

June 2019

Volume 6: Edition 1



All Paws

On Deck



Take time to stop and smell the flowers!

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 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

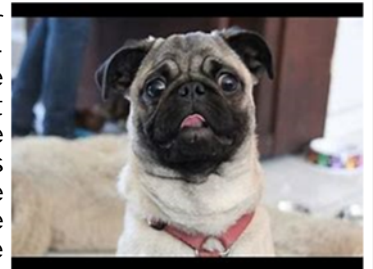
SCI Waymart



Puppies, puppies, and more puppies.....that's how it all began. You can go to many places and see four-legged companions--- hospitals, nursing homes, and most recently college campuses. Now, and for some time, puppies and dogs are at every Pennsylvania Department of Corrections institution and boot camp. It is ironic to look back now and remember all of the different reactions when superintendents were informed that they had to implement a puppy program. Some came willingly to the table of implementation, and others came kicking and screaming. Today, however, one would be hard pressed to find an institution where the "puppy or dog" program is not one of the highlights on the tour route. Some facilities have even taken to adopting a dog as a facility mascot.

The programs range from training dogs to be companions for veterans and others, to being therapy dogs, to rescue dogs from shelters that can be adopted by staff. They range from itsy, bitsy teeny weenie pups to Labrador retrievers, to great Danes, to Burmese mountain dogs and everything in between.

So what makes the program so important, and why was it so important for each facility to have a program? I am glad you asked that question. The programs are shared responsibility among the staff volunteers who socialize the dogs in the community, the inmate trainers, the external organizations that provide instructions on training, to local veterinarians who donate their time and services. It is a collaborative effort that has everyone working towards the common good. Bottom line is that these programs positively influence the culture of a facility, result in job opportunities for reentrants, and provide much needed services and smiles for most, if not all, who are exposed to the puppies.



It has been wonderful to see the programs come full circle and to have had a role in this initiative.

Shirley R. Moore Smeal
Executive Deputy Secretary

"It's not what we have in life, but who we have in our lives that matters"
Credit: ShakePaws.com

10th Issue Fun!

In honor of the tenth issue of *All Paws On Deck*, I have decided to have a little fun with it. I have created trivia questions that reference all of the articles, in all ten newsletters published (including this one) and one question for each institution that has/has had a dog program. This means to be able to answer the questions, you may need to look back at previous editions. Previous newsletters can be found at: <https://www.cor.pa.gov/About%20Us/Newsroom/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>. To help I have hints as to which newsletter the answers can be found later in this newsletter. Have fun and enjoy reminiscing through the past editions. ~ Deanna Stager

1. How many institutions did APOD start with and how many current institutions are there?
2. SCI Pine Grove named one of their dogs Deora. Who was Deora in honor of?
3. How long was Madison's journey at SCI Camp Hill prior to being adopted?
4. They Called Me Oscar...In 2015 a deaf dog named Oscar was adopted from SCI Graterford. What did his forever family change his name to?
5. What was SCI Frackville's dog Feye dressed up as for Halloween in 2016?
6. In 2018 SWAT was adopted from SCI Chester. What is SWAT an acronym for?
7. SCI Albion's goose dogs Steel and Dixie were first trained at what institution?
8. In 2015 SCI Forest made the front page of the Tri-County Sunday newspaper. What dogs picture was in the article?
9. In 2017 SCI Houtzdale's dog Nico received a certificate for his first visit to which baseball team?
10. In 2016 SCI Retreat had a special contest to help name their two new "staff" members. What are their names?
11. In 2018 SCI Coal Township had three dog brothers. What were their names?
12. When did SCI Somerset start their "Doggie Bag" fundraisers to help support their dog program?
13. In June 2018, what two dogs from SCI Dallas's American's Vet Dog's program graduated and were successfully placed with veterans?
14. In June 2017 SCI Muncy's dog Sapphire posed for a picture with what large animal?
15. SCI Cambridge Springs received a new puppy named Hawkeye in 2016. What is his aka name?
16. Who is SCI Greene's dog Bingo's mother, who also graduated from SCI Greene?
17. SCI Smithfield's dog Hoover is a mix between two breeds, what are they?
18. SCI Mercer's first five dogs were known as what?
19. Who was SCI Huntingdon's first pup to complete training with Canine Partners for Life?
20. When did SCI Fayette's dogs Jack and Akuma arrive?
21. At SCI Mahanoy's one year anniversary, how many dogs were rescued and what were they called?
22. SCI Rockview's dog Gunner is wearing google eye glasses. What breed is Gunner?
23. What is the name of SCI Waymart's new dog program that was submitted by Ann Kovalchik?
24. What are the names of the three current dogs at SCI Laurel Highlands?
25. When did the first dogs arrive at SCI Benner Township?



SCI Huntingdon

The dog program at SCI Huntingdon has seen many dogs come and go since being implemented here. We don't always get updates on "our" dogs who have successfully completed the program and who have been successfully matched but we know that the training we do with the dogs while we have them is invaluable to the people they are eventually placed with. The program offers service dogs to people with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities or those who might be in other situations of need. Although the dogs get basic training and are taught basic skills while at Huntingdon, this training is still an integral part of the dogs being prepared to be matched with a person in need. After completing their training at Huntingdon, the dogs are moved to the next part of their training to be service or companion dogs.



Rafter is one of the dogs who was at SCI Huntingdon for part of his training in the CPL program. Rafter successfully completed his training in the summer of 2017 and was successfully matched with a boy to help him with sensory integration. Rafter helps the boy in many ways. Rafter was taught to "lay" and Rafter's weight helps his match calm down and be less anxious. Just petting Rafter can help calm the boy.

Although we do not know who the dogs will be matched with once they complete their training at Huntingdon, we know without a doubt that they are moving on to bigger and better things.

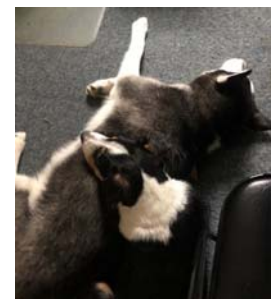
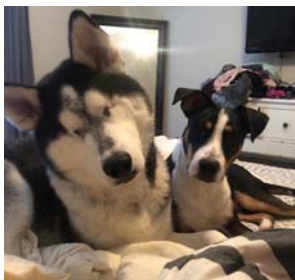
*Michelle Goss
Unit Manager*

SCI Mahanoy

Now that the long winter is over, the puppies are enjoying time outdoors without feet getting cold and wet! Even though Punxsutawney Phil incorrectly predicted an early spring, thankfully, the weather cooperated on February 7 when a reporter from the Lehigh Valley Times came to do an article on the SCI Mahanoy PUP program and the Brierwood Kennels which facilitates it. Ms. Lisa Price of the Times News was not sure what to expect when she was assigned the task of coming to prison to talk to inmates who train rescue dogs. But speaking with the inmates and seeing the commitment they have for the dogs they train, she stated that she is impressed by the program and sees benefits for both the animals and the trainers. The article was published in the paper on March 2, 2019 if you are interested in reading it.

