting read. Next, I want to thank Deanna Stager for doing such an AMAZING job formatting this newsletter. Her passion, enthusiasm, and commitment really make this newsletter a howling success. Without her help this newsletter would not be what it is today.

Finally, I want to thank, you the reader, for your continued support of this endeavor. Your positive feedback shows that this newsletter and the puppy programs are worthwhile.

Even though I will no longer be a part of the canine program, I look forward to reading future newsletters and being inspired by the stories therein.

Take care,

Dan Lorditch

## **The Facilities with Puppy Programs:**

**SCI Albion**

**SCI Benner Township**

**SCI Camp Hill**

**SCI Cambridge Springs**

**SCI Chester**

**SCI Coal Township**

**SCI Dallas**

**SCI Fayette**

**SCI Forest**

**SCI Frackville**

**SCI Graterford**

**SCI Greene**

**SCI Houtzdale**

**SCI Huntingdon**

**SCI Laurel Highlands**

**SCI Mahanoy**

**SCI Mercer**

**SCI Muncy**

**SCI Pine Grove**

**SCI Retreat**

**SCI Rockview**

**SCI Smithfield**

**SCI Somerset**

**SCI Waymart**

## SCI Smithfield



The partnership between SCI Smithfield and **Canine Partners for Life** celebrated 10 years this past August. On Oct. 4, 2017, the volunteers, handlers, Canine Partners for Life and veterinarians came together in the gym to recognize this milestone. Inmate handlers spoke of their experiences in the program and the impact their involvement has made in their lives and how proud they are to be able to be involved in a program that reaches far beyond the walls and fences of incarceration.

As featured in the Huntingdon Daily News' "News of Yesteryear" column for 10 years ago:

"Four new arrivals to the state correctional institution at Smithfield Tuesday had to be coaxed through the several sets of metal doors that lead to their cell block. Leashes had to be tugged on with prison staff offering encouragement but when the foursome found the nine inmates they'll be staying with had treats, they were soon eating out of the hands of the human cellmates. The SCI Smithfield inmates will be training Canine Partners for Life dogs to be life partners for persons with mobility or seizure-related impairments."

Over the past 10 years, handlers have come and gone. Volunteers have come and gone. Puppies have come and gone. However, the program has produced many working service dogs. Smithfield has raised approximately 45 puppies over the duration of the program. Without the handlers and volunteers in the program and the guidance in training provided by CPL, the successes of the many puppies would not have been possible. More importantly, the work that the puppies who have graduated would not have been paired with deserving recipients with physical, developmental and medical disabilities giving them a chance at independence and a better quality of life.

Currently, Smithfield has 15 handlers in the program, three puppies and several volunteers. We are scheduled to get more puppies soon.

In addition to celebrating 10 years, some of the handlers, under the supervision of their work supervisors in the welding shop, Mr. Ersek, we were able to construct this addition for the play yard. Thank you to Mr. Ersek and everyone involved in this project and the continued support from SCI Smithfield Staff!



*Kammy Laird  
School Principal*



## SCI Cambridge Springs



On October 31<sup>st</sup> we all got dressed to the nines! I am the new-be here, my name is Zak. I was the not-so cowardly lion...hear me roar!! My fellow yellow-furred friend, Pierce, was an awesome Punk Rocker. Check out his hair!! King Chevy walked the orange carpet like a pro and then shook off his jewels. I really wanted to eat one...they looked so shiny and yummy! Bee Gee was a devil



pooch. I am surprised that we got a good picture, he wasn't too happy to get dressed up. After our mini photo shoot, we went up and down the halls to show off. All the women loved it. It makes me feel good to put smiles on their faces.

*Jamie Schneider  
Corrections Counselor*



## SCI Coal Township

With working in the **FIDOS (Fostering and Improving Dogs Obedience and Survival)** dog program at SCI Coal Township, it is quite obvious how much the handlers are able to change the lives of dogs that are often abused, beaten or neglected; but is amazing to see how the program changes the lives of the handlers as well.

In our FIDOS program we have worked with different shelters who bring dogs in to be trained and then adopted. For the initial stages of the program we were receiving many dogs that simply needed some training so they could go to a good home. As time went on and our handlers became more comfortable with their abilities we began to get more severe cases of neglect, abuse and even special needs dogs. As the special needs dogs came in it was interesting to see how the dynamics of the group of handlers had changed. Individuals who were heavily involved in the gang scene were leaving that scene for a more nurturing side of life. We weren't sure how the transition would go with the special needs dogs as we were sure some of the handlers would be apprehensive when working with these dogs. The transition went better than we ever could have imagined. Dogs that weren't given a chance to survive were making progress and it appeared that the dogs were making a bigger change in the handlers as well. Handlers were taking extra care for dogs that couldn't walk, couldn't hear, endured crushed bones and severely beaten.



At this point, the handlers being fully invested in the dog program, are giving up their yard and even meals to make sure that the dogs are being taken care of.

Another dog who came to the program with special needs was Delilah, who is a blind cocker spaniel. The reception of a blind dog into the program presented more challenges. The handler now would have to develop a new way of training a dog to obey commands as the typical hand signals wouldn't work with this dog. The handlers again became inventive and developed ways to allow the blind dog to walk around off leash and not walk into trouble; even teaching the blind dog to walk up and down steps. Ms. Noel Scicchitano, a prison employee who adopted Delilah said, "Delilah was trained and learned basic commands while in the FIDOS program, but I believe she took a lot more away from the experience. Being trained in the institution she was exposed to various loud noises, cell doors slamming, other dogs barking, officers giving orders, announcements and radio transmissions, all which can be pretty intimidating – even more so when you can't see what's going on. I think the trainer's gentle reassurance and guidance through these experiences helped Delilah develop the bubbly personality she has."

We also received a deaf dog, Bella. When she came into the program Bella would run in circles while walking on a leash and even while the handler was standing still. It was determined that Bella was running in circles due to not being able to hear what was around her so she ran in circles so she always knew what was around her. The handler for Bella developed hand signals for Bella to complete basic obedience and to come to the handler when she saw the command. Bella was adopted by a family that took her training to the next level. She is now a therapy dog who goes into nursing homes and hospitals to provide comfort for elderly and injured people.

FIDOS received a two year old Rottweiler who came in without a name. She was later named Faith. Faith was so severely beaten by her former owner that her skull was crushed on the left side of her head that she lost sight in her left eye and she had battery acid poured over her back, leaving visible scars as well as emotional scars. Faith was so afraid of males, due to her previous experience, but it didn't take long for the handlers to rebuild her trust in males and learn her obedience skills.

Major, a five month old German Shepard was injured when he was four weeks old. He had a severely broken leg that needed to be amputated to make his life easier. While in the program, Major was re-taught how to walk and walk up and down stairs. Major now has a happy home and is moving around like he has all for legs.

