

June 2018

Volume 5: Edition 1



All Paws On Deck



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 Houtzdale

SCI Huntingdon

SCI Laurel Highlands

SCI Mahanoy

SCI Mercer

SCI Muncy

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Retreat

SCI Rockview

SCI Smithfield

SCI Somerset

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

If you would like to read previous editions of "All Paws on Deck,"
please visit the Department of Corrections website at
www.cor.pa.gov and visit the Newsroom to review newsletters.

SCI Dallas

Our canine program has grown, and inmates here at Dallas feel like it is a chance for them to give back to the community and especially for a disabled veteran. They accept the challenges of training dogs to become service dogs through a little over a year of rigorous training. The camaraderie that has been established on I Block between the inmates in the program has really been amazing. It really crosses racial, ethnic and religious lines as the inmates all work together and help each other out in order to ensure the dogs become successful service dogs.

The weekend puppy raisers, as they are called, also play important roles teaching the puppies socialization skills that they can obviously not learn in a prison environment. For instance, when puppies go out on weekends they wear their future assistance dogs vest so access to public places is not hindered. They go to places like Home Depot, malls, grocery stores and even to bowling alleys. They become a part of these families, who often have difficult times returning them to the institution on Sundays or Mondays.

As the coordinator of the program, I have to thank all staff who volunteer to help out with the daily tasks involved with running the program. At first, the program was not well received but it is now that staff and inmates know that the goal is to eventually help a disabled veteran receive a service dog whom oftentimes becomes that veteran's best friend. Colonel and Sarg, our two original dogs in the program, recently graduated at a wonderful program held here in our visiting room in January. Now they have moved on to advanced training at America's Vet Dogs campus in Smithtown, NY, and they will be placed with a veteran soon.



The graduates!



The four new blondes

The day they left Dallas was a tough one for the inmates in the program, especially their handlers as well as staff here who have grown to love those two beautiful black labs. I have to admit that even though I myself am not a dog person, after a while they grow on you and it was a tough day for me when they left. However, that day was also a bright one here at Dallas because when America's Vet Dogs came to pick them up they were kind enough to drop off four new puppies, all blondes. That is Papi and Chuckie, two brothers who are yellow labs, and Liz and Nahoa, two sisters who are yellow/golden mixes. Inmates who raised Colonel and Sarg were rewarded with two new pups to train and hopefully groom towards another graduation. Quinn and Splash are our two oldest now and they are hoping to move on to advanced training in April.

*Jim Marisco
Unit Manager*



SCI Huntingdon



SCI Huntingdon Canine Partners for Life (CPL) puppies went to school! The Huntingdon Area Middle School Guidance Counselor recently contacted me about doing a presentation for the students at the school, so Tore and I, along with SCI Smithfield puppy, Hunts, and staff handler Chris Linn, enjoyed an afternoon visiting with area middle schools students. We were asked to do several large group informational sessions. The students were invited to bring their lunches and come to the sessions to learn more about the CPL program and service dogs in general. The sessions were very well received, with approximately 100 students attending. The students asked many thoughtful and interesting questions and then had the opportunity to interact

with the puppies. Tore and Hunts had the opportunity to show off their hard work by demonstrating some of the many skills they've learned so far in their training! We also did a walk-around to individual classrooms to personally meet students and teachers not able to attend the program. What a wonderful afternoon for everyone! The puppies really rose to the occasion and interacted absolutely perfectly with the many students eager to meet them! They were tired when we left, but they both acted like the true professional service dogs they are meant to be.

The guidance counselor said, "Thank you for bringing the service dogs to HAMS! You brought tremendous joy to the students and staff! So many kids are in dark places. You brought happiness to their world. I heard one student say that this (you bringing the dogs) was the best part of the day. Another made a video and said that he would watch it when he felt sad. You have done more good than you will ever know. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help others. I cannot thank you enough!"

In fact, the day went so well that we were invited back to assist with a lesson on empathy for the Life Skills class. This time Tore and Falco, both SCI Huntingdon puppies, accompanied by myself and staff handler Lisa Clinger, brought out so many smiles. Faces just lit up when we walked into the room. One student in a wheelchair remembered Tore from our first visit and Tore remembered him! Tore went right up to him again when we walked in, the student put his hand down to Tore and it was instant joy for both! The happiness on that little boy's face was incredible and overwhelming.

Our visits to the middle school reinforced for me, and for many, the importance of this program and these puppies. The students learned more about the need for and the importance of service dogs. It gave them a glimpse of how others' lives are so dramatically improved by the assistance of a service dog. But our visit also brought joy to many who so desperately needed a brief break from the reality of their own lives. These puppies gave many a reason to smile, a chance to cuddle and hug, and feel the unconditional love and acceptance that only a puppy can give. We are all looking forward to our next visit to school!

*Beth Linn
Records Specialist*

SCI Graterford

Graterford has dogs that reside in the Outside Service Unit that are used to scare the geese out of common areas of the institution. This past September, one of Graterford's nursing supervisors had inquired about the dogs due to the recent loss of her own dog. When Nursing Supervisor Ms. Kozack, visited the housing unit she took interest in our goose dog, Sophia. After permission from former Superintendent Link, Sophia was furloughed for the weekend. After that first weekend, Ms. Kozack shared that an instant bond was established between her and Sophia. One weekend visit soon turned in to every weekend and then in November, with the blessing of the superintendent, Sophia was officially adopted by Ms. Kozack. Both dog and owner are reportedly very happy.



*Jim Day
Unit Manager*

SCI Coal Township

The SCI Coal Township's FIDOS program, partnered with Mommy and Me Rescue, fosters and trains rescued dogs to prepare them for adoption. Mommy and Me Rescue recently rescued a "family" of collie mixes. The rescue stepped in when they heard about six dogs needing a home. Of those six rescued dogs, four are now participating in the FIDOS program.

Three brothers, Bowen, Comet and Remi, along with one year old, Blitzen, arrived at Coal Township to join FIDOS. Prior to being rescued, the dogs never wore a collar nor were they walked on a leash. They were very shy, however, the inmate handlers continue to work steadily to help them socialize with people and learn basic commands. All four dogs are very smart and have been quickly picking up basic skills and some tricks.



Blitzen is the oldest, one-year-old and has strong collie traits. He likes to "herd" people at times. He is shy at first but warms up quickly and is very loyal once attached to someone.

Remi is one of the five-month-old puppies. He has a big personality and absolutely loves belly rubs. As soon as you pet him he rolls over. He is very friendly with everyone he meets.



Bowen and Comet are also about five months old. They are both shy at first, but once they warm up they are very sweet and loving. They are very bonded, and the handlers continue to work on helping them be independent away from each other. They are also working on their socialization with various people throughout the institution to help them become more confident with people.



Young Volunteer at Mommy and Me Rescue



Recently, Miss K, the daughter of a Coal Township employee, decided she wanted to volunteer her time and help animals. Her parents thought this would be a great experience for her.

Miss K was aware of the FIDOS program and Coal Township so she decided she wanted to volunteer at Mommy and Me Rescue, the rescue partnered with the prison. Mommy and Me Rescue graciously accepted her offer.

During Miss K's first experience at the rescue she immediately fell in love and it seemed as though the dogs were feeling the same. Each dog was able to walk with her and play in the grassy area at the rescue site. We're pretty sure the dogs will be looking forward to each time Miss K visits the rescue.

Trisha Kelley
Superintendent's Assistant

Where Are They Now - Sage's Story



Sage

Sage

Definition: Wise through reflection and experience

In the December 2017 edition of All Paws on Deck, you were first introduced to a dog who completed the FIDOS program in 2016. This dog was found wondering the streets in Hazleton, Pa., after being abused. Her previous owner struck her in the head and poured acid on her right side. The horrific outcome left her right side scarred and collapsed her skull causing permanent blindness to her right eye. The court removed her from her owner's care and allowed Mommy and Me Rescue to take ownership. This provided a chance for rehabilitation. In November of 2016, she was enrolled in the FIDOS program at SCI Coal Township and given the name Faith. In the program, Faith worked with her inmate handler on basic training skills and socialization so she could learn to trust and hopefully be adopted.

After completing the four week training program, Faith was placed up for adoption by Mommy and Me Rescue. She was quickly adopted.

Faith went through multiple name changes during her journey to adoption, including Daisy, Winnie, Hope and Faith. Her new family changed her name to Sage, which means "wise through reflection and experience." It's a fitting name for a dog that has overcome many hurdles.