Since there is not usually too much to say about our wonderful dogs that hasn't been said before, we will be doing a "where are they now" segment, this month featuring:

Zip, Class of January 2019!



These heart-warming photos are of Zip (pictured on the right in the first photo), who was adopted in January. His forever family already had a Husky and the two dogs are inseparable as the pictures demonstrate! REALLY! Zip is now a seeing-eye dog for the Husky who is blind! The Husky follows Zip wherever he goes, not too far behind and usually touching him. The family was hoping the two would become friends, but never anticipated how bonded they would become. It seems they are more than friends, they are brothers! Their owners attribute the empathy and companionship that Zip shows to the training and socialization he received at the PUP program.

*Christine Griffin
Unit Manager*

SCI Houtzdale



Since December, SCI Houtzdale has welcomed two new puppies and our first female dog into the R.U.F.F. program. Cody, Sully and Poppy have joined Axel, Kirby and Henry for training in partnership with United Disabilities Services (UDS). Cody and Sully are balls of energy that keep their handlers and staff on their toes. Poppy, who was initially raised in a volunteer home, was in need of extra structure as part of her training. She has adjusted well to her new environment and is thriving in regards to her training.



Some of the dogs most recently participated in National Victim's Rights Week events, which included opening ceremonies, a youth summit and Day of Responsibility. Mary Tatum, director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Clearfield County (CAC-CC), is in the process of obtaining a service dog to work in the CAC-CC to help children who have to been in touch with UDS to hopefully get one of the dogs that has been training here at SCI Houtzdale. This would be the first service dog in the state of Pennsylvania to be employed at a Children's Advocacy Center.

Recently an inmate reported to a staff member that Kirby was an angel for him while he was in the medical department. He stated that he had to have a tooth pulled that was extremely painful and he was not handling it well. Kirby just happened to be hanging out in the medical department that day; Kirby saw that he was visibly upset and came right over to the chair without being prompted. He said that Kirby sat next to him with his head on the chair while the procedure took place. He said that if Kirby had not been there he is not sure that he would have been able to go through with having the tooth removed. Kirby helped calm him and curb the anxiety that he had.

Nico's approval to become the staff facility dog is part of the Staff Morale Initiative. He will be available for any staff member who would like him to visit their offices, units or groups. These visits can vary from an hour to all day. He has been enjoying being back at Houtzdale and being spoiled by all of his favorite humans.

Gideon, Samson and Auggie have all begun the process of becoming facility dogs in schools to help children in special education classroom settings. Gideon has passed his Public Access Certification Test and has already been placed in a classroom. Samson and Auggie are in the early stages of being placed but UDS is extremely hopeful for them to be a success.

UDS will be holding a graduation ceremony during which Nico and Gideon will be celebrated for passing their tests and becoming facility dogs.



*Craig Petulla
Unit Manager*

Inmate Testimonial

"I joined the CPL program about 1 year ago. I would have never imagined how much this program would change my life. This program has taught me so much, like how to have patience, sympathy, empathy and how to love again. I have been in prison for 12 years and have built walls around me. These dogs have helped me to tear them all down and live again. I wake up every day to a smiling and wagging tail. I love this program so much because not only do they let me better myself but also to give back and help someone in need. I am just one life out a many lives these dogs will save. Thank you for allowing and trusting me to be a part of such a great program."

SCI LAU Inmate

SCI Laurel Highlands

SCI Laurel Highlands participates in the prison puppy program facilitated through Canine Partner's for Life (CPL). Their mission is to train service dogs, home companion dogs, residential companion dogs, and courthouse companion dogs in order to assist individuals who have a wide range of physical, neurological, and cognitive disabilities. The inmates at SCI Laurel Highlands are able to help in this mission and give back to the community. The institution currently holds three dogs – Laurel, Stark and Otis.



Laurel

Laurel is about to have her first birthday (May). She has completed all of her commands and is now working on commands newly implemented by CPL. She is also working on shaping and has excelled in that, as she does most things. She is a fantastic and loving dog. She has made us incredibly proud and will be so helpful to those in need.

Stark is ten months old and is our very first boy! When he arrived to the institution, he had some difficulty in the confidence department. Since then, he has made extraordinary strides and has developed into a much more confident dog. Stark is in the process of learning his final commands and is doing an exceptional job juggling the new criteria. Stark

loves playing with other dogs and loves to be around people. He always takes the opportunity to say hello to our fellow staff members.



Stark



Otis

Otis has just turned six months and is the newest addition to the puppy family. This pup is so full of life and has such a tremendous personality. Otis is incredibly smart and is strolling through his training with ease. He is a curious pup and is always investigating new things. He loves play time with his new friends, Laurel and Stark.

Last but not least, we must mention our other pups, who have moved on to bigger and better things. Vida and Wren left, not long ago, to join community homes to work on their socialization.

Sunny and Elsa left us about six months ago to continue their training with CPL. They are on track for summer graduation and will be helping someone in need, very soon!

We are so appreciative of this program and our participation in it. It has taught everyone involved many things. This program allows us to learn and grow as individuals but most importantly, we are able give back to those in need.



Wren, Sunny, Elsa and Vida on her first birthday!

*Brianna Fox
Corrections Counselor*

SCI Smithfield

Getting out into the community. With the weather getting nicer out, SCI Smithfield had the opportunity to be part of an elementary school field trip. On Wednesday April 17th Officer Lane, A/UM Runk and Ms. Hockenberry attended Seven Points for Huntingdon's Kindergarten Field Trip. Approximately 100 children attended this field trip from both Southside Elementary and Standing Stone Elementary. The kids loved watching the dogs and learning about Canine Partner's for Life. The children's favorite part was getting to pet the dogs. This was a great experience for the dogs to be around so many children. Being raised in an adult prison, they do not get this interaction. All three dogs did great. They loved the attention they received from the children.

*Jeffrey Runk
Acting Unit Manager*



In the picture, Officer Lane is showing the dogs: Balboa a black poodle, Rush a black poodle and Hunts a yellow Lab.