Needless to say, the handlers at SCI Coal Township have had a wide array of dogs come into the program. Each dog has taught our handlers more about their own abilities and how devoted they are to the dogs, as well as the handlers learning what can happen and how change can occur when work is put in.

Several handlers have stated that the FIDOS program has allowed them to see what changes they can make in their own lives. Aside from the lessons taught to the handlers in this institution it has allowed several handlers who have made parole to have an employment opportunity when they are on the streets. Some have volunteered at SPCA's and others are attempting to open their own dog training businesses. No matter what the case, the handlers are leaving the institution better than when they arrived.

*Mike Wegrzynowicz*  
Corrections Counselor 2

# SCI Huntingdon

Hello! I'm Beth Linn, a records specialist at SCI Huntingdon, and I have been fortunate enough to be a staff volunteer for CPL since March 2017. I can't begin to say how glad I am that I became involved in the program. Being a part of the CPL family has enriched my life in more ways than I ever imagined it would.

At first, I just thought it would be fun to take the puppies out into the world and spend time with them. And it is! But it's so much more than that. Watching the puppies grow and learn under the guidance of their inmate handlers is amazing. So much is accomplished in such a relatively short period of time!

As a staff volunteer, I've learned the importance of reinforcing what these puppies are learning when I take them out, whether it's just taking them back to my office for a few hours or home for a day or overnight visit. Taking them out into the "real world" is a vital part of their training, but only in conjunction with the skills they have already learned or are still learning. I've learned how important it is to be aware that, even though they are super cute puppies, they are being trained for an enormous responsibility; and we must always be respectful of that and only add to, not deter from, their training. Being exposed to many different settings, sounds, environments, people and places is crucial to the puppies' success as graduates of CPL.

In addition, having the pleasure of spending time in the evenings or on weekends with the puppies has brought much joy to my family and me. My daughters love meeting the puppies, playing with them and taking them along on family outings. We also enjoy explaining the CPL program to people who come up to us and ask about the vest the puppies are wearing. Many people have approached us and inquired about the program and how to go about applying for the help of a service or companion dog. It's gratifying to know that in addition to assisting with the puppies' training, we may also be helping to connect an individual with an organization that may possibly provide much needed assistance. And, of course, there's nothing like the playfulness, love, fun and joy that a puppy brings!

I'm thrilled that SCI Huntingdon and CPL have partnered together. I have a profound respect for the work that the inmate handlers do every day to get these puppies ready for the next phase of their training. I understand that this 24 hour commitment on their part is not easy and not at all just fun and games. It takes a great deal of commitment, patience and hard work. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to have even a small role in this extremely worthwhile and rewarding endeavor.

SCI Huntingdon participated in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blair County Night Out Against Crime in Duncansville on August 1, 2017. Sergeant Boal, Corrections Officer 1 Oldham and Records Specialist Beth Linn represented the institution with a contraband display, recruiting display and service dog program display. There were over 40 organizations distributing information to the community. Approximately 1,900 people attended the event. Staff had the opportunity to personally interact with around 600 people and to explain various aspects about the Department of Corrections.



Michael Swartz  
Unit Manager



I am a forever dog,  
not an 'until dog.'

I'm not an "until you get bored with me" dog.

I'm not an "until you find a girlfriend" dog.

I'm not an "until you have a baby" dog.

I'm not an "until you have to move" dog.

I'm not an "until you have no time" dog.

I'm not an "until I get old" dog.

I'm a forever dog.  
If you can't give me forever, then I'm not your dog.

**IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE.**

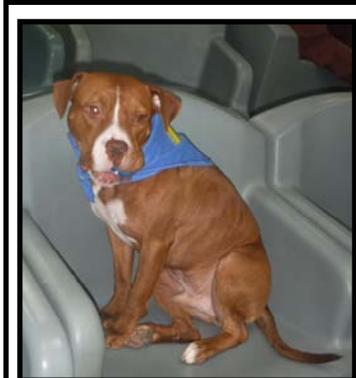
## SCI Chester

It has been an exciting past few months in the **WAGs at SCI Chester** program. Since partnering with WAGS Rescue and Referral in April 2017, we have helped dozens and dozens of dogs find their forever homes!

In August, the inmates at SCI Chester participated in a fundraiser that was able to raise \$4,000 to give back to our partner organization; some of the money raised was used to purchase a dog wash station which will be the next part of our training criteria.



Most recently, Lucy Nolan of Fox 29 News came and did a segment on our program. She was able to capture the true spirit of the "Wags at Chester" program, which showed dozens of men devoted to socializing, training and loving these animals, some of which were found in a ditch on the side of the road. We have had three different litters of puppies (17 at once), who all left crate and housetrained and have all since been adopted. Enzi, recently completed and passed his Canine Good Citizenship test and has been paroled with his handler. (Stay tuned for more on that story).



Enzi, proudly showing off his Canine Good Citizenship bandana; if you know Enzi, then you know he is NEVER without a ball in his mouth

Several of our dog handlers are also Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) and take their canines with them when doing their rounds. During Halloween, with borrowed costumes, the puppies dressed up and went "trick or treating" throughout the facility. We have been so fortunate to be partnered with such a PHENOMENAL organization.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with information, please "like" us on Facebook under WAGS at SCI Chester. Please contact Program Coordinators Mande Quinn and Ryanne Piorko with any questions.

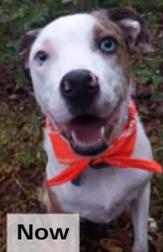
*Mande Quinn, Administrative Officer*



### **From our Trainer:**

"The men at SCI Chester have embraced the tenets of operant and classical conditioning. They are up for the challenges of caring for a litter of pups, modifying the behavioral responses of a dog who over reacts when he/she is stressed and being observant dog advocates. They have housetrained, crate trained, positively socialized and taught a large number of canines. Some of the dogs who have been in the program have learned intermediate and high level skills. The SCI Chester program is a win all around; for the rescue dogs, the facility and its staff, Wags Rescue and its team, the inmates and most certainly for me." - Lisa Birkenstock, owner of the dog and cat behavior consulting and training business, My Pet's Teacher comes in weekly to train our inmates.

# SCI Frackville

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  <p>Then</p> | <p>This is Tracker. When he came into the program he was VERY timid and wouldn't walk or allow anyone to pet him. He would cower. It was very trying and all of the canine handlers in the program, as well as the inmates on the block, worked with him to help socialize him. His first week at his adoptive home he escaped the yard and was running around the neighborhood for three or four days, too afraid to come near humans. A humane trap was used to capture him. Today he has positively adjusted. He is now able to go on off-leash hikes with his adopted family.</p> |  <p>Now</p> |
|---|---|--|

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Kayla was abandoned on the side of the road in Florida prior to Hurricane Maria hitting. She is being adopted by an officer.</p> |
|---|---|

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <p>This is Ella, another Hurricane dog that was found abandoned in Florida. She had to fend for herself.</p> |
|---|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Nala is a dog that was adopted out from our FIDOS program and has achieved Adult 2 Positive dog training.</p> |
|---|--|

Stacey Dowd  
Unit Manager

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Inmate using treats for the command, "Watch me."</p> |  |
|---|---|

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, SCI Frackville celebrated mascots Feye and Sam's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Staff who adopted from our **DAWGS Prison Program** were permitted to bring in their puppies for a birthday party with Feye and Sam. They were also able to visit with the dog handlers.