Despite the horrors she endured with her previous owner, Sage continues to be very sweet and lovable. She has a bouncy personality and loves to play with her step-brothers, Duke and Hoss, both Rottweilers who are compassionate therapy dogs. When she is not playing with her toys, going for walks or enjoying the beach on vacation, you'll find her sleeping with her brothers.



Hoss, Duke, Sage

As Sage became acclimated to her new family and home, she began therapy dog training. Eight months after her adoption, Sage passed her Therapy Dogs International (TDI) test, on the first try, with flying colors! She has been an official therapy dog since August 2017. Her friendly disposition and great temperament makes her a great addition to her owner's TDI team. She's a real natural.

Sage enjoys kids and has been involved with reading programs and afterschool programs at Shamokin Area School District. Sage gets along with all dogs, cats and even horses. Sage is a great example of a dog's ability to overcome significant abuse. She continues to do wonderfully since being adopted and looks forward to all of her new adventures in her Furever home.



Swat H Wilson

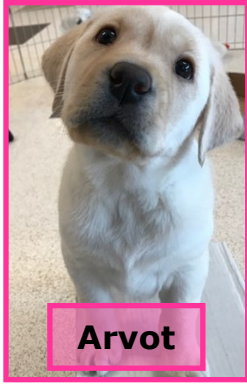
What's in a name? SWAT – for Swat, his name is an acronym for Special Wags And Tenacity. At first glance he looks like a gargoyle, but he is actually a 1½-year-old combination Pit Bull/Bull dog full of spunk and vigor. He is a graduate of WAGs at SCI Chester program. Swat is special, easy to please, loves to give kisses and is full of wags and tenacity.

When I took Swat home he knew basic commands. I was able to meet with one of his trainers, who really invested a lot of himself into Swat. He was able to let me know Swat's likes/dislikes, temperament, how he will communicate his needs and how to further his training. This information has been extremely invaluable!

From day one, Swat is special and has been a joy in our family. He has adapted wonderfully...then again, we also have adapted to Swat. When he is not sleeping, he can be found chewing on a bone or running around the house willy-nilly, letting no one forget that **he is there**. He enjoys car rides so much that if you open your car door...Wham! You suddenly have a co-pilot. Wherever we go, he gains a following. At a recent trip to a pet store, everyone that we came across wanted to meet and pet him and he was very accommodating. I am thankful every day to the people in WAGs at SCI Chester program and that Swat took a chance with me!

Gina Orlando
Central Office

SCI Smithfield



Arvot

At Smithfield, we currently have 16 handlers and three puppies. We are also getting more staff volunteers that are able to assist in the outside socialization for the puppies. We are excited to welcome newer staff volunteers to the program. With the help of the staff, the puppies have made numerous elementary and middle school visits exposing them to many children at one time. The puppies are taken to Raystown Lake to swim and boat, sporting events, nursing homes and in homes with other animals. The inmate handlers take the puppies everywhere in the institution. They make regular visits to the special needs unit and medical department. The handlers take pride in their work and contribution to something positive.



Hunts



Jedi

Hunts came to Smithfield just before Christmas. Arvot arrived at Smithfield in January. He is the sole survivor of his litter and captured the hearts of everyone here. In April, Arvot and Hunts both completed their four-month evaluations with Canine Partners for Life. They both passed with flying colors. The evaluations that day were done on the housing unit with many distractions, yet they both were successful.

Jedi came to SCI Smithfield in January from another placement. Jedi is a 13-month-old black lab. He is still struggling with his evaluations, but is making great progress with his handlers.

Sawyer, a SCI Smithfield favorite, left us to move on to the breeding program as a stud.

Once he finishes that phase, he will then return to the kennel for his service training.

The program continues to make a positive impact on both staff and inmates at SCI Smithfield.

Kammy Laird
School Principal



Sawyer

SUMMER PET SAFETY TIPS

Beat the heat and keep your pets safe this summer!



SCI Chester

The Story of Big Red

Big Red is a four-year-old mastiff mix who was surrendered to a North Carolina shelter when his family decided they could no longer care for him, especially since he was heartworm positive. Big Red had been with his family since he was a puppy. He had been in the shelter for months, confused waiting for his family to return to him...until he was found by WAGS volunteers during their annual "Clear the Shelter" event. Big Red's life changed the moment they laid eyes on him, and within days he was on the transport van to Pennsylvania to be vetted and then placed in the "WAGS at Chester" program. During his three weeks in Chester, he passed his Canine Good Citizenship test and was adopted immediately upon his release! Big Red now has two human brothers and a dog sister! Big Red is the perfect example of why the wonderful volunteers at WAGs Rescue started their organization all those years ago!



In December, WAGs ran a t-shirt design contest. The purpose of the contest was to come with a t-shirt the inmates could wear that would be able to identify them as dog handlers. The front of the shirt (L) and the back of the shirt identifies them as a

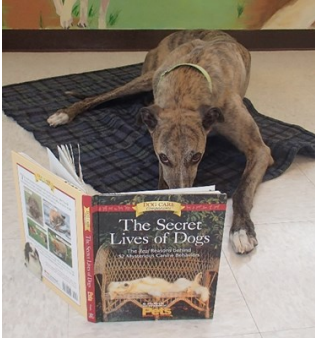
Our fearless trainer, Ms. Lisa Berkenstock (or Ms. Lisa), is the owner of My Pet's Teacher. She has been instrumental in shaping the WAGs program at SCI Chester. Ms. Lisa is skilled in behavior modification and training for both canines and felines. She continues professional development regularly and enjoys learning as much as she can about the species with which she works. Ms. Lisa is committed to improving the relationship between people and their pets and educating the public on animal-friendly methods. Ms. Lisa believes that training should not be a chore, but an opportunity for a learning and bonding experience between the different human and their dog.

Please contact Program Coordinators Mandee Quinn and Ryanne Piorko with any questions about their program.

Mandee Quinn
Administrative Officer



SCI Benner Township



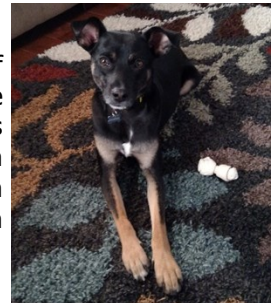
There are a lot of unfortunate myths associated with shelter animals. Even though they end up at the shelter through no fault of their own, some people see them as damaged or having something wrong with them. However, the truth is, they are just as loving, smart and loyal as any other dog. Those who are able to see their potential know these compassionate and forgiving animals are capable of anything. SCI Benner Township's "A Dog's Tale from Jail" has recently added a fifth dog position to its shelter pet program. To date, we are happy to say our program has helped in adopting 55 shelter dogs to their FURever homes! The program continues to provide shelter dogs with the skill set to show potential adopters just how wonderful, loveable and amazing shelter dogs are.

The dogs we have at Benner Township are all rescues from different backgrounds. The program has had a large number of greyhounds, which come from Nittany Greyhounds. Most of these dogs have had extensive racing backgrounds and not much of a life outside of a small kennel. This program allows them to be trained to be integrated into family living, ultimately giving them the love they've been so desperately deprived of. The other dogs come from Rondout Kennels in New York. This kennel brings dogs from southern states to be adopted. During the past year, there were some significant weather events in the south that displaced a significant amount of animals. This high influx of animals to local shelters put a strain on the system, so the kennels such as Rondout stepped in and brought these animals to the northern states for adoption.



Internally, the dogs provide a significant activity for the inmates tasked to train them. The handlers assigned a dog are responsible for their 24-hour care. The dogs reside in the inmate's cells and the inmate's feed, bathe and train them. The handlers are able to take their dogs on passes and are regularly seen in the chapel and in the library. Weekly, Benner Township has a trainer that comes in to oversee the dogs training as well as their progression. More often than not, the trainer is amazed to see how far these sweet dogs have come with the hands on care of their handlers. Additionally, the dogs are utilized inside the institution on the special needs unit and the residential treatment unit.

Animals are not only able to form a special bond with humans, they provide a sense of security and emotional support that can help people overcome difficult times or cope with fears and insecurities associated with anxiety, loneliness and depression. This is apparent with the joy that these dogs bring, not only the handlers, but the inmates on the all of the housing units. The dogs at SCI Benner Township have found their way in the hearts of several staff members who have welcomed our dogs into their homes with open arms.



*Abbey Nelson
Unit Manager*

Peanut Butter Banana Ice Cream Recipe

32 oz of plain yogurt
2 ripe bananas
1/8 cup of honey
1/2 cup of organic peanut butter

Instructions

Mash bananas in a large bowl. Add in peanut butter, yogurt and honey and mix well. Pour the mixture into a freezer-safe container. Place in the freezer for several hours or until frozen.