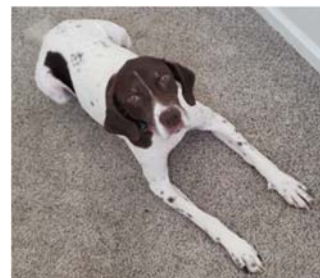
SCI Benner Township

For this edition of All Paws on Deck, SCI Benner wanted to take a trip down memory lane and do a little "where are they now" feature on some of our pups adopted by our staff! Enjoy these heart warming success stories!



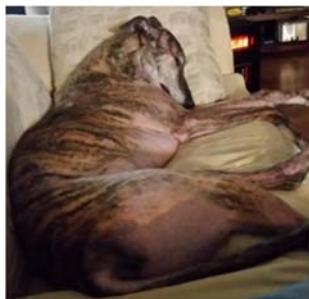
Cheerio

We brought Cheerio home just in time for Christmas in 2016. Both of us grew up with dogs but Cheerio is without question the best dog we have ever had. She is so well behaved and trustworthy, and we credit a lot of that to the dog program at SCI Benner. Since we have brought her home, Cheerio has gone on road trips with us up and down the East Coast, been camping and hiked the Appalachian Trail. She loves snowstorms, taking naps, playing with her little sister Phoebe, who we adopted last year, eating oranges, and tearing all of the stuffing out of her toys. – CO. J. Mercier & Sgt. K. Strong



Maverick

Mav is doing very well. He is still very energetic. He loves to play ball, go for walks and trips in the car. He enjoys spending time with the other dogs as well as the kids. He is very happy to have found his HOME. – LT. S. Proudfit



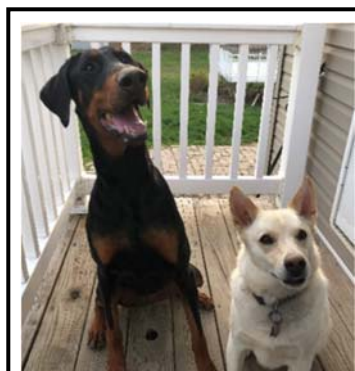
Ripper

The day I got him, I changed his name from Mars to Ripper. He occasionally plays with his squeaky duck, but his all-time favorite toys are my sneakers and coats. Every day I come home from work, he usually has one of those items with him on the couch clutching it as if he were the sole owner. He loves belly rubs, those are his favorite. Not being originally from this area, it used to be very difficult for me to live here without family and not knowing anyone. Ripper has played a big part in fixing that problem. He is my family. – CO. J. Brown



Star

Our Star girl brought so much excitement to our house! She is full of energy throughout the day but loves to cuddle with us at night (she takes up the whole bed!). She also loves to lay in our big window and watch as cars drive by. She gets so excited to go for walks, she recognizes her harness and starts jumping around! Star also loves car rides, she runs to the back of the car and jumps right in! She enjoys play dates with her other furry friends in the neighborhood and gets along so well with other dogs. Star continues to do her tricks that she learned before we adopted her, she's such a smart dog! We love her dearly and she is truly part of our family. We couldn't be more thankful for her and the excitement and energy she brought to us. – Ms. J. Smith, PSS



Bolt

Bolt (right) with his best friend and sister, Lena! – Mr. B. Jones

Scamp

Scamp Ferdinand Schilling came to his forever home on February 16, 2018. With his history of abandonment, he was a timid ball of nerves with severe separation anxiety, & couldn't be left home alone without causing serious destruction around the house. Slowly, but surely, he learned to trust and love us without fear & unconditionally, as we loved him. He's the most loving, loyal & HANDSOME boy! He loves chasing & playing with his human sisters & can tear a chew toy up like nobody's business. Scamp plays hard, but sleeps harder (usually curled up somewhere cozy with his cat brother, Buck). He LOVES hotdogs, digging in the trash, killing rabbits, shots of whip cream from the can, being outside, going for walks as a family & going for runs before the sun comes up with mom. He might tell you that we saved him & are giving him his best life... But I'd have to say he's giving us ours! – Ms. A. Schilling, CCII



Abbey Nelson
Unit Manager

SCI Pine Grove



December 21, 2018 puppies arrival at facility

It has been a busy time here at the Grove. Our new round of puppies arrived right before Christmas on December 21, 2018. They came to us from New Hope Assistance Dogs Inc. from Warren, PA. This non-profit agency works with individuals with mobility, hearing, autism & PTSD related issues and a multitude of other disabilities for both children and adults. We have four Labrador Retrievers: Wizard, Watson, Wrangler, and Winston. These brothers just turned six months old on April 14, 2019. They have experienced several things in the four months that they have been with us. They have visited schools, baseball games, training facilities and staff members' homes. They participated in Easter pictures in the visiting room over Easter weekend. They know approximately 52 commands.



In the St. Patrick's Day spirit



Preparing for our Easter pictures

*Tammy Delosh
Corrections Counselor II*



Supporting our Pittsburgh Penguins

SCI Chester

On Friday, April 26th, WAGS at SCI Chester celebrated its second year anniversary. Our dogs are rescued by WAGS Rescue and Referral with the purpose of training them in basic obedience, house and crate training. Since we started, we have rescued, trained and loved over 350 dogs. Yes, you read that right, over 350 dogs (and counting) in two years. We have had every type of dog imaginable, from litters of abandoned babies that needed to be bottle-fed, to a 180 pound great Pyrenees mix. Every hurricane season we clear out our facility so we will be able to accommodate the dogs that have been abandoned or on the quick list to be euthanized.

Have you met our prison dogs?



Meet Penny (left), she is a five year old Pug/Chihuahua mix who suffers from neurological issues and was surrendered when her owners could no longer afford to care for her. She came to Chester, and after immediately bonding with her handler, it was pretty evident from the beginning Penny was not going anywhere. She can often be found working with the Electric Crew or running around the block keeping everyone in line!

Look at our little love Elsa (right), she is a six month old pure bred Pekingese who was discarded by her breeder due to suffering from luxating patella, or referred to "floating knee" or a "trick knee". When a dog is affected by it, "the kneecap does not always stay in its place, instead, it pops out while the dog is walking, causing the dog to carry the leg up until the patella pops back in. This activity can cause permanent damages. After coming for a visit, Elsa ended up staying and we are currently fundraising to pay for her surgery to fix her knees. She can often be found in the Activi-



ties Department planning events.