Handler Thomas H. writes on behalf of all of our dog handlers:

"The program started in April 2016 and what we teach in this program is basic obedience training and socialization so the dogs can get adopted to good families. We thought the program would be easy, then when we each got our first dog on April 12, 2016, and we realized this would be much more than just a job. The program does so much more than just get dogs adopted. It eases some of the tensions and stress that comes with being incarcerated. I have personally witnessed some of the hardest criminals who project the toughest attitudes turn into a kid who just got what he wanted for Christmas when they get a chance to interact with the dogs. Since the beginning of the program I have cared for 18 dogs that were adopted and we have had around 100 dogs go through the program so far. Each one was loved and cared for by inmates, and I believe the dogs have helped us as much as we have helped them and this was proven to me when we had Feye and Sam's birthday party. All the dogs remembered us and were so happy see us handlers."

Jennifer Newberry  
Superintendent's Assistant

## SCI Mercer



Hi! My name is Jocelyn. I'm half Pit bull Terrier and half Boxer. I'm eight months old and very cunning.

I love people and get along with other dogs as well. Even though I am young, I know all the tricks ... sit, lay, rollover, stay. I love belly rubs and treats. The main things with me is rabbits. I love to chase those furry little critters. I know I would make a great pet for someone someday. I'm also housebroken. People say that Pit bulls are mean and rough, but I'm the total opposite. So if you adopt me, I won't disappoint you. I just need a loving family that cares.  
Love, Jocelyn



Hi. My name is Dozer, but most people call me Doze or Goofy (as my trainers call me sometimes).

I love and enjoy lots of playtime and my toy ball. I have a lot of treats, but I go crazy for the ones that taste like real chicken. I eat twice a day. I don't eat much in the morning. I'm a little lazy sometimes when I get up. I'm housebroken. Just don't feed me too late and not take me for a walk because I don't want to wake you up out of your sleep to go to the bathroom. And I don't want to have an accident in the house. I haven't had any accidents. I enjoy laying on a soft bed of my own or I will lay in the bed by your side. I'm very, very playful and have lots of energy to go around. I get along with most dogs. Some dogs don't like that I'm

too playful. I'm learning a lot of things in the **CARE Program** and with my trainers. We are working on me not jumping up so much, but I can't help it. I just want lots of hugs and kisses when I see people. It makes me feel loved. I also know how to sit, laydown and I will give you my paws if you ask me to. I will give you both my paws if you say "both." I will put both of them in your hand, but I have to be sitting so I won't just jump up. When I get bored, I will play by myself with my toy ball or I will let you know by putting my head in your hand and when you go to pet me, I will move back in a playful way. I don't mind being in my crate, but I don't have to. I will just be waiting for you to come back home to me.

So if you want a loving and playful best friend who will put a smile on your face with my goofy ways at times (I know I do), I will be waiting for you to come check me out and see for yourself how much fun and joy we will have together.

- Dozer



Hello! My name is Martin. I am a two year old black Lab mix.

I know the basic commands: sit, give paw, lay down and rollover. I really enjoy lots of love and belly rubs. I like playing tug of war with my rope and will fetch it if you say "find rope." I also like playing ball and will fetch it back most of the time. I eat twice a day (7am and 6pm) and like some treats. I am very well housebroken and will let you know when I want out with a bark or a yip. I enjoy laying on the bed for naps and cuddle time. I love walks and sniff everything and mark my spot. I have a lot of energy and like to play.

Do you want a loving, playful best friend? I do!!!! Come check me out. I'm waiting for you!

- Martin



**SCI Mercer cont.**



My name is Diesel. I'm a three year old American Bulldog that has lots of energy and love to give.

Recently I've been learning new tricks so I can have fun with my new family. I'm very food-motivated and treats get me to do whatever. I love attention and miss you when you leave me for a long time, but I behave so I can be rewarded with kisses and hugs when you do return. I love to play and I know I'm a big boy. I know my size and play gentle when needed. I just want a new home to show me plenty of love and affection ... and I promise to return nothing less. When bored I will come and place my paw on you or my head on your leg to get your attention, just a hug, a rub, or a treat!!

Hopefully, I'm the big guy you're missing and you have the home I can call my own with a great family included. Hope to meet you

soon. I'm excited already!!!

- Diesel



My name is Honey. I am a four year old Lab mix who's looking for a family to call my own.

I'm a big girl with a heart for people just as big. I'm the type of dog that will feed off your moods. You want to play, I'll play. You want to relax, I'll relax. I won't beg for your food and will only jump up on the couch when you tell me to. I think it's best to be the only pet in your home. Sometimes I don't like the way other dogs look at me. Besides, I'll have all the love you'll need.

I'll keep doing my best in the CARE Program and with my training so I may put a smile on your face as I do for my trainers. Hope to meet you soon.

Love, Honey



Hi! My name is Tanker. I'm a two year old lab mix. I've been in the CARE Program for about five weeks.

I love being around people and listen very well and learn things fast. I sit, stay, lay down, rollover and shake with both paws and about anything else if I know I'm getting a treat. I love playing ball and will bring the ball back to you and play tug with a rope. I'm good at leash walking and love to take walks or just sit or lay in the grass with you. I just love the outdoors.

I'm housebroken and crate-trained. If you make a bed on the floor for me, I will lay on it and wake you up in the night when I have to go out. I only chew on my toys and not on other things, so get me a good chew toy please.

I am a wonderful, loving and caring dog looking for a good home and family to share my life with. You will have years of fun and love with me. I will be a great pet and a real good friend.

So I hope I'm what you're looking for so we can start a life together and have lots of fun, loving and caring and making memories together.