SCI Muncy

For this edition of All Paws On Deck, we solicited content from our inmate dog handlers. Specifically, we asked the handlers to write about what the program means to them and what the good things are about the program. We gave inmates the freedom to write about whatever they thought was positive, and we allowed anonymous submissions in hopes of getting honest feedback.

Since the inception of the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) program at SCI Muncy, we have stressed that the program is strictly about producing quality service dogs. The program is not designed to make inmates feel good, and handlers are not selected based on whether the program would benefit them, but rather whether they would benefit the program. The inmates understand that the program has a tangible purpose, but it can still have intangible perks.

Here are some testimonials from inmate dog handlers at SCI Muncy:



"For me, the smiles and joy the ladies get when they see my dog in the diversionary treatment unit and the behavior management unit (BMU) is a positive. Just holding the puppy or letting them stand by the door truly makes a difference. On the BMU, the ladies love the attention from the dogs and to be honest the dogs are who everyone wants to see, including staff. It's not just about me." - Inmate S. S.



"It gives me a sense of purpose. It teaches patience and compassion. The unconditional love the puppies bless us with every day. And most important it allows me to give back to the community on my road to recovery and redemption." - Inmate C. K.

"During the 46 years I've been here, the CPL puppy program is the absolute best program ever. I have been in the program for 15 years, and I'm forever grateful for this rare opportunity. I've learned as much from the puppies as they have learned from me. Happiness truly is a warm puppy." - Inmate M. D.

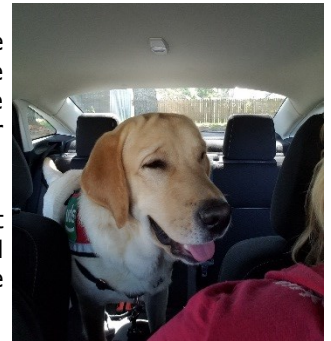


"The CPL program allows those of us who are serving long sentences to give something back to the outside world. We have all done something to take away from others but (the CPL program) is how we can start to restore the community. We know that our work with the dogs will provide a real benefit to people who need it. People with serious disabilities, kids and the elderly are vulnerable and providing a service dog to a person like this is a way to start to think about ways to help others instead of hurting them. I hope that my work in CPL at Muncy can make a difference, even if it is just for one person." - Anonymous

*Elias Stevens
Unit Manager*

SCI Pine Grove

The last few months have been busy for our T.A.I.L.S. pups. We are reinforcing the commands that they have been working on for the last 15 months. Our pups are scheduled to return to UDSF in June 2018. This is going to be a sad time at SCI Pine Grove. Our handlers have given statements as to how they are going to feel when our dogs leave:

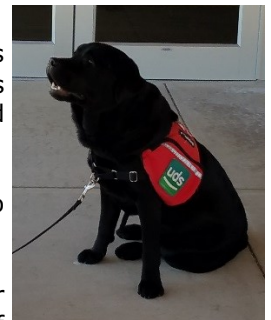


- When Polar goes back to UDS, everyone in the prison will miss him. He brings a lot of happiness to inmates and staff. I will miss training him and working toward making him a service dog. I will also feel good knowing he is going to help someone live a better life.
- It is kind of upsetting Packer has to leave after we have had him for so long. It is good to know that he is going to help somebody one day though.
- It is bittersweet that Packer will be leaving soon. You forge a bond with the dogs while they are here, so it is sad to see them go. On the other hand you know that they will impact someone's life for the better, so it makes it all worth it.
- When the dogs leave I'll be sad and happy at the same time. I'll be sad because I have been with this dog for 18 months and we built a bond together; and I'll be happy because I know the dog is going to get more training and go work with someone who needs him. I look at it like you send your kid off to college. You don't want them to go, but they're going to get better and learn more.
- Yes, somebody's time is up and his name is North. North has been with me since he was two months old. I'm truly going to be sad watching my best friend go and the people that got to see him every day will too.
- When Kato leaves, it will be a bittersweet moment for me. I will be happy that he will be able to help someone, but as his co-trainer it will hurt somewhat because we have grown together by me teaching him commands and Kato teaches me about myself with patience. I thank Kato and the UDS personnel for coming into my life and giving me the opportunity to help Kato help someone live life.
- Well, of course I'm going to be sad about Kato leaving. He's become part of my life and I'll never forget him. Training him since he came into my care at 8 weeks old he has taught me a lot about myself and about how to be mindful and patient. I only hope that he will go out in the world to impact someone else's life as he has done in mine. I wish the best for Kato and his new owner.



Staff members are also going to miss these dogs as we have seen them on a daily basis for the last 15 months. We refer to their time here as "high school" and now they will be off to "college" and bigger and better things. All of the dogs have shown individual personalities. Staff members stated the following:

- It's going to feel like something is missing. As a dog owner, it's comforting having them here. In a negative environment, it's refreshing to see the positive impact that the dogs have and the good the handlers do in order to give back to the community.
- It is going to be sad, but we know that they are going on to serve a higher purpose.
- I have become attached to this group of dogs, as they have made my days brighter when I was not feeling happy or in the mood to be productive. I love these dogs as if they were my own and know that they are truly going to make a difference in someone's life. My wish is that all four of these dogs are successfully placed within the UDSF program.
- I have watched these dogs grow from puppies and I feel that each and every one of them have a purpose in life. They have helped me through many trying times in the past year, and I am anxious to see what help they will bring to the people with whom they are placed.



Tammy Delosh
Corrections Counselor II

Christina Smith
DATS II

SCI Retreat

"We are so happy to be a part of this program and work with SCI Retreat. This program has an amazing impact on the shelter as well as the prison. We have had tremendous success with the program thus far. Thirteen of our dogs have entered this program. Ten of these dogs have been adopted and one is scheduled to be adopted in the next month. Two of our dogs, who are a bonded pair, are still at our shelter and are getting closer to being moved to our adoption floor. Our SPCA staff love this program and love seeing our dogs have time out of our shelter and spend time with new people in a new environment. We are very happy to see our dogs have learned more commands and are for the most part, better behaved than when they started with us. When we speak to our community about this program, they are very interested to learn more as well as excited that we have this program to offer to our animals. I believe the program has had a positive impact on all parties including the community. We look forward to continuing the program with the amount of success and adoptions and maintaining such a wonderful partnership with SCI Retreat."



Recently adopted from the left are Derpy, Chevelle and Matthew.

Linni

Animal Care Supervisor, SPCA of Luzerne County



SCI Retreat recently held an art logo contest to have the inmate population get involved. This was our selected winner!

We are looking to utilize this logo in our correspondence that is related to the program. We are also exploring avenues to create various styles of clothing and travel mugs. The funds raised would go directly back to the SPCA of Luzerne County.

Todd Kolbicka
Activities Manager

SCI Frackville



Lobo and his brother, Wally (who still needs adopted), were the only two dogs rescued from a home in Florida due to unfit housing conditions and all the other dogs were surrendered. Lobo and his brother are Husky mixes that are very cautious around others and have taken some time to warm up. Lobo has found a forever home and is doing great there. He was adopted April 30, 2018.



This is Finn. He was one of Frackville's dogs that was a hurricane dog from Florida. He was one of the favorites. He currently has a wonderful forever home in Wayne, Pa. His forever home describes him as the most lovable little spirit that has made their family complete.

Stacy Dowd
Unit Manager

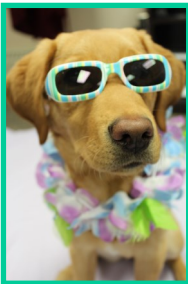


SCI Laurel Highlands

The puppies at SCI Laurel Highlands have been very busy. They can be seen daily around the campus showing off their skills and bringing smiles and snuggles to the general population housing units, the hospital, personal care unit and the restricted housing unit. Many staff volunteers take the puppies on outings in the community so that they can learn to behave in public. There have been outings to the Pittsburgh Zoo, a train ride, many school and daycare visits and visits to nursing homes. Puppies have also attended the Cambria County Backpack program to help pack food for children who would otherwise not have enough to eat on the weekends. In addition, many staff take puppies on overnight and weekend visits to their homes. One of our staff even took a puppy on a weekend trip.