Both Penny and Elsa are regular fixtures in our visiting room. They provide a sense of comfort to the kids and are the perfect size as a conversational piece.

To say this program has grown leaps and bounds from its initial vision would be an understatement. We would not be able to assist in rescuing so many dogs without the assistance of the phenomenal SCI Chester staff and without the incredible support of our partner WAGS Rescue and Referral. If you are interested in learning more, please visit us on Facebook at "WAGS at SCI Chester", or contact Program Coordinator Mande Quinn.

*Mande Quinn
Superintendent's Assistant*

SCI Mercer



Joey arrived at Strayhaven as a young boy, less than a year old. The Humane Society of Mercer County found him running in the woods. Joey had fleas and a skin infection. He very emaciated and needed special care. This is Joey's photo when he arrived at Strayhaven on August 10, 2016.

Joey remained at Strayhaven and always overlooked but well-loved by the staff and volunteers. Strayhaven asked we would work with Joey through our C.A.R.E. program and we were excited to help this guy. He arrived to start our program on March 13, 2018. We just loved this boy and his exuberated personality!! Below is his arrival photo. His bio read.....Joey is four Year-Old Pitt Mix, Male. Joey came to us as a stray almost three years ago. He has been overlooked because he has no manners. Joey is so loving and would be easily adopted if he had training. Working on leash training, house breaking, and basic obedience would be great for this dog.



On May 15, 2018, Joey graduated from C.A.R.E. and below is what his handlers wrote about this sweet boy.

My name is Joey but everybody calls me Jo-Jo. I've been in the shelter since I was a pup but now I've been working with my trainers and learning everything so I can become the best homebody dog yet! I've learned to sit, wait, and come when called and after I'm done learning my manners I love to go outside and play my favorite game. I like to play tug. I also like to chase after balls and when I'm playing by myself I do chew on them. Also, I have been working on my jumping when I'm excited to see you and give a lot of kisses. I also got to work on being mouthy with people I don't know. Other than that, I'm ready to become a household name with a family and I promise you will adore me because I love to love people. I've been waiting to have a family to love me like I love them. I will make anyone happy on a bad day just by looking at my face. Another thing I like to do is go on long walks and after that I love to run around in the grass and roll in it too. That always feels nice after my



walks and you wouldn't have to say anything once we get home because I would find my resting area and go to sleep.



Sadly, Joey went back to Strayhaven...he was not adopted.

Fast forward to April 25, 2019...988 days after he arrived at Strayhaven... Joey found his furever family with Chaunie Wright and her daughter. Here is what Strayhaven published on Facebook.

It is with joy in our hearts, smiles on our faces, and tears in our eyes that we would like to announce that after

988 days in the shelter our sweet boy Joey has been ADOPTED!!! We are beyond happy for this sweet boy who deserves nothing less than such a wonderful family! We wish you all a lifetime of happiness, along with lots of treats and belly rubs for Joey. Please join us in sending a big congratulations and thank you to Joey's new family.



We are so happy for Joey and his furever family—he waited so long for this day!

*Marcia Combine
Unit Manager*

SCI Greene

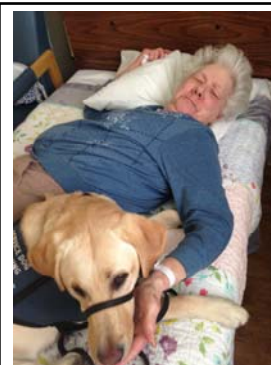
SCI Greene currently has four pups of varying ages. Cassie, Evie, Laurel and Orrie who our Trainer Sue is raising. Fausta has moved on to the next phase of training. Peppermint has gone to Somerset in exchange for Laurel. The staff and handlers at Greene are working hard to implement all the changes to the CPL training protocol.

RECENT EVENTS!!

Community Volunteers Connie Hart, Ellen Boros and Susan Fleming participated in Kids' Fest on April 13, 2019 with several pups in tow for socialization.



Several inmates at SCI Greene prepared art-work for donation to CPL's auction to raise money for the program.



Volunteers took pups to visit elderly patients at Rolling Meadows Nursing home. The residents really enjoyed the company of the pups.



April 17, 2019
Connie, Sue and Ellen took a few puppies to visit a local special needs classroom. The students really enjoyed the visit, asked wonderful questions, and helped to socialize the puppies.



Each week our community 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 her second graders with the help of a pup.

CPL Updates on our pups!

Rene and her eight pups are doing well and are at Somerset for weaning. April 14, 2019 our Nike graduated as a full service dog. Congratulations!!!

SCI GREENE CPL COMMITTEE

*Superintendent Robert Gilmore
Tina Staley - Program Director
Kayla Shaner- Program Administrator
CPL Trainer Susan Fleming
Marvin Cumberledge - Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Smith - Committee Chairman
Lou Giachetti
Jamie Reader*



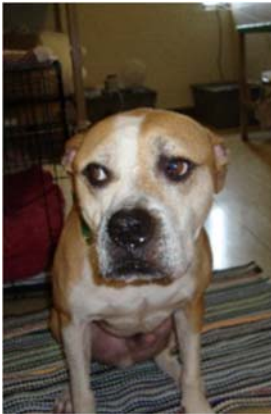
SCI Fayette

It's an exciting time for the DAWG (Developing Animals With Goals) Program here at SCI Fayette. On May 9, 2019, we celebrated the 2-year anniversary of the launch of the program. On a personal level, I must say that it has been a blessing to watch this program develop from simply an idea to what it is today. As of this date, the program has successfully placed 41 rescue dogs and although this is our main objective, the fringe benefits of this program cannot be ignored. The inmates won't hesitate to tell you that participating in the program has helped them to become more compassionate, responsible and disciplined. Staff will tell you that the program has acted as a morale booster in a uniquely challenging work environment.