Thanks,  
Tanker (Tank)



*Marcia Combine  
Unit Manager*

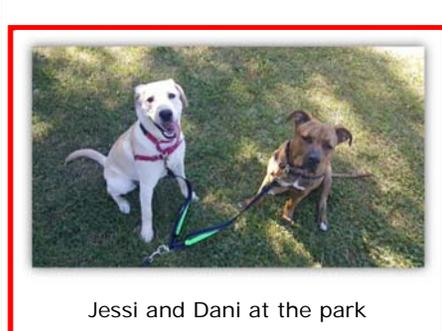
## SCI Rockview

Emotional support dogs provide support and comfort for those with one or more of a wide range of emotional disabilities including: anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, panic attacks, stress, phobias and PTSD. While exact numbers aren't known, it is estimated that about half of the prison population in the United States displays symptoms of some type of mental illness. It only makes sense that, in an attempt to treat and prepare our prison population for life on the street, we use whatever tools we may have available to assist in the process to include emotional support dogs. Further, about 25% of adults in the United States suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could save a dog from the street, provide it with training inside our prison and then reintroduce it to a good, deserving home? Wouldn't it be even better if that same dog provided a much-needed service to our prison population in the form of comfort and support to those displaying symptoms of mental illness? That is exactly what has been happening at SCI Rockview as well as many other institutions throughout Pennsylvania. While our puppy program at Rockview is limited at this time to nine inmate dog handlers, inmates throughout the institution have regular interaction with our four puppies-in-training. Our puppies make regular visits with inmates in our Mental Health Unit, Residential Treatment Unit, Secure Residential Treatment Unit and infirmary. The general population has contact



Luke and Randy at the park



Jessi and Dani at the park

with our puppies as well on the walks and in the yard. The positive response to our program from staff and inmates alike has been overwhelming. While our goal with each new puppy is to train it for possible future work as a service dog, just as humans may have limitations, dogs may have physical limitations with size, strength, or movement which prevent them from becoming a service dog. These dogs often make wonderful emotional support animals. Since our current class of puppies, Luke, Dani, Randy and Jessi, is on the small side, they may very well become great emotional support dogs. They have all been providing this service inside our fence for months. We look forward to continuing our service to our prison population and to deserving individuals on the street as well.

*Howard Hoover  
Unit Manager*

## SCI Dallas

On Nov. 7, 2017, I was given a puppy named Buckels to train and to take care of and I must say that this has been a real pleasure so far to have this little guy. He's a four month old black lab, born July 22, 2017, and he weighs 25 pounds. Since having him I taught him to sit, lay down and to stay when put in one spot. He knows his name and how to greet people when I tell him to go say hello. This is a new experience for me, it's a challenge and it's also fun to be raising and training such a young puppy. I guess the biggest reward is to actually see your puppy grow to be a great companion and to use what he was trained and taught to do, to help people.

- Submitted by primary handler: Donnie D.; Secondary handler: James C.

Hey guys, my name is Potter. Yeah! Like Harry Potter, but I'm way cooler and smarter and they all know it, the dogs and the things that walk on two legs, yeah two legs but I'm supposed to be some kind of working dog that helps the two legs I told you about. I'm just going to call them walkers. My two handlers say I matter, like I don't know that (lol). They teach me to sit, stay and place. It's really a lot, but here's the good part, I get to eat if I got the commands right, it gets no better than that. If you want to know more about me and my friends look up America's Vet Dogs, be on the lookout for me.

- Submitted by primary handler: Cameron H. and secondary handler: Antonio J.

*Ann Verbyla  
Unit Manager*



## SCI Forest

August 2017 marked the first anniversary for the restructured **P.A.W.S** program at SCI Forest. To celebrate, an annual graduation ceremony was held with all staff invited to the ceremony. In attendance were staff from all classifications, including administrative staff, A&B Canine trainer Paul Anthony, Pups Providing Hope representatives, Women's Shelter Pittsburgh representatives and the inmate handlers. It was the largest attendance and positive reception the program has had since inception. The graduation was quite the success with handlers showing off their dogs' capabilities and the handlers receiving certificates as well as Canine Good Citizen Advanced certifications. Paul Anthony also spoke of how the handlers in this program have helped make the growth of Pups Providing Hope, a new program in the Pittsburgh area, as well as A&B Canine successful. He emphasized how he enjoys coming to the prison weekly to work with the handlers and dogs. Unit Manager Perrin followed up with the year in review, noting that there had been ups and downs, unforeseen glitches, but in the end everyone worked as a team (including Pups Providing Hope, Paul Anthony and the institution) to overcome barriers/challenges to result in some great success stories...and it's only going to get better.

After a year in effect, Paul Anthony saw that there were some special talent and great support with our program. Initially, he thought the handlers would just get the dogs Canine Good Citizen certified and he would finalize all training. Well he quickly saw that the capabilities were much, much more. He worked with several handlers to really fine tune several dogs to be service dogs, emotional support dogs and courtroom dogs. While he still had to do follow-up training, his work was much less. He frequently states how amazed he is and he has people that work with him that cannot train dogs as well and as fast. He is also amazed at the creativity of the inmates to work with the limitations that come with being in prison but still achieving the same goals.

With that being said, SCI Forest P.A.W.S. handlers have trained three dogs in particular to be courtroom dogs for Pups Providing Hope. One dog is Bug, pictured to the right. Bug, an Australian Shepherd, is working with handler, Amanda. This Canine Assisted Advocate team is based in Beaver County, through a partnership with the Beaver County Women's Center, in Beaver, Pa.



Another success story is Cooper (left), a standard poodle, who was quick to learn yet goofy and personable. Cooper works with handler Tami at the Center for Victims in Pittsburgh. He is still a puppy so his training is continuing, but he is the life of the party and doing well.

A husky mix named Wonder is doing wonders in his training to also work with Pups Providing Hope as a courtroom dog for physically and sexually abused children.

The aforementioned three dogs are just the beginning in a mountain of success stories the program has had. The dogs are accessing more areas of the institution to expose them to various situations that mimic those they would find in the public. This improves the morale of inmates and staff. Zara the Doberman went on to be a search and rescue dog. A beagle named

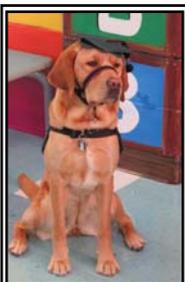
Tucker is an emotional support dog for a child with autism. A mix breed dog with one blue eye named Lucky because she has only three legs is an emotional support dog for a child with autism. The list goes on and on. Beyond those success stories, many of the other dogs, which are rescued dogs, have gone on to be adopted by staff or by Paul Anthony. Many times, these dogs are providing the simple service of being awesome pets for staff. You can really see they appreciate the opportunity to be dogs rather than be in the dire situations many of them came from. Regardless of their purpose, the program has helped improve the lives of inmates and the dogs.

In the months to come, we are training two German Shepard puppies for some special purposes for members of the community. Both dogs will be in the program for an extended period to learn skills of the special functions they were chosen for. One puppy is going to be an emotional support dog with added skill sets for a veteran with PTSD. Even just knowing a dog is being trained for him, the veteran has already had an improved mindset. The other puppy is going to be trained for a quadriplegic ex-police officer. Both members of the community will come to SCI Forest to train with the dogs when the dogs are ready. The inmate handlers are excited to be giving back to the community in such a helpful way. A boxer dog is training to become the next courtroom dog for Pups Providing Hope. Another mixed breed dog is training to work for an individual with Down syndrome. Several other dogs are being considered for emotional support dogs as well.