In addition to the puppy activities, we at Laurel Highlands took part in a fund raising activity for Canine Partners for Life (CPL) – “Dogs Day Off.” The reward for raising the most money was the honor of naming a CPL puppy. We are proud to say that the staff, families and friends of SCI Laurel Highlands did indeed, raise the most money during this campaign. We are so excited to be able to name a puppy! Stay tuned for the name...

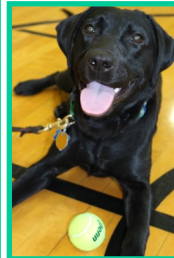
An update on the puppies currently at LAU:



Vida – We can’t really call her our “baby” anymore. Vida has been growing by leaps and bounds! She is so sweet and cute, though. It is impossible not to smile when she is around. Vida is doing amazing things in her training. She picks things up very quickly and seems eager to practice what she has learned.

Ditto – Ditto is also one of our alumni. While Ditto was not selected as a service dog and was released from the program, she is doing exciting and amazing things. Ditto was adopted by one of the prison’s employees and is now being trained as a search and rescue dog. Way to go, Ditto!

Elsa – Elsa is our quiet girl. She is very sweet and gentle and is doing well in learning her commands. She also passed her 12-month evaluation, and she recently returned from a visit to a community home.



Mags – Unfortunately, Mags will not be able to be a service dog due to some genetic issues. She is small, but her personality is huge! She is always happy and loves attention. At present, she is being evaluated for possible training as a home companion dog.



Sunny’s Birthday Party

Sunny – She sure lives up to her name! With an enthusiastic personality, Sunny is always up for some snuggles. She is very obedient, and is doing extremely well with learning and practicing commands. She has passed her 12-month evaluation and continues to progress.

Kenzie – Kenzie is one of our former puppies. She is in a community home right now being assessed for the CPL breeding program. Kenzie will make a great mama!

We here at Laurel Highlands are very invested in our dog program, and we are proud of each of our dogs. Thanks go to the inmate handlers for their hard work in teaching the commands, and thanks to our staff and community volunteers who give of their time to make the outside training possible. We look forward to many more great things from our puppies!

*Dana Benn
CPL Puppy Volunteer*


Trivia

1. What dog breed does not bark, but does make yodeling noises?
2. What dog breed gets its name because it strikes out with its front paws when fighting?
3. Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through what?
4. Every known dog breed except this one has a pink tongue. What is this breed?
5. What is the name of the dog from "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"?
6. What is the smallest breed of dog recognized by the American Kennel Club?
7. What is the largest breed of dog recognized by the American Kennel Club?
8. Dalmatians, with all those cute black spots, are born what color?
9. Chewbacca, the hairy Wookiee in the Star Wars movies, was inspired by George Lucas' what?
10. Why do dogs and wolves yawn?
11. What breed is known as the smallest member of the sporting-dog family?
12. What dog breed appeared in the world Guinness book of world records as the rarest dog in the world for three consecutive years in the very early 1970's?
13. What is the smallest breed of dog used for hunting?
14. Dogs are mentioned at least how many times in the Bible?
15. What is the name of the dog on the Cracker Jack box?
16. Do dogs favor one paw (left or right) over the other?
17. What was the name of the dog in TV show "The Partridge Family"?
18. What kind of dog did the TV Series detective Columbo have?
19. Can you name the 7 different groups/classes of dog?

Submitted by: Trisha Kelley, SCI Coal Township

Answers on page 19




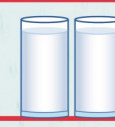

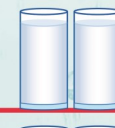


Does Your Pet Have a Drinking Problem?




1FOR1


Your pet needs 1 ounce of water per pound of body weight each day!

WATER in 8 oz. glasses

 10 lbs. =	
 20 lbs. =	
 40 lbs. =	
 80 lbs. =	

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SCI Greene



Here at SCI Greene we are currently training four pups of varying ages. Nike, Greta, Brooke and Fausta are all hard at work learning new skills. Higley, the poodle, returned to CPL permanently on April 9th. Brooke had the opportunity to spend the month of April in a community home. In Brooke's place, we are training a yellow lab named Katy. Nike is due to graduate from Greene soon, and Greta will be graduating in the Fall.

RECENT EVENTS!!



On January 17, 2018, Canine Partners for Life puppies Nike, Higley and Brooke spent the afternoon visiting residents of Evergreen personal care home.



On March 1, 2018, the Waynesburg University Department of Fine Arts hosted a chamber works concert. Brooke and Fausta listened to performances from the chamber orchestra, brass ensemble, woodwind ensemble, beauty and barbershop quartets.



On April 30th, several of our CPL pups visited Waynesburg University before finals to help relieve stress for students. Students reported that they enjoyed learning about service dogs and spending time with the pups.



On Saturday, April 28, SCI Greene and SCI Laurel Highlands CPL puppies and volunteers participated in the Inaugural Kids Fest at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Each Friday our volunteer, Lisa Schwarz, takes a pup to Waynesburg Central Elementary School to read with second and fourth graders for the "Book Club" which is fashioned after an adult book club. Lisa reads individually with the students with the help of a pup.



CPL Updates on our pups!

Lucee - Is being considered for a new placement and will possibly make the summer class.

Bingo - Smart, loves to work, potential wheelchair partnership.

Kona - Enjoys working.

Cassidy - Discharged due to health concerns. She has been adopted and is settling in nicely with Ellen, SCI Greene volunteer! She goes right into "work mode" when a cape-like bandana is placed on her.

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*

SCI Somerset

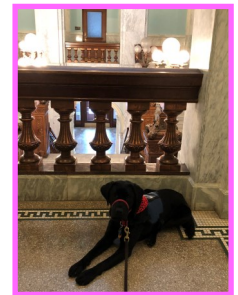
At SCI Somerset, the Canine Partners for Life dog program is currently training nine dogs in hope that they will all someday become full service dogs. The dogs range in ages from nine-week-old Eva to 17-month-old Meko. With the range of ages and them being at various stages in training, there is never a dull moment here and our handlers are always on their toes welcoming new challenges. In addition we currently have two visitors, Cleveland and Rocco, that we are housing temporarily until they get taken to the CPL program at SCI Albion.



Eva

We recently hosted our fourth litter of puppies through our Whelping Program. We welcomed Aspen's litter of two yellow Lab puppies, Rocco and Eva. They were three weeks old when they arrived at SCI Somerset on March 12, 2018. We not only had the opportunity to watch them grow and mature, the staff and inmate handlers had the privilege of naming the female puppy of the litter. Many names were submitted but when the voting ended, it was Eva that won. The name Eva was submitted by one of our inmate handlers in memory of his Grandmother. Rocco will continue his training at SCI Albion, while Eva will remain here for training, until they "graduate" to the next level of training at about 16 months old. They will then return to CPL for further specialized training. Our Whelping Program is tentatively scheduled to get our next litter in early June. Until then we will catch up on sleep and continue to prepare for their arrival.

Another first has occurred for SCI Somerset's CPL dog program, we are currently training Olivia to be a "Court House Dog". Olivia was in training to be a full service dog but she ended up not meeting the height and weight requirements, so CPL decided that she was well suited to be placed as a "Court House Dog" and we have transitioned her training to that appropriate for her new job. Her main purpose there will be a comforting friend to children that have to testify and help them get thru that difficult time. This is a great opportunity for us to do something new and a perfect assignment for her because of her love for children.



Olivia at the Somerset County Court

A few weeks ago we welcomed Mystic into our family. She is a one year old yellow Lab who was displaced from her home. She is now reunited with her sister, Leia, a black Lab we have been training since she was a puppy. It was a very happy reunion and you could tell they recognized and missed each other.



Ella at Christmas

We have tremendous support here from our great volunteers and our inmate population continues to support our dog program thru "Doggie Bag" fundraisers. Since the start of our program in 2015, our inmate population has completely funded our dog program through our inmate organization known as "S.O.A.R", or Somerset Organization for the Advancement of Residents. The most recent "Doggy Bag" sale raised almost \$4,000 for the program and these funds are used to pay for all food, treats, grooming supplies and toys for the dogs, as well as all other necessities needed from time to time. Our number of volunteers has grown to 15 community volunteers and more than 10 staff members that are very dedicated to this program. We could not do what we do without the support of the administration, staff, inmates and our community volunteers. We truly owe them all a big thank you!

Canine Partners for Life is an organization that continues to train dogs to the highest standard and continues to be one of the leading Service Dog Training organizations in the north east. It truly is a blessing to be part of this great organization. They continue to keep us very busy and we will continue to look forward to the next adventure they have for us.