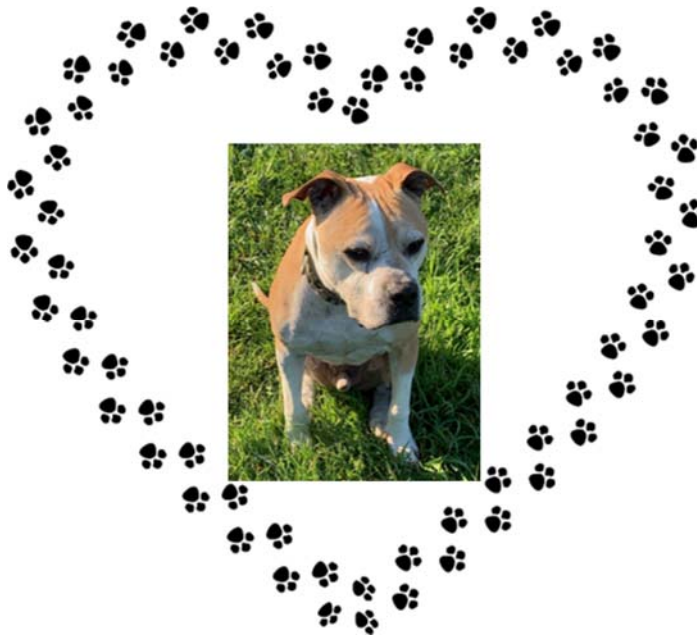
To commemorate our 2-year anniversary, I caught up with Janet, a good friend of mine and dog mom to one of our former canine participants. Although Janet doesn't work for the DOC, she overheard me talking about the DAWG Program and it piqued her interest. As a single mom living with two children, Janet felt that a dog would be a good addition to her family. I provided Janet with some pictures of our dogs and she immediately showed interest in "Jack," a pit bull/boxer mix. A meet and greet was arranged and as you can see below, the rest was history:

"I adopted Jack back in October 2017. I think that we have all benefited from Jack and he has benefited from having a forever home. Jack has helped us all get through our tough times just by being the caring dog that he is. When I first brought Jack home, he followed me everywhere. If I got up, he had to get up. Jack has made us all smile even when we really didn't want to. He lifted the spirits of my children and they all adored him from the beginning. They love crazy for squeaky toys. Since I adopted Jack he has truly become a part of the family. He greets me at the door with a wagging tail when I get home from work and follows me wherever I am going for a few minutes while I scratch his head. Jack loves to lay close and be close to all of us. When I go to bed at night, he has to be under the covers too. Jack has really grown as well since the adoption. I now have three dogs and Jack gets along with all of them and I believe they keep him young and fit as they all run around the yard chasing each other or racing to be the first to fetch a stick or toy. Jack has made a huge impact on all of our lives and had come to all of us at the right time. I believe we truly needed each other. He was well trained and is a very good listener. We all love Jack and I believe he loves us right back. Adopting Jack was the best decision I have made."

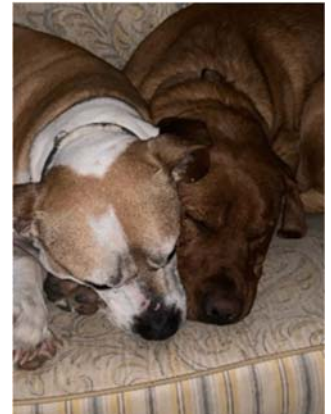
September 2018



*T. Knepper
Unit Manager*



May 2018



10th Issue Fun Hints

1. V.1 I.1
2. V.2 I.1
3. V.2 I.2
4. V.2 I.2
5. V.3 I.2

6. V.5 I.1
7. V.2 I.2
8. V.2 I.1
9. V.4 I.2
10. V.3 I.1

11. V.5 I.1
12. V.5 I.1
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16. V.3 I.1
17. V.1 I.1
18. V.1 I.1
19. V.3 I.2
20. V.4 I.1

21. V.4 I.2
22. V.5 I.2
23. V.5 I.2
24. V.6 I.1
25. V.2 I.1

SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Cambridge Springs officially launched Canines Achieving Miracles in Prison (CAMP) on March 18, 2019 with two dogs from the ANNA Shelter of Erie, PA.



Wilson is a young Great Dane/American Bulldog mix who was also taken in by the ANNA Shelter as a stray. Much like Briar, he lacked manners – BIG TIME. His 100 lb. build and stubborn personality did not help in this matter, either. He was a talker who always told you how he felt. He was also an escape artist who quickly learned how to open his kennel and jump the doggie gate to his cell, galloping down the hall looking for attention. Wilson had an issue with rough play, which his inmate handlers were able to break him of. When Briar left, Wilson went into a slump. But when we received his replacement, Echo, he instantly returned to his normal, goofy self. He LOVED playing with Echo. Over time, Wilson set aside his stubbornness (well, some) and learned all of his commands. He was adored by everyone at SCI CBS.



Briar is a young Rottweiler mix who was taken in by the ANNA Shelter as a stray. He was recommended for the CAMP Program due to his lack of mannerisms. With his large size and strength he was difficult to handle, which made it hard for people to want to adopt him. Briar was very smart and caught on quickly to his training. After a few weeks, Briar began to

show signs of being protective and territorial. It was decided that he was not suitable for the prison environment, so he was returned to the ANNA Shelter. Even though he was discharged from CAMP, he was a completely different dog when he left. He was much easier to handle and responded to basic commands, which led him to be adopted as soon as he was returned to the Shelter. Briar now has a permanent, loving home.

On May 13, 2019, Wilson became the first dog to graduate from the CAMP Program. He was returned to the ANNA Shelter where there were several families waiting to meet him and adopt him into a new, loving home.

When Wilson left, SCI CBS received a new dog – a three-legged Pit Bull/Terrier mix named Flash. Stay tuned to hear more about Flash and his journey through CAMP!

Echo is a young Boxer/Terrier mix who was also taken in by the ANNA Shelter as a stray. He was a last minute selection for the CAMP Program because his overall demeanor was deteriorating being at the Shelter long-term. He was a high energy dog who just wanted to play tug-of-war with his leash. Soon after receiving Echo, everyone realized how much of a sweet and loving dog he is. He absolutely adores people (and Wilson, of course) and would snuggle all day long if he could! So far Echo is doing well with his training, and the ANNA Shelter trainer has noticed a complete turn-around in his demeanor. His big, perky ears are a unique feature of his that everyone enjoys. He is well on his way to being adopted and would make a great companion dog for a Veteran. Echo will be graduating from CAMP in June.



Pictured from left to right: UM Jamie Schneider, Emily Danskin, and CTII Alicia Groover presenting Wilson with his Parole Green Sheet.

*Alicia Groover
Clerk Typist II*



Pictured from left to right: Jamie Schneider (Unit Manager/CAMP Coordinator) and Ruth Thompson (Founder/Director of the ANNA Shelter) with Briar. Emily Danskin (Behavior Consults/Modifications Specialist of the ANNA Shelter) and Alicia Groover (Clerk Typist II/CAMP Coordinator) with Wilson.