We continue to improve our program what seems like monthly and we look forward to the next year!

*Yvette Perrin*  
*Unit Manager*

## SCI Greene



Cassidy at  
Graduation  
2017

Here at SCI Greene we are currently training four pups of varying ages. Cassidy and Kona recently graduated and moved on to the second phase of their training at CPL. Nike, Greta, Higley and our newest addition Brooke, are all hard at work learning new skills.

### CURRENT EVENTS!!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Puppy Graduation occurred on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and was also an Open House for interested staff. Graduation was also attended by a reporter from the local newspaper The Herald Standard. A wonderful article followed in the newspaper and can be found at their website: [http://www.heraldstandard.com/new\\_today/dogs-graduate-from-sci-greene-inmate-service-dog-training-program/article\\_48761bbe-5bad-5286-94d4-c142de922a63.html](http://www.heraldstandard.com/new_today/dogs-graduate-from-sci-greene-inmate-service-dog-training-program/article_48761bbe-5bad-5286-94d4-c142de922a63.html)

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new puppy in early December. She will come from the litter currently being raised by our friends at SCI Somerset.

On Nov. 8, 2017, our girl Lucee completed CPL Training and was placed with her person as a diabetic alert dog.



Lucee graduates  
CPL and meets  
her person

Lucee left Greene last October to complete her final training and we are proud and excited to see her move on to assist her recipient.

We are hoping that once Lucee and her person settle in they will visit us at Greene.

On October 7, SCI Greene, Somerset and Laurel Highlands volunteers visited the Pittsburgh Zoo. Complimentary admission was extended to CPL volunteers. The pups had a great time seeing the animals and the curiosity was mutual!



### **SCI Greene CPL Committee**

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

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

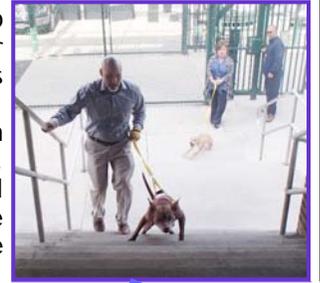
## SCI Retreat



The Puppies Are Coming!

"The Puppies Are Coming!" was the title of the e-mail sent to staff by Superintendent Vince Mooney. On Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we were thrilled to announce the arrival of three canines from the Luzerne County SPCA — Lucy, Precious and Louie! The dogs arrived as a part of a new beginning to a program primarily to give SCI Retreat the opportunity to, once again, give back to the community! Going forward SCI Retreat will work in conjunction with the Luzerne County SPCA to give

selected canines a second chance at life, hope and the opportunity to become adopted to a FUREVER home!



Currently six inmate handlers have been selected and trained to work with the dogs over the next six to ten weeks on basic obedience training and socialization skills. Again, the common goal upon completion is to have the dogs more prepared and ready for adoption to a good home.



As you can probably guess, the front lobby was packed with employees who were eager to get a first glimpse of our new arrivals!

A reporter from the Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice covered the arrival of the dogs and you can read the article, "Program has inmates training dogs until ready for adoption" by Bob Kalinowski on their website at <http://citizensvoice.com>

Note: Don't put a www in their address.



Statement below from Executive Director Todd Hevner, Luzerne County SPCA:

"We at the SPCA of Luzerne County are excited for the launch of a new partnership between the SPCA and SCI Retreat.

Our foster program is a partnership between the two organizations aimed at providing a solid foundation for the dogs in their care while simultaneously providing inmates with an opportunity to positively impact the lives of those within our community.

I believe this program has the ability to provide a second chance at a new forever home for many of the abandoned, unwanted and abused dogs that find themselves in our care.

With the help of our staff, volunteers and most importantly, the inmate handlers, these dogs will be instilled with a solid foundation increasing their opportunities at a new life.

We hope that the inmates chosen to care for our beloved dogs will find this experience as rewarding to them as we know it will be for the dogs.

This program is a win-win for all involved."

*Todd Kolbicka  
Activities Manager*

## Inmate Testimonials:

"Wags Rescue has changed my life here at SCI Chester. Being a temporary "foster pop" to four dogs since April has been dear to my heart. This opportunity has given me a second chance in life. This program gives me joy and happiness that in a place like prison it brings me to the "outside world"; who would have thought we would look forward to picking up dog poop!"

- Vic



Creative collage created by SCI Greene handlers showcasing some of the pups raised at Greene



I am a SCI Coal Township FIDOS handler. I have been in the program since September 2016. I was trained for 30 days then given my own dog. His name was Roscoe, an English Pointer which was very active with high energy. I had to learn to be very patient when it came to training Roscoe. We got along very well. He remained in the program for six months and then was adopted and he moved to Jersey.

Since then I've had four other dogs (Daisy, Duggie, Penny and now Layla). I have grown to love dogs more than cats. Being in this program has helped me grow and mature and show that I can be very responsible. It's like taking care of a child, with feeding, grooming and showing mad love!! I've had Layla the longest. She is a four year old Rottweiler who is very smart and obedient, also very spoiled. She keeps me out of trouble. If I could take her home, I would. Now I am a dog trainer for a trainee. I want to teach him what I know and so on.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be in the program and am looking for information so I can continue on the streets. Thank you Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Dunn, Mr. W.

-Hassan K.

The FIDOS program at SCI Coal Township really changes the atmosphere to be more social and pleasant. FIDOS stands for **Fostering & Improving Dogs Obedience & Survival**. At FIDOS we get all types of dogs from pit bulls to Chihuahuas and all the dogs come from different backgrounds. Some were just left out wandering the streets and some were beaten or starved. So when they come to the program we get the feel for the dogs and we go from there and start training. The FIDOS program has taught me to be more aware of things that are going on around you and that comes from watching puppies. (They love to eat stuff off the ground.) Then it's taught me to put aside my pride and to ask for help and this comes from having another trainer help me with training the dogs, when I need help. I have learned that responsibility is the most important part of this program. This program also helps me mentally leave the jail when I train with the dogs. I am proud to be part of F.I.D.O.S.

- John C.

## Inmate Testimonials cont.

### H.O.P.E. **Hounds of Prison Education.**

I have been involved in the program for a little over two years. As of recently some things have changed, such as where I can take the dog and whom the dog can be around. For the most part, this is one form of change that we all welcomed.

For a while, "handlers" were only allowed to take the dog to one or two places within the institution. Either out back or into the "dog yard," which is small fenced-in area located off of the main yard. Over the last few months things have really changed. I've been involved in a few self-help programs. Once I completed these programs, I became a co-facilitator. So I was given the opportunity to bring "Tiffany," a two year old all white Pit bull, with me to one of my groups.

The response was unbelievable. Who would have thought that something as simple as allowing some of the guys in group to interact with a dog would have such an impact? I mean, we all know the stereotype that comes along with those that are incarcerated, big tough criminals. But when "Tiffany" came into that group, she's running around, licking people, jumping on the table, doing every single trick that she could think of. And the guys really responded. A few people I spoke with have told me that just being around the dog has given them hope. (There's that word again, H.O.P.E.) Others have told me that being around her reminds them that "it's not over, there is still life to go home to."