*Dave Pisczek
Unit Manager (Acting)*

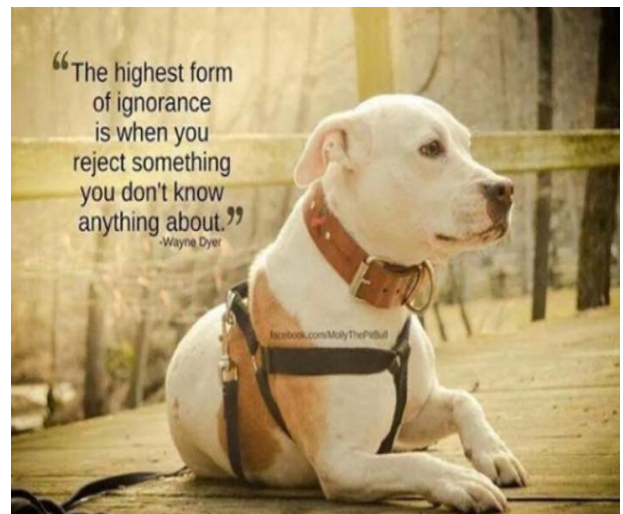
Inmate Testimonials:

Hello, I am in inmate currently housed on an honor block at SCI Forest. I am part of a great and positive program titled P.A.W.S (Pups are Worth Saving). Since being in the program, I started to notice a change within myself, a positive change that is. I've learned a lot about training dogs. I also learned a lot about myself. Training dogs takes a lot of work, consistency, patience and a kind heart. Since being in this program I am now consistent in whatever I do. I now have patience and a new outlook on life. We're taking in dogs that have been abused, neglected, abandoned or might have aggression problems. We have a great team that train all the dogs together to rehabilitate them and give them a second chance. I can relate to the dogs personally because I had problems in life that led me here, to be rehabilitated. We all also deserve a second chance. In order to learn from them, we have to retrain ourselves. I once read a book called "Transforming Pain to Power," and in that book the author stated "We all have past experiences that are a part of our story. We own our story, our story does not own us. Our future possibilities do not have to be limited by our past or even our present circumstances." That is something I will always carry with me as those words are empowering. So while we are shaping dogs to not be limited by their past, even training them to greatness such as being a service dog, we also are shaping ourselves. That is why I am so glad to be a part of the P.A.W.S program. The program has so much to offer. It gives us an opportunity to change. It has been unreal to me because we are actually changing lives and helping lives of others. We train dogs for people with disabilities, people who are down in life, dogs for women, men and children, and simply just pets. We are training dogs to make their lives better and also the lives of others. I am honored to be a part of something special. This is something I will continue when I earn being released from prison. I will pursue this dream and continue to change lives for the better. I want to thank everyone who made this possible for us and everyone who gave ME a second chance. - Inmate Bryon H.

"In the beginning I guess I didn't have these expectations. To become more responsible or the best handler I can be. For I just thought it would be an easy way to do my time in jail, yet I found so much more."

Anonymous, SCI Mahanoy

Canine Partners for Life deserves a tremendous amount of gratitude and recognition. If it was not for this program, thousands of people couldn't experience the love and freedom that these dogs give. Not only do the recipients gain more independence with a service dog, but during the first year of training these little furballs, teach us many things. They teach us what it feels like to love, to have compassion and give us a sense of purpose again. I personally would like to say that I would be the person I am today without being a part of this program. But honestly I wouldn't. I have a reason to get up in the morning and do what I do. Someone out there needs my pup that I am training. My purpose is to help a total stranger live a more independent life. This gives me a chance to make amends with society and to also give back.
- Anonymous, SCI Albion



"The thing that surprised me the most is that when I came to jail I lost almost everything and everyone in my life so I sort of became bitter. I lost feelings for the people I still have in my life, but when I wake up and I have a puppy looking at me like I am the greatest thing in the world, and that tail is moving a mile a minute, it makes you look at things a little differently, and when they finally get adopted and leave, a little piece of me leaves too, but I am happy knowing that I had a hand in finding that dog a home." - Anonymous, SCI Mahanoy

What's Happening In the Community

Just took our new adopted puppy from Mahanoy to the vets for her first appointment last night, and Dr. Mickie (Brookside Animal Hospital-Orwigsburg) said she just loves the dogs from the prisons. She said they are well-trained, good dogs with shots/spayed/neutered/chipped, and she loves seeing them in her office. She said it is an excellent program and the inmates do a great job training them. Daisy (now Piper) came into Mahanoy four days after we had to put down one of our dogs due to sudden illness (brain tumor). I called my wife about her and she had papers in that day. She's been a great addition to our household since Thanksgiving eve. I'm the fourth employee in my department to adopt a puppy here at Mahanoy. I just wanted to pass on some good feedback from the community about the dog program here at Mahanoy. Thanks. - John S.



Reentrant Adam Gondol is in the SIP/HOPE program here at the Scranton Community Corrections Center (CCC). The Scranton CCC has set up an adoption program with "True Friends" which houses abandoned dogs. Here at the Scranton CCC, we adopted "Maggie" the beagle. She was with us for about four months, where she lived the life of luxury. She was spoiled by staff and reentrants alike. While Maggie resided with us, a designated group of reentrants took responsibility for walking and bathing her. When reentrant Adam Gondol reached "non residence" status and successfully left our center. He decided that he wanted to adopt Maggie. A background check was conducted by True Friends and he was allowed to become the proud owner of our first mascot. Gondol brings Maggie back to the center for weekly visits, where she is fawned over. The Scranton CCC is in the process of adopting our second mascot and the process will begin again. We are proud to participate in this program knowing that we are saving animals lives and providing them with caring and loving homes.

Submitted By: Facility Coordinator Jeffrey James, Scranton CCC



Firework Pet Safety Tips

1. Don't take your pets along to fireworks displays — they'll be more safe and happy in the security of their home.
2. Prepare a safe "den" for your pet. If they choose to hide under the bed or somewhere else in the house, allow them to do so.
3. Feed your pet before displays begin and keep a special chew or treat on hand to serve as a distraction from flashes and noise.
4. Be sure your dog is tagged or micro chipped in case he or she gets loose or

runs away.

5. Turn on the TV or play music to help drown out outside noises.
6. Employ products that help to alleviate anxiety—ask your vet about options if your pet's anxiety is severe.
7. Try not to reward anxiety with extra attention. It may be hard not to cuddle or fawn over your pet when he or she is scared, but do your best to ignore anxious behavior or practice distraction techniques to turn their focus from commotion.



**Fireworks are not fun for pets.
Keep your pet safe through July 4th celebrations.**

SCI Cambridge Springs

On May 12, SCI Cambridge Springs held its Annual PAWS Walk. This fundraising event was put on by the inmate dog handlers to raise money for donation to Canine Partners for Life (CPL) and The ANNA Shelter, a non-profit animal shelter based in Erie, Pa. Inmates attending the event had an opportunity to meet with volunteers and their dogs to learn about different working dog breeds. They also were able to walk a dog from the SCI Cambridge Springs' CPL Program around the track in the inmate yard.

Special Guests:

- Jennifer Dennis, CPL Training Coordinator
- Ruth Prest, Lori Jez, and Deb Morvay, CPL Volunteers
- Staff from SCI Cambridge Springs and SCI Albion
- Dr. Zane Cheropovich, Veterinarian at the Crawford County Humane Society
- Community Volunteers



K-9 Guests:

- Keane, Belgian Tervuren – agility and conformation.
- Murphy, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel – therapy dog and a member of the HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response Team.
- Pirate, Border Terrier – agility and performing tricks.
- McLean, Labradoodle and Wyeth, Labrador retriever – registered therapy dogs through the National Alliance of Therapy Dogs.
- Jet, Labrador retriever – raised by inmates at SCI Cambridge Springs and released from CPL.
- CoDa, Labrador retriever – raised by inmates at SCI Cambridge Springs and currently completing training to become a full service dog.
- CPL dogs from SCI Albion - Brettski, Bear and Fisher.



Rocco

At the time this article was written, there were four dogs at SCI Cambridge Springs who were being trained by the inmate dog handlers through Canine Partners for Life. The oldest, Chevy, is an 18-month-old black Labrador retriever. Chevy is currently awaiting kennel space at CPL to continue this training to become a full service dog. BeeGee is a 17-month-old black Labrador retriever who is leaving SCI Cambridge Springs on May 12th to be placed as a home companion dog. The newest arrivals, Cleveland and Rocco, were brought to SCI Cambridge Springs in April 2018. Cleveland is a five-month-old yellow Labrador retriever who came from Texas, and Rocco is a three-

month-old yellow Labrador retriever who came from SCI Somerset. Both dogs have begun their CPL training in hopes to become full service dogs with the assistance of the inmate dog handlers at SCI Cambridge Springs.