SCI Somerset



Dagny at Canine Partners for Life 2019 Spring Graduation

Spring has sprung and it is an exciting time for SCI Somerset and the CPL program. April 14, 2019 was the Canine Partner's for Life graduation in West Grove, PA and we were fortunate to have two of our puppies graduate and placed with recipients. Dagny and Ella graduated training with their new handlers and we could not be more proud of them both and happier for their new families. Dagny graduated as a Home Companion paired with Sean and Ella graduated as a Full Service dog assisting Wyatt, who is confined to a wheel chair. The love and attention the girls showed to their recipients and vice versa was a heartwarming reminder of why we do what we do. What a fabulous reward for not only us as staff volunteers but for the inmate handlers who take this seriously and work day and night on giving someone like Sean and Wyatt the assistants they need! Do you have goosebumps yet?



Ella at Canine Partners for Life 2019 Spring Graduation

On April 23, 2019 our institution got our fill of puppy breath when we received eight, four week old puppies and their mother Rene in our Whelping Program. As soon as they arrived, the inmate handlers quickly put their dog skills to work and got them all settled in to their temporary abode. We currently have five females and three males and each one has a different colored collar. As the puppies do not have names yet, we refer to each of them according to the color of their collar such as "Miss Pink" and "Mr. Brown". They will receive a temperament test and then will leave us on May 20, 2019 to continue with training. We are possibly receiving another litter in June so the "ooo's" and "ahhh's" will continue here at this facility for sure! We can never get tired of holding a puppy so our response is "keep them coming"!

Along with those temporary puppies, we continue to work with Tessa, Maura, Cleveland, Maxwell and Tulah on their training. In addition, we are anticipating the arrival of a chocolate poodle in the near future as well. CPL is working on adjusting the training and at our most recent in house training we had two CPL employees join us to talk with us about those changes, listen to any suggestions from the handlers and to answer any questions we all had. Good things are on the horizon and some very busy times ahead. We are extremely proud of this program and certainly happy to be a part of it! Happy Spring time!

Puppies received for Whelping program



*Corleen Schmucker
HR Assistant II*



The mission is to rescue.
the dream is that one day,
we won't have to.



SCI Muncy

SCI Muncy Staff and Dogs Attend Community Education Event



(L-R) Lia, Ivey, and Selma pose with a fire truck

On May 3, 2019 a number of staff and dogs were able to attend a Community Education Event at the Warrior Run Fire Hall in Watsontown, PA. This event was designed as a way for local Kindergarten classes to expose the students to the functions of various agencies including the hosting fire department, the local police department, and the CPL program at SCI Muncy. Stations were set up to allow the children to learn about many topics including fire safety in the home, operation of fire suppression equipment, gear worn by firefighters, police department activities, Watsontown's Police K9 & Watsontown's Police Horse.

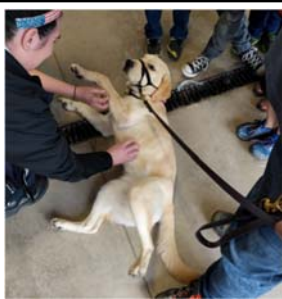


Ivey sizes up Watsontown PD's horse "Sampson"

The SCI Muncy CPL station consisted of an overview of the program as well as a demonstration of service dog skills. CPL dogs Lia, Ivey, and Selma attended along with SCI Muncy Staff M. Bitler (CTII), C. Fallon (PSS), M. Alexander (Educ.), T. Fornwald (CO1), D. Berrell (CO1) and E. Stevens (UM). The entire process of raising a CPL dog was explained, from the time a dog is received at the institution to the placement with a recipient. Staff explained to the children how the dogs progress through a curriculum, in the same way that they as students do. It was also explained to the students what the meaning is of a service dog's vest and what it means when they see a working dog.

After the presentation about CPL's program, and SCI Muncy's role in the program, the children were given the opportunity to greet and pet each dog. This appeared to be the favorite part of the station for most children. It was a good opportunity for the students to get to pet the dogs, but it is also an important part of the dogs' socialization training. For obvious reasons, most dogs raised in a prison have limited interaction with children. Although some handlers who have children take their dogs to the Visiting Room for visits the dogs generally are not exposed to the sight, sounds, and overwhelming energy of a group of Kindergarteners.

The dogs all did very well and the children were also well-behaved. This community event was a great way to show the public that there are positive things happening within our correctional facilities. It was also an opportunity to both provide socialization for the dogs and educate children about how to interact with working dogs. Community events are made possible by the hosting agencies and the cooperation of the SCI Muncy Administration, but they are successful because of the hard work of our staff volunteers. Thank you!



Selma receiving a belly rub/scratch

*Elias Stevens
Unit Manager*



Lia demonstrates her skills



Ivey greets Kindergartners



SCI Retreat

SCI Retreat – Luzerne County S.P.C.A Send 30 Pups to “Furever” Homes!

“As our program with SCI Retreat grows, more shelter dogs receive the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful program. We have currently sent 30 dogs through the program to find their “furever” homes. The program has allowed the shelter to continuously have space for new dogs to come in and our current dogs to receive the training and extra TLC they need”.

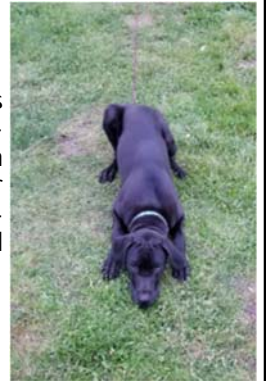
Lindsay Varneke-Animal Care Supervisor Luzerne County S.P.C.A.

SCI Retreat Staff play a big Role with Adoptions



Nala and Tommy were adopted by Charles Maculloch, Corrections Counselor 2 at SCI Retreat. “Both dogs have been doing extremely well and have adapted greatly living with two children in the household. Tommy and Nala have grown to a lack of better terms “Best Friends”. They are more often than not by each other’s sides. We are truly blessed with adopting both Nala and Tommy and look forward to very long and happy life with them”.

Charlie Maculloch CC2



This is Louie, a Pitt mix that was rescued by the SPCA as a puppy and introduced to our program. LPN Charles at Retreat “We saw this beautiful lovable lap dog and knew that he would help complete our family. After some fantastic training by our inmates, Louie came home and has been our Baby Louie ever since”.

Charlie Bartosavage LPN
Louie was the first officially adopted pup From the SCI Retreat Program!



Todd Kolbicka Activities
Manager/Program
Coordinator with Daisy,
Meek and Darla

*Todd Kolbicka
Activities Manager*



Here are some of SCI Frackville’s murals painted of puppies who have completed the DAWGS program.