Because of the positive response to me being allowed to bring "Tiffany" with me to one group, I am now allowed to take her into two. And again the response is wonderful. Who would have ever imagined that something that most people take for granted would serve to others a different point of view, a view of not what happened in the past, but a view of the future and what it brings, a view of HOPE...

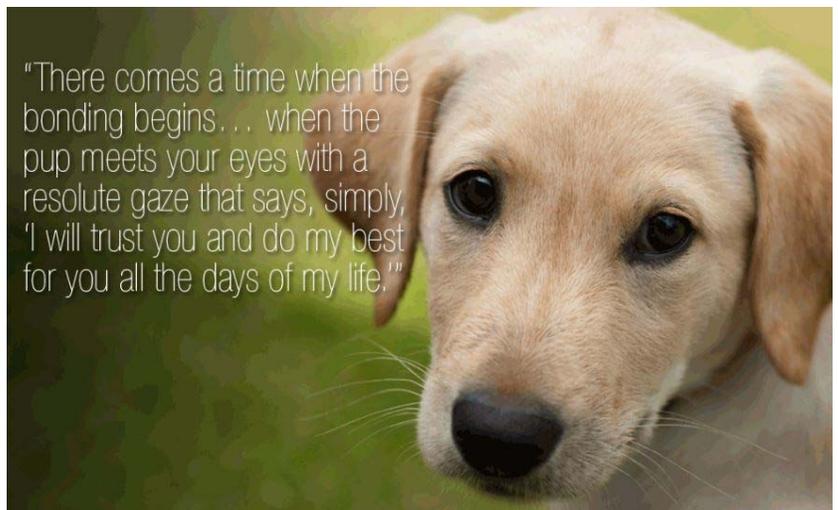
- Ronald B.

Since joining the **FIDOS program** back in 2014 I've learned and accomplished a lot for myself. Many are life lessons that are embedded in me for the rest of my life. Also, since I've been incarcerated I came to realize that you get let down a lot, especially the longer and older you get. People disappoint you, but a dog is always there! And there stubbornly positive. They'll always find a reason to be excited. All they want is to be there. I really value that and the lessons I've learned from them.

-Jameson P.

"I have never taken as much pride in what I've done with my days or gotten as much fulfillment as I do now with my participating in the dog program. As much as I've helped these dogs in training and helping prepare them for their forever homes, they've helped me even more by easing my stress levels and bringing me some comfort that I couldn't otherwise get in such a cold environment. This program has given me much needed direction in my life."

- Manny



# SCI Pine Grove

This has been a very busy time with the **T.A.I.L.S.** pups. They are now 11 months old and continue to make strides in their training and are growing fast.

In August we were fortunate enough to have a visit from one of our prior T.A.I.L.S. dogs, Lewes, and his client. This visit was very beneficial to all handlers in the program past and present. This showed them what all of their hard work will do for someone in the community.



In September Packer and Kato participated in the Suicide Prevention walk with staff members at Mack Park in Indiana, Pa.

North and Polar had the privilege to go out to dinner with their sponsor, Mary Jalongo, and showed very positive community skills.



Packer and Polar attended and participated in the Barks against Violence, Program discussing Domestic Violence that was organized by the Alice Paul House. This occurred at Mack Park in Indiana, Pa. They assisted in a demonstration and explanation of what the T.A.I.L.S. pups can do and spoke about United Disability Services.



In October all four dogs went to Hershey in order to participate in the UDS annual photo shot for their calendar. The dogs got to have their pictures taken with the Hershey Bears hockey team.

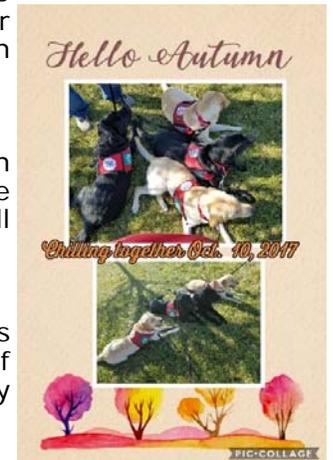
On October 25, 2017, Packer and Kato went to visit a pre-school class at Ben Franklin Elementary. It was in conjunction with the IUP program to allow the kids to learn how to interact with service dogs. The children interacted very well with the dogs and had numerous questions.



Kato waiting on the kids

During November a Veteran's Day celebration was held and a walk-a-thon was conducted. All four of the dogs participated in the walk-a-thon, where they walked around the perimeter of the institution.

The dogs continue to participate in presentations for tours of students and other visitors that go through the institution. Visitors are always impressed with the ability of the dogs.



Tammy Delosh  
Corrections Counselor 2

Christina Smith  
Drug and Alcohol Specialist



## SCI Muncy



The **CPL program at SCI Muncy** conducted a Halloween Trick-or-Treat with the CPL dogs on Monday Oct. 30, 2017. The dogs visited various areas to both socialize the dogs in new environments and allow some of the inmates in specialized programming to have more exposure to the dogs. Costumes were donated by staff members and the dogs were escorted by the inmate handlers and staff members. Locations visited included: the Residential Treatment Unit, the DAILE program, the Intermediate Treatment Unit, the Chapel, the Mental Health Unit, Admissions, Property, Sewing, Infirmary and other areas. The dogs were given treat bags by some of the work areas and were well-received wherever they went.



As mentioned previously, an event like this is not just a fun event for the dogs, it is also a way to give the dogs training in environments which they may not be exposed to otherwise. This is especially important for the younger puppies. The CPL training stresses the importance of exposing service dogs to various stimuli at a young age in order to make them less likely to be surprised or uncomfortable as an adult service dog. These stimuli could be new places, or new people, or people with different abilities such as an inmate in a wheelchair in the Infirmary.

Service dogs are expected to be able to stay on task even in environments which other dogs might find overwhelming, such as a grocery store or a mall. This skill is practiced with the CPL service dogs at SCI Muncy through a variety of activities, with this event being just one.



The benefit for the inmate population is also clear as many of the inmates in specialized programming find the time with dogs to be an especially valuable reward for positive behavior. Weekly visits to the specialized programs by the dogs and inmate handlers are an important way to benefit the dog and simultaneously provide appropriate rewards for good behavior by the



participating inmates in the specialized programs. Some inmates who tend to disregard other rewards find the time with dogs to be a sufficient motivator to continue positive behavior.

As with many of the activities at SCI Muncy the Trick-or-Treat event for the CPL dogs was a way to achieve diverse goals through the cooperation of departments. The event benefitted the inmate population, the dogs in training and the staff involved.

Thank you to the staff involved and the administration for their approval.