Jamie Schneider
Corrections Counselor



Cleveland

Trivia Answers: 01. The Basenji! / 02. The Boxer / 03. The pads of their feet / / 04. The Chow (It's tongue is jet black.) 05. Max / 06. The Chihuahua (It stands six to nine inches at the top of the shoulders and weighs two to six pounds.) / 07. The Irish Wolfhound (It stands 30 to 35 inches at the top of the shoulders and weighs 105 to 125 pounds.) / 08. White / 09. His dog Indiana (an Alaskan Malamute) / 10. As a sign of contentment / 11. The Cocker Spaniel / 12. The Shar-Pei / 13. Dachshunds (They are low to the ground, which allows them to enter and maneuver through tunnels easily.) / 14. 14 times / 15. Bingo / 16. Yes (According to tests made at the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems in Washington D.C., dogs and cats, like people, are either right-handed or left-handed; that is, they favor either their right or left paws.) / 17. Simone / 18. The Labrador Retriever / 19. Toys, Hounds, Herding, Sporting, Non-Sporting, Working, Terrier /

SCI Rockview



Meet our handsome Plott Hound mix, Luke. New Leash on Life USA pulled him from a kill shelter down south, before bringing him to Rockview. While he was not in training, his favorite past times were chewing on office chairs and sleeping. He was adopted by a Rockview employee and is continuing on with service dog training, while enjoying life on a farm.



Meet our good-looking Shepherd mix, Randy. He and his siblings were found in a box alongside a road in West Virginia. They were saved by Justice Rescue and partnering with New Leash on Life USA, Rockview was lucky enough to get him. He was the smallest of our batch of dogs, but he was the roughest and toughest of them all. While he was not in training, his favorite past times were giving sloppy kisses and plowing over the other pups. e was

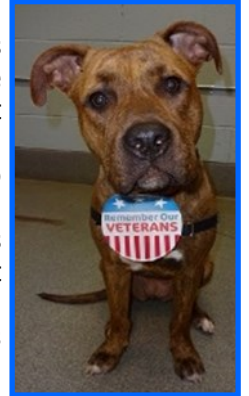
adopted by a lady in New Jersey who suffers from PTSD. He enjoys helping his new mom with emotional support, while visiting his former foster canine siblings weekly.

Meet our gorgeous Lab, Jessie. Hard to believe, but this sweet girl was severely neglected before New Leash on Life USA brought her to Rockview. When she first arrived, she was terrified of any human interaction. With the patience and love of her handlers, she slowly started allowing people



to come near her, eventually taking her on walks, outings, etc. It was quickly realized she would not be making it as a service dog. Her handlers and staff just focused on helping her to enjoy being a dog. Her favorite past times were playing in the snow and playing with her bestie and fellow prison pup, Dani. She was adopted by a local family and continuing to open up and trust more and more. She, too, enjoys her monthly Barkbox and going on walks with her new canine friends.

Meet our beautiful Pit mix, Dani. Unfortunately, she was a humane case at the start of her life but luckily New Leash on Life USA was able to scoop her up. She had some medical issues when she first arrived at Rockview, but with great vet care and lots of TLC, all that is a distant memory. While she was not in training, her favorite past times were visiting with kids and wrestling with her bestie, a lab mix name Jessie. She was adopted by a Rockview employee and now enjoys a monthly Barkbox and playing with her canine brother.

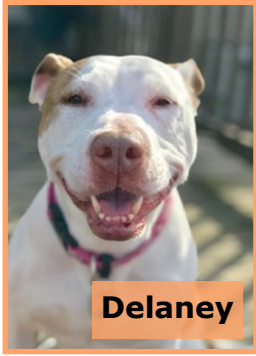


We were lucky enough to have this group of pups from March of 2017 to March of 2018.

The benefit of having these dogs at SCI Rockview has been more beneficial than anyone could have expected. Both staff and inmates have grown in the spirit of giving, learning patience and paying forward the joy we have experienced with the program.

*Diana Simpson
Medical Records Supervisor*

SCI Camp Hill



I joined the Hounds of Prison Education (HOPE) program as its new director in January of this year. When I was presented with the opportunity to submit an article for the PAWS newsletter, I was so overwhelmed with ideas; it was hard to get clarity. Do I brag about the dogs in our program and how special each one is to us? Do I try to explain how much the program means to our handlers? Should I ask adoptive parents to expound on their amazing HOPE dogs? I mean, I could write a novel about my own HOPE dog, Delaney! The poor girl was rescued from city streets, having suffered a puncture wound to her chest and various other injuries. After she recovered, she went into HOPE, but due to her anxiety and reactivity, had to be paroled from the program early; consequently, she came to me as a foster. I worked with Delaney and a HOPE trainer for two years to help her overcome her anxiety. It is because of the HOPE program and its commitment to training, that I've learned how to manage her behaviors, which gave me the confidence to finally

make dear Delaney my own. In working with her and the HOPE trainer, I was fortunate to experience firsthand the skills our handlers learn as we meet each week for our formal training sessions. This in itself is a beautiful process, and as our handlers get paroled, it's satisfying to know they have gained a wealth of knowledge about dog behavior and dog handling that they can then pass along to fellow dog lovers in their lives.

The training aspect of HOPE is one of my favorite benefits of the program. As a handler, one must acquire new levels of patience, as well as a deepening respect for another creature's limits and boundaries. Perhaps one of the best examples of the patience that canine training requires is the story of our HOPE dog, Trevor. He came to rescue as a terrified, feral dog. He was completely shutdown and avoided any human interaction whenever possible. Touching him made him cower and shake, even after he had been with his foster mom for months. Eventually, a space opened for him at HOPE and he joined the program in November 2016. As he gained confidence by mastering simple obedience skills, his handlers noticed Trevor becoming less fearful and more playful. He learned that chasing a ball was great fun! Gaining his trust has taken considerable time, but gradually over his first year he began to open up and enjoy life, but he still wasn't fond of human affection. I'm impressed with his handlers for sticking with him... It couldn't have been easy to have a cellmate that doesn't trust you and doesn't seem to



want you around. But with patience, consistency and respect for his limits, Trevor's current handler continues to see progress. Trevor no longer hugs the walls of the tier; instead he is learning to climb stairs. He doesn't always cling to his cell; he will now play with others in the crowded dayroom. Trevor has learned to look to his handler for affection, seeking it out, instead of disappearing in his crate. He now accepts human attention from people he knows, and has even garnered a fan club that he looks forward to greeting each day at the fence. Only this year we started taking Trevor on visitations throughout the prison campus! Recently, on a dental visit, his vet commented on his gentleman's soul and his good behavior. We celebrate these victories, but watching him continue to live in the prison without a forever family has been breaking our hearts. While the prison has given him structure, shelter, new skills and confidence, it is ultimately no substitute for a family to love. Trevor deserves a comfy couch, a favorite tree, toys of his own, a yard to roam and a world to explore with a person he adores. So, we've waited, and in the meantime we took Trevor for weekly outings, expanding his social skills with visitations around the prison, as well as regular outings to parks and the pet store. We plastered our social media with the progress of terrific Trevor.

Finally, our patience has paid off. Trevor has been on several home visits with his prospective adopters. The transition is slow, but he has already discovered a comfy couch and a favorite place at the top of the stairs in his new home. I'm writing this with tears in my eyes, because soon Trevor will be going home. He has found a patient family to love him. Our trainer has already spent an afternoon with them, teaching yet another HOPE family how to love a dog with anxiety. And I'm confident that HOPE will do right by Trevor, and send a trainer should his new family need services in the future.

I'm so proud of Trevor's handlers. I'm so proud of their patience. I'm very proud of our program.

*Mary Reichart
HOPE Program Director*

Dog Word Search Puzzle

Circle the names of the dogs in the word search puzzle.