SCI Dallas



Chuckie, Nahoa and Papi graduating

Some new and exciting things have happened over the last six months with SCI Dallas' Hounds for Heroes program. This canine program affiliated with America's Vet Dogs continues to grow.

On February 25, 2019, three of our oldest pups, Papi and Chuckie who are brothers (Yellow Labradors) and Nahoa, a female Golden Retriever/Yellow Labrador cross graduated the program locally at SCI Dallas and headed back to Smithtown, NY for their formalized training. Monthly updates are given and all three dogs are doing terrific!



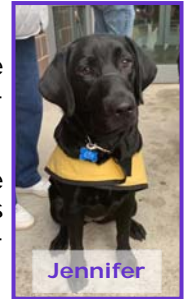
Jennifer, Pax & Xander



Licorice

The inmates and Weekend Puppy Raisers alike are eagerly awaiting the notification of the completion their training and placement with veterans. Based on prior graduates, this will likely happen in July-August.

The next in line for graduation is Licorice (Black Labrador) who will be heading back to Smithtown sometime in June. Shortly behind her is Jennifer (Golden Retriever/Black Labrador cross) and Pax (Yellow Labrador).



Jennifer

Since we had three graduates move on to advanced training, the inmates, staff, and Weekend Puppy Raisers were excited to welcome some new pups into the program. Two pups arrived on March 7, 2019 that are siblings, Xander and Nikki (Black Labradors). Shortly after their arrival, Merli (Black Labrador) made his debut.



Xander wearing his Easter tie

We asked Roxanne S., who has been a Weekend Puppy Raiser since the inception of the Hounds for Heroes program what being a Weekend Puppy Raiser means to her. This is her reply:

What does being a Weekend Puppy Raiser mean to me?

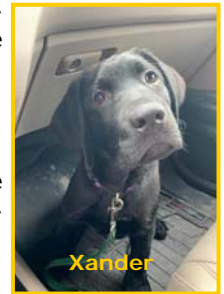
I met and fell in love with Splash on March 10, 2017. It was a challenge at first realizing I had to explain to just about everyone I met what Splash was in training for and what his next mission would be. Splash went everywhere I went...to the movies, restaurants, grocery stores, day trips, etc. Splash is a very special boy – he LOVES every-

one. As soon as we would get to the bottom of my driveway after I picked him up Friday afternoons at SCI Dallas, he would sit up and wait anxiously to get out of the car so he could run around. He loved being at home, but he was also fine going back to SCI Dallas to see his Inmate Handlers, Robert and Sean. On the last day, I was returning him to his inmates, I cried like a baby because I knew I would miss him very much. At the same time, I knew he was mine only for a little while. I am very proud of the service dog he has become and the love and care Splash gives to his veteran. I saw Splash one last time in August 2018 when my family and I attended Celebration Saturday in Smithtown, NY. His veteran, Tami, was so grateful to have him, she loved him already, so what more could I have asked for? Splash recognized me instantly along with all of the family members I brought along with me to be part of this joyous occasion. We were so happy to see him again and to finally meet his forever veteran. When someone asks me how I can bear to give him up, I tell them that I am not giving him up, I'm giving back. On May 4, 2018, I picked up Licorice and started a new puppy journey. Licorice is a very smart and beautiful girl. She is very different from Splash, but at the same time they are alike because she is learning to be a service dog for someone very deserving of her. I am sure I will continue to be a Weekend Puppy Raiser as long as possible and as long as the Foundation allows me.

Sincerely,

Roxanne S.
Weekend Puppy Raiser of Splash and Licorice

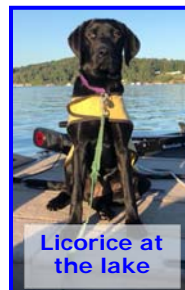
Molly K. DeSarro
School Principal



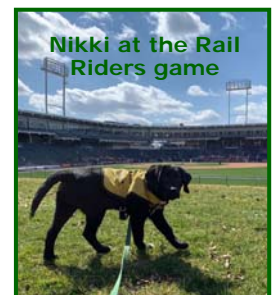
Xander



Merli's arrival



Licorice at the lake



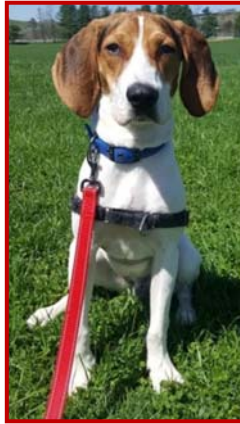
Nikki at the Rail Riders game

SCI Rockview

SCI Rockview partnered with One Dog at a Time (ODAAT) back in July 2018. Since then, we've welcomed 10 dogs into the program, with 6 of them finding "forever" homes. We currently have four dogs in the program.



Fred, a St. Bernard, was part of a backyard breeder humane case; we are happy to report the former owner was charged with animal cruelty. He is 160 lbs. of love. He loves affection from people, but what he loves most are his naps! Typically, Fred can be found sleeping on his handler's floor! He does however, enjoy strolls through the institution and visiting the park with his fellow canine friends!



Colt, an eight month old coonhound mix, was surrendered for being aggressive with guarding issues. We have seen absolutely no signs at all of such. It's quite the opposite actually. He loves to be around people, he loves to play and loves to bark! He just attended a local dog jog, where he interacted with people, young and old; dogs, big and small; and even a couple of pigs! He is 100% puppy but ready to learn his commands! Don't get too close or he will certainly bathe you in kisses!



Hunter, our newest pup, a roughly ten week old basset hound/pit mix. Being so young, he will be learning everything from potty training, crate training, to basic obedience. We cannot wait to watch this little fella grow!



Tigger, a lab/pit mix, was an owner surrender. Original owner listed him on Craigslist, another home took him in and after just 1 day of being in that home; Tiggs took off and was not only hit by a vehicle, but also dragged. Along with severe road rash, he also had to undergo surgery and have a rod placed in his front left leg, which was then removed on April 30, 2019. He'll be on activity restrictions for a bit. Given everything he has been through, he is just one of the sweetest dogs you could ever meet! Tigger is a very playful, loving, and super cuddly boy! He loves to play with his canine friends on the block! He also enjoys home visits and making new friends! Ice cream is one of his most favorite treats!

In between their training, our pups visit the RTU, SRTU, and MHU throughout the week. It has proven to be very therapeutic for the inmates housed in those units. A few examples: an inmate broke down in tears over having a visit from a pup and engaged with staff, for the first time in a long time. Another inmate would not speak with staff and once a pup visited, he opened up and even mentioned the dog visit in his therapy session; and another inmate also having a bad day, it took a visit from a pup to get him to open up with staff. These pups bring so much joy to the institution!

"The most powerful antidepressant has four paws, fur and a wagging tail!"

Sheena Druckemiller
PSS

Diana Simpson
MRS



SCI Waymart



Wanda with
Deb Solomon

A big Bow Wow Welcome to Windy, Wanda, and Whisper, three new Yellow Labs who arrived at the institution on Monday, 3/25/19 to start their training to become companion dogs to Veterans or Disabled Children. These girls are 5 months old and full of energy and eager to learn what it takes to "graduate with honors" from Paws For a Cause Program.

Thank you once again to Superintendent Ransom for connecting with New Hope Assistance Dogs and to Jody Smith, Program Director for all of the attention and time he provides to make this program a success.

Special shout out to Barb, Tammy, and Tanya for transporting our new canine residents and giving a brief overview to the inmate handlers, primary and secondary, who will be a vital part of their socialization and training, and also to Nina, who comes weekly for training.



Windy with
Deb Solomon



Whisper with
Deb Solomon

Wanda, Windy & Whisper are now spending some time to become familiar with their new surroundings and handlers, so please be patient with them if you see them out in the hallways. Kudos to all of the inmate handlers who have stepped up to the plate to work with the Labs, a rewarding experience for both.

We finally got some photos of the girls with Deb Solomon. They were thrilled to get their pictures taken and really loved their photo shoot on May 13, 2019.

Whisper is returning to New Hope shortly to start her next level of training. Wanda and Windy will remain at the institution.

Other staff who are working as part of the committee are Karen Obelenus, Kathy Millard, Deb Solomon, Joe Karlavage, Kris Quinn, Jamie Champi and Amanda Taylor

The German Shepherds, Kodiak, Tucker, and Tracker are returning to New Hope for more extensive training at that site to prepare them for their new roles to be best friends to their new owners and provide unconditional love and lots of puppy dog kisses on an "as needed" basis.

We are committed to "Paws for a Cause" and hopeful that our three new dogs will learn quickly what it takes to "make the grade" for Veterans and Disabled Children.

Kathy Millard
Clerk Typist 2



Karen Obelenus with Kodiak,
Superintendent Ransom with Tucker
And Jody Smith with Tracker

Spoilt Dog Test

One point for every statement that applies to you

- Your dog is allowed to sleep in your bed
- Your dog gets Christmas presents
- You've refused to move because your dog is asleep on you
- You've cancelled plans because of your dog
- Your dog gets a birthday present
- Your dog is allowed to sit on the couch
- You sign birthday/Christmas cards from your dog
- You give your dog a pat before saying hello to your partner



SCI Coal Township

The FIDOS program at SCI Coal Township has had a profound effect on the nature and the attitudes of the people here. Both inmates and staff.

For us (inmates) in many cases we develop a certain callousness as a defense mechanism to navigate prison and various experiences that come with it. Unbeknownst to us this can be a mental or psychological burden on us. Many sentiments go unexpressed. The opportunity to give a treat to little Bella, pet Layla or play tug-of-war with Sammie engenders a sort of relief that most only experience on visits or on the phone.



Likewise, for the staff, as a handler I've seen a more personable to both handlers and many times even non-handlers when interacting with the dogs.

The program, in my opinion, has been a great benefit to the atmosphere in the prison and it is something I've enjoyed being a part of.

FIDOS Handler



The dog program here is approaching its 5th year anniversary and I am sincerely grateful to have been in the program since it first started.

This experience has had a dramatic impact on me and the other men in the program. Beyond the training methods I have learned, I realized that the most powerful skill you can acquire is empathy. In order for the training to be effective you come to learn that each dog is unique and this has a powerful effect on your outlook on life as a whole.

What still amazes me is the transformation of the dogs that come through the program. A lot of the dogs that are brought here are traumatized and anti-social. But in a short period of time, the attention and affection they receive from the trainers, the men, and the staff has the magical effect of bringing life back into these dogs.

The program has brought a positive energy, not only to the men involved but to the whole prison, and it shall continue to do so.

FIDOS Handler



SCI Coal Township FIDOS Program is proud to announce two dog-handlers paroled this week. Both handlers went with FIDOS certificates, photos of some of the dogs they trained and many memories from their participation in the program. Coal Township is proud of their individual accomplishments and wish them the best in their future.

Trisha Kelley
Superintendent's Assistant



More murals from SCI Frackville that were painted of puppies who completed the DAWGS program.



Featured Dog Breed

AND THIS WINNER IS...American Pit Bull Terrier



A little history of the American pit bull terrier: They were brought to the United States by immigrants from England, Ireland and Scotland during the 19th century. They were originally bred for bull baiting and as a farm dog. In the early 20th century Pit Bulls were known as "Nanny Dogs" or "nursemaids" because they were so trusted around children.

The Pit Bulls health: There are some things to know before bringing one into your home. They need regular exercise and diet regulation. Early obedience training and socialization will cut down on the issues related to the breed. The lifespan of a Pit Bull is on an average 12 to 14 years. They can suffer common conditions like hip dysplasia and allergies. They are more likely than other breeds to be born with a cleft lip or palate.

Some Fun Facts: Pit Bulls are the only breed of dog to have appeared on the cover of LIFE magazine three times. In 1987, Bud Light introduced its hugely popular mascot, spuds Mackenzie during super bowl XXI. They were used in the movie "our gang" and the dog's name was Petey. Having a dog since puppyhood does not necessarily mean it will have all of the qualities desired in a pet. It may end up having some traits that are undesirable. An adult pit bull however will have more of an established personality and an adopter can know what to expect with the dog.



10th Issue Answers

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. 11 and 23 | 14. A horse |
| 2. Deora Bodley, youngest passenger on flight 93 | 15. Marshmallow |
| 3. Two years, three months | 16. Amee |
| 4. Niko | 17. Giant Schnauzer and Poodle |
| 5. A witch | 18. The Blue Print Crew |
| 6. Special Wags And Tenacity | 19. Draco |
| 7. SCI Graterford | 20. May 2017 |
| 8. Rags | 21. The Lucky 88 |
| 9. Baltimore Orioles | 22. Weimaraner |
| 10. Joy and Hope | 23. Paws for a Cause |
| 11. Remi, Bowen and Comet | 24. Laurel, Stark and Otis |
| 12. 2015 | 25. October 9, 2014 |
| 13. Sarg and Colonel | |

If you would like to start your own dog program
at your facility contact the DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services.

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