*Steven Elias  
Unit Manager*



## SCI Houtzdale



Canines from left to right: Samson, Nico, Dante and Gideon

In May 2017, the SCI Houtzdale **R.U.F.F. (Relying Upon Furry Friends)** Program welcomed four Labrador retriever puppies to its canine program. Two black labs, Gideon and Nico, and two yellow labs, Dante and Samson, were delivered to the facility from its partner, United Disabilities Services (UDS) at eight weeks of age. UDS is a non-profit organization based out of Lancaster, Pa., which offers services to identified clients with disabilities to assist them in living more independently. Its service dog program focuses on assisting its clients in completing tasks such as the opening and closing of doors, retrieving items, turning on and off lights, working elevator buttons and shopping just to name a few.

It is the primary function of the assigned inmate canine handlers to build a sound skill-related foundation by teaching the dogs approved commands, manners and socialization skills. The four dogs are currently seven months old. During their time at SCI Houtzdale they each have proven to be very intelligent and full of energy while displaying a strong desire to learn new commands. SCI Houtzdale and its canine handlers are responsible for each dog's initial training which typically lasts between 15 and 18 months. During that time period, each dog will be taught more than 70 commands. An important component of the R.U.F.F. Program is the training regimen. Both staff and inmates alike work to make the training a positive and fun experience for those involved. The program's experiences to date have shown that by making the training sessions interesting and/or fun, the results are typically more positive.

Following the departure of the R.U.F.F. Program's initial round of pups, as a program it was clear that the next round of pups would need to be escorted to the community more frequently to aid in developing socialization skills. The program is proud to announce that due to the strong staff support at the facility, each pup is routinely escorted to the community for overnight weekend visits. Collectively, the pups have attended various sporting events, churches, retail stores and parades. In August, Nico had the unique opportunity to visit the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Md. His visit included a visit to the Babe Ruth Museum, the National Aquarium and a Baltimore Orioles home game at Historic Camden Yards. Another pup, Gideon, attended a local Boy Scout outing where he was able to interact with area scouts and showcase the skills he has learned to date. Sticking with the baseball theme, Gideon was escorted to PNC Park where he was able to take in a Pittsburgh Pirate Game. These adventures are just a few of the many outings the pups have participated in during their time at SCI Houtzdale. The collaborative efforts between staff and inmates have resulted in favorable results to date and we look for more positive experience to come as the pups continue on their journey towards becoming service dogs.



*Craig Petulla*  
Unit Manager

Being part of the RUFF program at Houtzdale has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and certainly the highlight of my DOC career.  
- Alicia Swanson, Treatment Specialist

There is a story they tell of two dogs.

Both dogs, at separate times, walk into the same room. One comes out wagging his tail while the other comes out growling.

A woman watching this goes into the room to see what could possibly make one dog so happy and the other so mad. To her surprise she finds a room filled with mirrors.

The happy dog found a thousand happy dogs looking back at him while the angry dog saw only angry dogs growling back at him. What you see in the world around you is a reflection of who you are.

- Submitted by Marcia Combine, SCI Mercer

## SCI Somerset



Beezle dressed up for the Halloween Parade

The **Canine Partners for Life (CPL)** dog program at SCI Somerset continues to stay busy. We are currently housing and training 15 dogs. They are comprised of eight Labrador retrievers, all of varying ages that are currently participating in our training program: Dagny, Abigail, Coy, Olivia, Ella, Leia, Meko, Sweet Pea and are very pleased to have our first Poodle, Beezle, who came to us all the way from North Carolina. We are also hosting Carney and her five pups in our weaning program. Meko and Dagny are expected to continue on to their next phase of training at the CPL Kennel in January 2018.

We recently hosted our second litter of puppies through our weaning program. We welcomed Amee and her litter of nine yellow Lab puppies on September 5<sup>th</sup>, when the pups were about three weeks old. CPL Staff then returned on October 5<sup>th</sup> to complete temperament testing, give the pups shots and micro-chipping. The puppies were then sent to their respective puppy homes the next day. We were fortunate to keep Ella from that litter to raise and train her here at SCI Somerset. A few weeks later we received our third litter to our weaning program when we received Carney on October 31 with her litter of five pups. Carney and her pups will remain at SCI Somerset until early December, when they will go to their puppy homes and we will receive another litter of pups to wean.



Amee and her pups

We are very proud to announce that we recently had our first two dogs, Denver and Whitney, graduate on Nov. 5, 2017. Whitney graduated as a Home Companion and will be living with her recipient who suffers from a traumatic brain injury. Denver graduated as Full-Service and has been placed with a person who suffers from Narcolepsy and Cataplexy. The medications she takes to regulate her sleep cycle greatly affect her energy levels during the day, and her Cataplexy causes sudden muscle weakness that can lead to dangerous falls. Denver will be providing a pull on harness to conserve energy, balance and support during Cataplexy attacks and we hope that Denver will be able to alert to the sleep attacks that the Narcolepsy causes.



Denver at graduation

It is awesome to be part of such a great program and see the changes in our inmates and staff at SCI Somerset, as well as the recipients whose lives that have been changed forever. We look forward to continuing on this journey and watching what a difference these dogs can make in their recipients' lives!

*Dave Piszczek*  
Unit Manager (Acting)

## SCI Benner Township

**A Dog's Tail from Jail** has been pretty mellow the past few months. We have had some handler changes and as always, a steady flow of dogs ready to learn skills to impress new families. We currently have four beautiful greyhounds with us and our love bug tuxedo boy, Coal, joined Unit Manager Rupert and Pam Graci, our trainer extraordinaire, Thanksgiving weekend to show off in an attempt to find a new home. They were at a fundraising event that Ms. Graci's friend, Mandy of Mandy's Doggie Day Care, arranged for donations for our canine program at Benner Township. A big THANKS goes out to her and Ms. Graci! Look for photos in future issues!

When I recently asked our handlers to say what our program has done for them, Michael H. wished to share how his life has changed since becoming a part of the program and the lives of the dogs he has had the privilege of training. Michael writes: "I have been in and out of prison my whole life and have always left here with a cold shoulder because of feeling like I again just wasted more years of my life. This time I feel good about myself and feel like I'm giving my best to help these rescue dogs to find their forever homes. In return I no longer feel like I'm wasting my years in prison. Now, I am learning what it feels like to do something positive and my life doesn't seem to be so bad anymore. I have also been able to have a very respectful and loving relationship with my family only because of the positive choices I choose to make today. These dogs have changed me in so many ways and taught me to love and care for someone other than myself. Thanks so much to all the rescue dogs who have made my life so much better..."

*Billie Rupert*  
Unit Manager

# SCI Albion

SCI Albion's service pups in training continue to be busy with community events including community education programs, conferences, local art and cultural events, visits to stores, restaurants and other fun places!