Beagle	Weimaraner	Shepherd	Bulldog	Poodle	Schnauzer
Chihuahua	Pug	Dachshund	Mastiff	Terrier	Pointer
Spaniel	Greyhound	Retriever	Boxer	Pinscher	Maltese
Collie	Vizsla	Sheepdog	Pomeranian	Dalmatian	Bloodhound

D A U Y U B F F D H P I R H G A A P C G D P G
 O W L R O F L N Y O S U E V P N K E C G S O N
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 O B I Q Q S I C O K U V M O W I Y H L O A G F
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 S O A G E L G A E B D V D W T V P A P P E P V
 F M D Q V A C Z N M F K U E F I K L Z M R Y D
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 V H V R M B D F E H V V K U E M R L D G R



SCI Mahanoy

SCI Mahanoy's PUP Program recently expanded to nine puppies and 18 canine handlers. All handlers, and those on the waitlist for the program, were certified in Pet CPR by Think of Me Animal Rescue on Oct. 26, 2017. Some of our handlers have gone through the program twice. Since the program's inception in July 2016, SCI Mahanoy has serviced 132 puppies of all types. One puppy was found on the side of the road in a plastic bag with some health conditions and was rescued by one of our own SCI Mahanoy staffers and is doing wonderfully! Blue is truly a welcomed addition to the family who was so touched by his condition that they could not refuse to take him home! He and the other "fur babies" in the home act as if they have always been family.



Another of our more proud rescues is Miss Molly. She was tied to a post and was neglected and abused by her owner. She did not trust anyone, would not interact with the other dogs but at the same time, she was sweet and her love of life was visible just beneath the surface. Even after all she endured, with the consistent care and compassion she was shown, along with some overdue medical care she began to thrive! The "before and after" pictures of Miss Molly are worth a thousand words! She was adopted by a loving family in April.



We would like to share just one of the many heartfelt letters we received from a family regarding the PUP who chose them to be her "Forever Family":



"We just wanted to take a minute to say thank you for the time and effort that you put into training our Lucy. We were able to foster Lucy before she went into the program, she was extremely timid and afraid of literally everything. But my daughter just took to her. I don't think she was in the program two days when we realized we wanted to adopt her. But, we were really unsure of how she was going to be when she came out. We have three other dogs and didn't know if she would be comfortable with them.

From the first day we brought her home, she has been wonderful. She has more confidence but is still extremely sweet at the same time. She has become my daughter's best friend, she actually sleeps with her head on her every night. She plays with all of our other dogs.

I know it had to take a lot of time and patience to get her to where she was, and I just wanted to thank you for that. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. I know there are so many dogs in and out of the program so I am putting a picture of Lucy on here so you know which one she is.

My daughter drew you a picture of her and Lucy, she wants you to know that Lucy got a good home and is very loved.

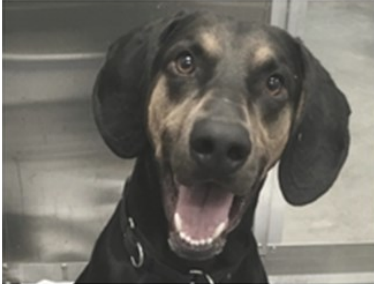
Again, thank you for everything you did! It is very appreciated."

Frank, Wendy & Allison

Christine Griffin
Unit Manager



SCI Fayette



It has almost been one year since SCI Fayette has "gone to the dogs" and opened our doors to our four-legged friends. To say this program has been a success on all fronts is an understatement. Since May 2017, we have successfully adopted out 12 dogs!

This article's submission will focus on the positive impact these animals have had on some of their handlers.

If you are interested in adoption, please contact Unit Manager Palmer or Unit Manager Knepper. We will be more than happy to get you an application for Humane Animal Rescue and answer any questions you may have about the dogs or the adoption process.

"I love being a part of the program because it feels so good to give the dogs obedience training so they can have a chance with a loving owner. Many of these dogs have had great struggles through their lives but yet still love the companionship and company of us unconditionally. I get great pleasure being able to wake up in the morning and have a happy dog ready to enjoy the day. The positive energy of these dogs gives me happiness and comfort in being in the place I am in. These animals haven't given up despite all they have been through, so their strength gives me hope in knowing that I can also overcome my obstacles. So far I've had five dogs and four of them have been adopted to their new home. It is hard to watch them go but at the same time I know they now have a permanent home and it's partly due to the work I put in with them. I thank the DOC and all involved parties for implementing the DAWG program and giving me this opportunity to be a part of it and I hope I am living up to the expectations of the program." – Robert



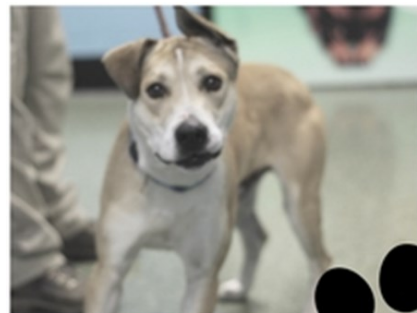
"Being part of the DAWG Program is very important to me and has taught me a lot about myself. I thought this program would be easier when I first started, but I quickly found out that caring for a dog is hard work and requires a lot of time. I have used this program to better myself as a man and a father. Responsibility is a major part of training and caring for a dog. I have to make sure he uses the bathroom when he needs to, no matter what the weather is like outside or how I feel. This goes for all of his needs and I have to put his needs before mine. Obedience training requires me to be consistent and have a lot of patience to ensure he obeys me and his new owner. I take this program very serious and I put my full effort into helping a dog become adoptable because I feel he deserves a chance to be part of someone's family. It gives me great joy knowing everything I do for a dog is helping his new owner have a member of their family that they can love. I have learned so much about myself through caring for a dog and realize I am capable of being a better person. I will use what I learned in the DAWG Program in all aspects of my life." – Dennis



"Being part of the SCI Fayette DAWG Program has been a fulfilling experience. It has given me a level of responsibility that has been missing during my incarceration. This program has taught me how to put other's needs ahead of my own. Having a dog while being in prison has been truly a wonderful gift. The companionship these dogs bring and the unconditional love they give, shine a bright light into such a dark and unpleasant place. Being part of this program has brought back a number of values that I got away from while I was involved in my negative activities. I have a great sense of caring and empathy for others. These dogs have been neglected, rejected and forgotten about by society. I can help give these special creatures a real chance at finding a loving and caring home. Having the opportunity to help train and care for one of the dogs has been a real blessing and a life changing experience." – Richard



*Kristin Jeffries
Psychological Services Specialist*



SCI Houtzdale

The dogs of Houtzdale's R.U.F.F. program have been very busy over the past several months. In November, Nico was able to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at SCI Houtzdale. The event was attended by over 200 staff and inmates and included many different activities to include public speakers, live music and a marching color guard. Nico was extremely well mannered and enjoyed greeting people that attended. During November, Nico also had the opportunity to visit a local school. During the visit, he attended a special education classroom where students had the opportunity to interact with him.



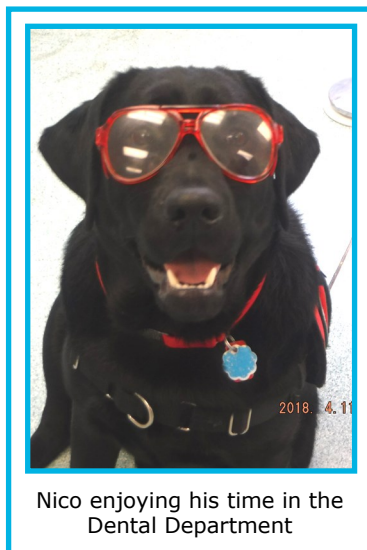
In December, Gideon attended a wrestling match. The meet was made up of over 75 children and their supporters. There were many distractions during the match; however, Gideon was able to remain focused on his training and avoid said distractions.

On January 10, 2018, Pennsylvania Adjutant General Anthony Carrelli visited SCI Houtzdale along with his staff to tour the Veterans Service Unit (VSU). During his visit, Nico and Samson were able to show off their skills, which left all guests very impressed. Additionally, guests had the opportunity to interact with the inmate handlers who were able to provide insight on their experience to date as members of the R.U.F.F. program.

In February, Dante made an appearance at a local Girl Scout meeting. Over 20 girls attended the meeting. While in attendance, Dante sat quietly and then was able to interact with the girls. He was well mannered and everyone in attendance enjoyed the visit.

United Disabilities Services (UDS) visited Houtzdale in February as well. The UDS staff escorted three puppies into the facility that were on their way to the Moshannon Valley Correctional Institution in Philipsburg, Pa., to begin their training. The R.U.F.F. program dogs were able to interact with Woody, Kodiak and Micah during the visit. This unique opportunity allowed the R.U.F.F. program dogs to interact with smaller puppies. UDS representatives remarked that they were pleased with the progress of Dante, Gideon, Nico and Samson as they continue their journey toward becoming service dogs.

In March, Dante, Sampson, Nico and Gideon were neutered. The UDS organization chose to have the R.U.F.F. program puppies neutered earlier than normal. This decision was made so that they could observe any behavior changes and determine how this behavior may affect their training regimens. During the initial two weeks following surgery, the dogs were on a strict rest and relaxation schedule. As their healing progressed, they were able to move about the institution again. They were able to quickly bounce back from their procedures and ultimately return to their normal routines. All four dogs have healed well and are back to bringing smiles to everyone they meet.



All four dogs have been actively attending various medical, activities, programs and educational classes throughout the week. The visits continue to serve as a useful training tool/exercise for the dogs. When the dogs become service dogs for an individual in the community part of their job may require them to sit in an office setting all day while their consumer works. Having the dogs sit in programming and classes allows for this type of training to occur.

*Alicia Swanson
Corrections Counselor II*

Samson demonstrates his skills for Anthony Carrelli, PA's 53rd Adjutant General.



SCI Mercer cont.



Also of note, in March all four dogs celebrated their first birthday. Nico and Gideon turned one on March 25, 2018, while Samson and Dante celebrated their first birthdays one day later on March 26, 2018. As the R.U.F.F. program continues to evolve, we are pleased to announce that the program will be receiving a fifth canine in May of 2018. Auggie will be joining the current group to begin his journey of one day becoming a UDS service dog.

Alicia Swanson
Corrections Counselor II



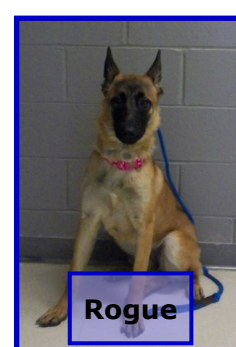
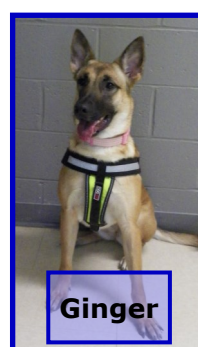
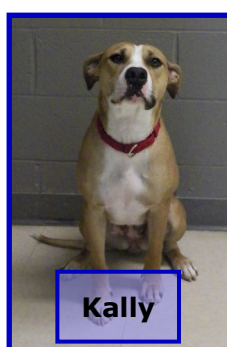
One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why. -Author Unknown



SCI Forest

Our most recent round of pups are going on to do some great things. We have a dog named Hank who will be going to work with a lady who has Multiple Sclerosis. MOJO, a Bernese Mountain dog with a big personality, is also going on to do big things. He will be going to the state of Indiana to work with a women with Multiple Sclerosis as well. A dog named Kally, with a loving personality, was named in honor of a talented, loving, young girl who lost her life too soon. She will go on to be adopted by a loving family. Ginger, a special case who won over the hearts of the handlers, will be going back to the shelter in hopes of being adopted. She came in with severe behavior issues, and for that special person, she will be the most loving dog ever. She loves to be pet, played with and to play. She has a high play drive and is really motivated to please her master. A small pup named Aiden is adopted by a staff member. He was a small dog with a big personality. Rogue, a Belgian Malinois puppy, is currently being fostered with our trainer, Paul Anthony. She was not quite ready for the prison hub bub.

Lastly, we trained a German Shepard named Finn for a PSP officer who was injured in the line of duty. He was trained to open doors, operate handicap buttons, walk with his wheel chair, launch his own ball, monitor is breathing, find someone for help and much, much more. That article can be seen in the DOC's official newsletter, "Correctional Newsfront."



Yvette Perrin
Unit Manager

SCI Mercer



Hi. My name is Lynx. I am a three-year-old male American bulldog mix. I am a lot better looking than my old pictures you may have seen around.

I love to play fetch with my toy ball. I like to be among people and give out lots of kisses. Many people see me as just this happy, energetic dog who just wants to play all the time.

I'm working on calming myself down with my trainer. I'm housebroken, only had a few accidents. I enjoy laying in my cage and would lay by your feet. I get up at 6:50 in the morning. Then I go to the bathroom. I'm a treat and toy ball motivated kind of dog. I am a very fun and loving dog who knows a few basic commands and am working on learning more at the CARE program. I get along with other dogs. Some dogs don't like that I jump up a lot because I just want to play. So if you want a best friend, I'm the dog for you. Come and check me out. We can spend some time getting to know each other.

Your buddy,
Lynx



Hi. My name is Westley. I am a two-year-old male West Highland Terrier mix. I was found as a stray in Sharon tied to a fence and painted pink. But in spite of that, I am an affectionate and fun-loving dog.

I am house-trained and crate-trained as well. I have all my basic commands down like sit, stay, come, down. I am working on a few more commands to make me a better-rounded pet. I love to cuddle and I give lots of kisses. I even get along with cats if you have them, as well as other dogs.

I've worked on leash walking, so we can take some nice long walks. And if you like, I love to play fetch as long as you want. If you would give me a chance, I can be the ray of sunshine on your cloudy days.

Love,
Westley

Adopted



Hello ... My name is Jaspie. I'm a cute four-year-old male Beagle-Basset mix. And I'm a very smart dog, if I say so myself. I am currently in training so I can be the best dog ever for somebody's pet. I

already know the commands sit, lay, stay and speak. I am housebroken.

I'm really great around people. I love when people pet me and play with me. Going on walks is great, and I don't even pull while being walked. I can get along with cats also. My favorite play game is tug with my rope. I enjoy playing fetch, too, and sometimes I just like to play tag-you're-it. Then I like to take naps. I go into my crate when I just need some alone time.



Hello there. My name is Leo. I'm a two-year-old male Terrier mix. I am a bit timid when I first meet you, but I become trusting quickly. I'm very friendly and love to play. I like toys and other friendly dogs. I enjoy walks with my caretakers both on and off leash. I'm housebroken and look forward to my daily routine. I will follow such commands as sit and come ... for treats, of course! I'm leaning to follow other commands at this time such as heel and fetching my toys by command, but also to return toys to my caretaker, again for treats of course!! I really enjoy my treats which really give me the incentive to learn and follow commands.

Please adopt me ... I will be a happy, loving pet!!!

Love,
Leo



SCI Mercer cont.



Hi. My name is Lucy. I'm an eight-year-old female Setter-Spaniel mix with very soft fur.

I was originally meant to be a hunting dog, but I ended up spending my entire life living behind a hardware store. Living outside has toughened me up. I am used to all types of weather and still love to watch and listen to birds. At my age, watching and listening is enough. That doesn't mean that I have no energy though. I love to go for walks and greet people and dogs. All those years chained up behind the store has made me eager to explore, sniff and have fun.

I used to have to rely on strangers to feed me, so I've learned to associate new people with food and affection. I love to be around all people and other dogs. I usually just hang out with them, but sometimes I'll do a lot of play bows and try to get other dogs to chase me. I am not a wrestler, and I stay away from rough play.

I'm not a chewer either. I've never had toys to play with, so toys don't interest me. I like simple things like spending time with my people, eating my meals and going for walks. I really love walks, and I don't pull on the leash. I am calm. I like to nap inside, but am always ready for another walk. I don't use the bathroom inside. I have recently learned a lot of basic obedience. I don't beg for food. I know sit, down, stay and to go into my crate. I have no problem being by myself.

If you want a calm and cuddly dog, then please adopt me. I don't cause any problems. No fuss with me. All the people I've met here love to have me around, and I love to be around them. I'm so thankful to have my basic needs met that I won't have any trouble transitioning to a new home. I want a new but final home to enjoy with people that love me.

Love,
Lucy

Adopted



Hello everyone. My name is Joey (AKA JoJo). I prefer JoJo. I'm a black and white male Pitt mix. I am four years old, and three of those years I was with Strayhaven. Let's just say I had a rough past.

Now that y'all know my name, age and a little about where I'm from, let me tell y'all a little about myself.

I like most dogs. I love to play ... balls, ropes and chew toys. I do them all. And I love to play tug and chase. I will run until your legs fall off. I also enjoy going on long walks. I'm very good on a leash. I do pull just a little maybe because I'm always in a rush. I am housebroken. I like to be taken out to use the bathroom twice in the morning, twice in the afternoon and once in the evening.

I'm a very loving dog. I so like having my belly rub downs. I love to jump up and give kisses. Now the jumping I need to work on. I also mouth off a little. I'm doing great with my commands: sit, down, lay and stay are the ones I am good with. I need a little help with others.

Thanks for taking the time to read my introduction. I'm on my way to becoming a great pet.

Adopted

Marcia Combine
Unit Manager