On August 30, Malcom went with local puppy program liaison volunteer to present a program at Slippery Rock University, to the Animal Assisted Intervention class of 59 students. We covered basic information about the program, types of service dogs and home companion dogs who are placed by **Canine Partners For Life**, training and socialization activities and stories from recipients who work with the graduates from the prison program. Malcom did a demonstration of some obedience skills and was a great ambassador for the program! Malcom has graduated from SCI Albion and is doing well in his second year of training working on his service skills!



Malcom does some shopping at the Colony Plaza



Moby shows off his fireman's hat

Moby went along to the Fairview Volunteer Fire Dept. Open House on September 23 and greeted lots of people to help tell the CPL story to those attending. See picture (left) of him in a Fireman's hat!

On October 7, Philip helped do an information table at the Animal Hospital of Meadville's Open House. This veterinary practice sponsors one of the CPL pups, so it was good to meet their staff and supporters.



Philip makes new friends at the Animal Hospital of Meadville

Earlier in the summer, CPL pups John and Philip both had the unique experience of sitting through performances of "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Erie Playhouse – from the orchestra pit, since volunteer Deb Morvay plays with the symphony orchestra in Erie! Philip was a little nervous, but John was a trooper and even went back the next day for the matinee show!

John, obviously a lover of musical theater, also enjoyed a performance of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" at the historic Warner Theater on October 18<sup>th</sup>.



John gets ready for a night at the theatre

Drew who was raised at SCI Albion will be graduating at CPL's fall graduation, since he is now living as a Home Companion with a young adult who has cognitive difficulties. Drew is providing him with companionship and comfort, and welcomes him home from school for a good time of playing ball!



Drew visiting Claytopia to paint pottery

Basie is a black lab being raised by a college student from West Chester University, but he came to spend the summer with the handlers at SCI Albion while his student was on summer break. Basie tuned up his obedience commands and kept the other pups here company for the summer, participating in all of the handlers' activities and work site experiences. In July he went with the Prison Puppy Liaison and a staff member, along with John, a yellow Lab from SCI Albion, to do an information table at a Doggie Ice Cream Social at an Albion church. He was returned to his student in September.

With Basie and Malcom leaving us, we've been joined by two new pups, Bear and Fisher! They are brothers from the same litter who arrived at eight weeks old, eager to get started with their training! The pups are currently vying for the opportunity to join a staff volunteer to give a presentation on puppy programs within the Department of Corrections at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference sponsored by Drexel University's College of Medicine in November. Stay tuned to see who is chosen! Better yet, sign up for the conference and attend our presentation!

*Miranda Galbreath  
Psychological Service Specialist &  
Volunteer Handler*

*Ruth Prest  
Puppy Program Liaison*

## SCI Mahanoy

The **P.U.P. Program (Puppies Unleashing Progress)** at SCI Mahanoy had its one year anniversary this past July. We are now in our 16<sup>th</sup> month and we have had 88 dogs rescued because of our program. To date our 16 inmate handlers have trained each of these dogs for a minimum of four weeks and as a testament to their hard work, each of the puppies have been adopted to their "forever home." The handlers not only train the dogs, but they receive training twice a week and have even received PET CPR training on two occasions from Mr. and Mrs. Devlin at Think of Me Animal Rescue. The handlers also have a unique opportunity to take their dogs to various housing units and medical so the dogs can visit with inmates throughout the facility. These visits are coordinated through our Psychology staff and treatment staff and have made a marked difference in the behavior and attitudes of those inmates who are participating.

One of our Treatment Specialists, Lynne Neal, who takes a puppy weekly to the DTU writes, "I have noticed the inmates are much more interactive when I take a puppy to the DTU compared to when I didn't have one with. The majority of the inmates are eager to interact with the puppy and this leads to positive group interactions. Many of the inmates will discuss stories about their prior experiences with their personal animals, sometimes this will lead to the inmate reflecting on their own life and the choices they have made. Having the puppies in the DTU provides for an overall calmer and more upbeat environment and inmate. I also have a puppy in the classroom during group programming on selected days of the week and most of the inmates are thrilled to come in and find a puppy waiting. I have noticed many inmates are more likely to share information and interact with the group if they are petting or holding a puppy. Even the most resistant inmates appear a little more relaxed and calmer when a puppy is near. I find the puppy program to be a beneficial and positive program at SCI Mahanoy."

SCI Mahanoy and the P.U.P Program have made great things happen for the "Lucky 88" dogs that have come through our program and we are looking forward to continue to rescue, train and help more dogs find their "forever homes".

*Traci Jacobson  
Unit Manager*

## A Human's Prayer To A Dog

1. Thank you for your bark
2. Thank you for welcoming me home with a smile & wagging tail
3. Thank you for kisses and paws without asking
4. Thank you for your silly antics
5. Thank you for lying next to me
6. Thank you for a cold wet nose
7. Thank you for accepting me
8. Thank you for adopting me
9. Thank you for your patience
10. Thank you for letting me be a part of your life

Love FOREVER, Your Human

Dog Lovers Today

## SCI Fayette

On May 9, 2017, the SCI Fayette **D.A.W.G. (Developing Animals with Goals)** program finally got up and running. We are currently partnering with Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh, Pa., in an effort to give their current population of dogs a better chance of being adopted.

While the dogs are here at the prison, they live with two handlers in their cell. The handlers are responsible for all basic care of the dogs and for training them in basic obedience. They work on name recognition, sit, stay, leave it, take it, drop it, leash manners, crate training and house breaking. The program is still in its infancy stages, but is progressing nicely. The dogs will remain at our facility for at least six weeks for the basic obedience training, and then hopefully find their furever homes. We can house up to six dogs at one time, but have not gotten up to full complement yet.

Our first two candidates, Jack and Akuma, featured in the previous newsletter were both adopted by SCI Fayette staff after staying with us for four months. Since that time, we have received seven new canines. The following three dogs; Dollar General, Hunter and Ben Hur have all been adopted through our program.



Dollar General



Hunter



Ben Hur

However, these 4 handsome fellows are all still looking for homes:



Reno



Jack



Bandit



Red

The canine program at SCI Fayette has truly been one of the most positive changes I've seen in a long time. It's amazing to watch faces of both the inmates and staff light up when we take the dogs around the Institution. It also gives the inmates a greater sense of purpose and responsibility to have to care for another living creature. Also, the changes in the animals in a few short weeks is nothing short of spectacular. They blossom and thrive on the attention and love they receive during their short "incarcerations" at SCI Fayette.

Anyone interested in one of our fine furry friends can contact Unit Manager Rebecca Palmer or Unit Manager Terry Knepper at SCI Fayette for information.

*Rebecca Palmer*  
Unit Manager



Submit materials for publishing in future issues of this newsletter to:  
Deanna Stager, SCI Graterford (dstager@pa.gov).

Learn more about the DOC's dog training programs by  
visiting the agency's website and then visiting the  
Newsroom to read previous editions of this newsletter.

[www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov)