

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 Greene

SCI Houtzdale

SCI Huntingdon

SCI Laurel Highlands

SCI Mahanoy

SCI Mercer

SCI Muncy

SCI Pine Grove

SCI Retreat

SCI Rockview

SCI Smithfield

SCI Somerset

SCI Waymart

SCI Huntingdon



Carson ~ then

Carson is my best friend. He is a valuable member of our family; we love and appreciate him so much. He is always at the front door to greet me with such enthusiasm when I come home after a long day at school. He enjoys laying on the couch with the family, cuddling up next to one of us, nudging a hand or arm to say he wants petted or just to have an arm resting on him.



Carson ~ now

Carson and Sparkle, our German Shepard, play together all day. Carson enjoys running through the back yard chasing her and being chased, playing with toys and going for walks together. He still enjoys training time, although I am not sure if it is the attention or the fact, he is still so food driven. For a treat, he will do exactly what you want him to do and the two dogs compete to see who can get the treat first.

Summer time is Carson's favorite time of the year. His favorite activity is to go swimming and play ball in the pool. Speaking of water, Carson finds it fun to tease Sparkle by taking her frisbee and dropping it in the water bowl outside, because Sparkle does not like playing in water, then he will get the frisbee again and run off with it.



Carson & Sparkle

I am so thankful I was able to adopt him; he brings such joy to my family and me. I cannot imagine not having him around to make us smile and laugh every day. I enjoy caring for him and seeing him wag his tail every day, enjoying life!

Daughter of SCI Huntingdon Staff Member

SCI Dallas



On November 11, 2019, Merli — named for the Gino J. Merli Veteran's center in Scranton, Pa. — attended a program at Tunkhannock High School with Trainer James Ferranti. He accepted a check from the new students totaling \$350 for America's Vet Dogs.



On November 8, 2019, the SCI Dallas staff attended a Veteran's Day Program at Valley View High School. In attendance were the middle school students who raised money for America's VET dogs. The guest speaker of the program was retired Army veteran Major Clyde Brown.



James Ferranti, who comes to SCI Dallas weekly to train the dogs, spoke to the crowd and demonstrated what inmate handlers teach the dogs. Pax, who is shown in the picture with Mr. Ferranti, attended last year as a puppy. He is now moving on to Smithtown, New York, for further training. The staff made him a sign to remind any students that saw him as a puppy how much he grew. The students clapped and were excited to see him carrying the sign. Two students attended the program in wheelchairs. It was amazing to see how Pax interacted so gently with these two students. The students had the biggest smiles on their faces when Pax laid his head on their laps as trained.

After the program, the students were able to interact with the dogs. There were many hugs and kisses given to the dogs.

The students of Valley View High School donated a check for \$1,500 to America's Vet Dogs. The SCI Dallas staff of Ann Verbyla, Tiffany Zoltewicz and Louise Cicerchia with James Ferranti accepted a check on behalf of Vet Dogs. In the picture, the staff are with Norine Legg and Jennifer Smolko.



*Nicole Hogan
Clerk Typist*



SCI Dallas cont.

Since the last newsletter, SCI Dallas has produced a few more graduates for America's Vet Dogs. Papi, Chuckie, Nahoa, Colonel Potter and Buckels all moved on to a new life with their forever veterans and/or first responders. All dogs are residing on the east coast from Rhode Island to North Carolina, and Buckels is in Hawaii!

SCI Dallas has proven to beat the odds with their success rate of graduating pups, having a 90% average. This pass rate shows the dedication the inmates have to training the dogs with the commands they need to produce a service dog as well as the commitment of the weekend puppy raisers to socialize the dogs, expose them to the necessary stimuli and reinforce the commands in order for them to be placed with a veteran or first responder.



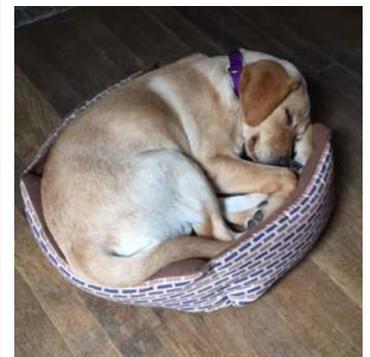
Maxwell meets a horse

When a few of the Weekend Puppy Raisers (WPR) were asked about the community reaction when they take their puppy somewhere, they provided the following responses:

Mary Jane N. (WPR for Jennifer) stated, "It's interesting, the various reactions you get. I've never gotten a negative comment. Most of the time it's, "What a beautiful puppy; may I pet her?" When you have a chance to tell the public about the program they are really interested in hearing about it. Lots of "Thank you for doing what you do."

Roxanne S. (WPR of Splash, Licorice and Maxwell) said that people usually say, "What a well behaved puppy! How old is he/she? What a wonderful thing you are doing!"

Lori R. (WPR of Rosie) stated, "Reactions are almost always positive, especially from kids. They are a bit amazed when they see a dog walk by in a store. Also, people have very been respectful of the cape/vest and either do not approach or ask first."



Rosie in a cat bed



Xander on Veterans Day

Molly D. (WPR of Sarg, Nahoa and Xander) stated, "Most people ask what organization the dog is affiliated with. I am always willing to educate the public about America's Vet Dogs and the dedication the inmates at SCI Dallas have training them. My favorite reaction is when I take a pup to a restaurant. When we are done eating and the dog appears from under the table, you often hear a chuckle or comment about how they didn't even know the dog was there. I always make a point to state that they shouldn't if it is a properly trained service dog. I have exposed all three to unusual places, that have often drawn attention – church, funeral parlors, dentist offices, the hospital, etc. Everyone has welcomed the pups and comment how they are so well behaved and have thanked me for doing such a selfless act. Often they ask how I can give the pup up. I tell them that once you see the connection between the dog and their forever human, you know you were part of creating something incredible. That service dog changes a person's life."

For those who have Instagram, some of SCI Dallas graduates have their own accounts: Sarg is @sargtravels, Nahoa is @alohanahoa, and Papi is @Papi_the_service_dog. In addition, Nahoa and her first responder, Mollie, were featured on WBALT11 in Baltimore, Maryland, during the week of Veteran's Day. The television segment shares how Nahoa has changed Mollie's life. The link is <https://youtu.be/XUC6-CzyYVI>.



*Molly DeSarro
Corrections School Principal*

SCI Dallas cont.



On October 4, 2019, the SCI Dallas staff associated with the Hounds for Heroes Program attended a fundraiser at the University of Scranton. It was for the American Vet Dog Organization, which is conducted by the inmate population at SCI Dallas under the direction of Acting Unit Manager Louise Cicerchia, CCPM Mike Goynes, and Unit Manager Ann Verbyla. The fundraiser was piloted by the under graduate students of the Occupational Therapy Group. The event was "Pet a Puppy." The students each donated a dollar to pet a puppy.



SCI Dallas staff members attending were AUM Cicerchia, CCII T. Zoltewicz, Trainer James Eric Ferranti and Acting CCI Michael Kilheeny. The staff took five puppies to the event. Pax, 14 months; Merli eight months; Mary four months; and brothers Colonel, Dave and Maxwell, five months. The puppies and staff helped the group raise over \$500 for the Pet the Puppy Project. All proceeds benefitted the American Vet Dog Organization. The Dallas Hounds for Heroes participate in this bi-annual event each year. Pictured are the staff, students and weekend puppy raisers involved in the program.



*Louise Cicerchia
Unit Manager, Acting*

SCI Pine Grove

Well, it has been an exciting time around SCI Pine Grove. Our first round of puppies — Wizard, Wrangler, Winston and Watson from New Hope Assistance Dogs — left on October 2, 2019. These pups are not even a year old and the company felt that they were ready to begin their second round of training. This is the youngest group of dogs that we have had move on to secondary training. Our inmate handlers have done an excellent job with training these beautiful boys. New Hope Assistance Dogs already has potential clients waiting for these wonderful dogs. While this was a very sad time, we are happy that they are going to change the lives of other individuals.



There was a happy component to these guys leaving — we received four new dogs to start working with: two Labrador Retrievers; brothers Zack, yellow lab and Zeke, black lab; and two goldendoodles brothers Tony and Freedom. This is going to be a little different for us as we are receiving them at different ages and working with the goldendoodles. It is exciting to see how they will do within the institution in comparison to the Labs. Our handlers are up for this challenge. They are even ready to lose some sleep until they are housebroken. Our inmate handlers said, "The goldendoodles look like little balls of fur," and "I'm curious to see how different it is to work with a goldendoodle" and "Zack's feet are as big as Wizard's were, he's going to be a big dog."

*Tammy Delosh
CCII*

*Christina Smith
DATSII*

SCI Fayette



On February 25, 2019, Lt. Dongilli's neighbors were the victims of a devastating house fire. Among the victims was a young woman, Amanda, who suffers from cerebral palsy. Tragically, this young woman lost her two dogs in the fire. After consulting with our shelter partner, Humane Animal Rescue, we decided that this would be a perfect opportunity to touch the life of this young woman by providing her with a new furry friend. The staff at Humane Animal Rescue took the time to pick the perfect dog to fit her unique needs.

As a result, "Fluffy," an adorable miniature poodle, began his training at SCI Fayette. While he underwent the regular basic obedience training, Fluffy's handlers also worked on having him around wheelchairs and also taught him to jump into the lap of the person sitting in it. Fluffy was with us, being trained from March until June.



While the shelter and the inmate trainers played a big part in his success. The staff at SCI Fayette also came through in a big way. Staff donated \$625. These donations covered the adoption fee, a grooming session for Fluffy before he left and also all the supplies you can think of to make Fluffy feel right at home with his new family!

Just look at Fluffy's transformation from street dog to Amanda's guardian!

These two pictures were our first glimpse at Fluffy. While he looked a little rough around the edges, we knew with a little TLC and training, we could turn him into the perfect companion for Amanda.



FUREVER HOME!



June 25, 2019, Fluffy meets his forever love, Amanda

One short day later, June 26th, all that training sure paid off!



Rebecca Palmer
Unit Manager

happy
ending



Trivia

1. How many eyelids does a dog have on each eye?
1
2
3
2. Who had the most dogs ever?
Genghis Khan
Kublai Khan
Queen Elizabeth the First
Alexander the Great
3. What did Socrates say that a dog has the soul of?
Senator
Physician
Man
Philosopher
4. Which rock star saved his dog from a coyote?
Axle Rose
Justin Bieber
Ozzy Osbourne
Kanye West
5. What was the first distinctive breed found in the archaeological record?
Husky
Malamute
Fox Terrier
Greyhound
6. Why do dogs spend so much time sniffing a spot before they mark it?
They are having trouble smelling it
They just love the smell of other dogs
They're being stubborn
They're checking their pee-mail
7. Why do dogs curl up when they sleep?
To warm up
it eases pressure on the spine
so they don't roll over on accident
to protect themselves
8. Why do dogs kick at the ground after doing their business?
To leave a message for another dog
to cover it up
to let you know they're finished
to stretch their legs
9. Why do dogs roll around on smelly things?
To get rid of the smell
to bring the scent back to the pack
because they like the smell
they want to smell good to other dogs
10. What do dogs and dolphins have in common?
Skull shape
DNA
unselfish kindness
heightened sense of smell



Answers on page 27

SCI Albion

SCI Albion received four new puppies within the last several months. Five-month-old siblings, Ralph and Penny, joined us from their community puppy homes with lots of community experience and ready to focus more in depth on their training. Shortly afterward, eight-week-old sisters, Pappy and Doris, arrived ready to start their training!

Ralph hit the ground running and headed to Edinboro University to help train future student volunteer puppy handlers from the Edinboro University Social Work Department. Recent SCI Albion graduates Frebe and Brettski, several SCI Albion volunteers, and a CPL staff accompanied him. A number of the future volunteers utilize



Frebe and Ralph with volunteers in training Courtney and Devva.

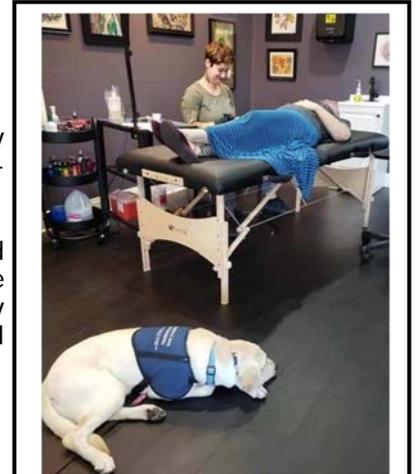
wheelchairs and other assistive devices and supports, and the puppies will gain valuable experience working with a more diverse group of volunteers, and living the campus life.



Doris visits Edinboro University to train student Peer Responders.

Not to be outdone, Doris also visited the Edinboro University Campus to help train student Peer Responders who are completing a certificate program to better support peers who are struggling with various life issues.

While Ralph and Doris were busy giving back to the community, Penny took a walk on the wild side and spent a day in a local tattoo parlor supporting her human friends.



Penny spends the day with friends at a tattoo parlor.



Pappy goes to the dentist.

Finally, Pappy recently visited the dentist and learned all about getting a cavity filled. She kept a close eye on her handler through every step of the process and was not bothered at all by all of the scary drilling sounds!

*Miranda Galbreath
Psychological Services Specialist*

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'



SCI Muncy

It has been a busy time at SCI Muncy in the CPL program. We currently have four dogs: Mercy, Selma, Jersey and Derby. All four dogs are working through their training and spreading cheer throughout the institution. Because the CPL program is not a detail, the inmates who handle CPL dogs have jobs off the unit. This article will explore briefly some of the work places of our CPL dogs.

Mercy's primary handler works in the Property Office, and she enjoys watching the comings and goings of inmates through the building. The Property Sgt. allows Mercy her own chair so that she can be comfortable throughout the day. Working in a busy environment with many new people is a great way to socialize Mercy and prepare her for a recipient.

Derby's handlers both work in the Education Department. This is another high-traffic area, and Derby is exposed to many new faces every day. She is learning to deal with stress better and remain engaged with her handlers. Derby can become overwhelmed easily but she is progressing with her socialization. There are CPL trained volunteers in the Education Department, and they are able to help with her socialization.

Jersey's handler works in the Sewing Factory and Cosmetology. Jersey enjoys hanging out in Sewing and she spends time with the staff, who are CPL trained volunteers. Jersey is a large dog but she is able to stay out of the way and not cause a distraction. This is an important skill for a CPL dog as the potential recipients work in a variety of settings and the dog could be taken to work, school, or many other places.

Selma's handlers work in the Visiting Room and the House of Hope (Inpatient DV/Trauma Program). The Visiting Room is a great experience for the CPL dogs as they are exposed to visitors, including children, and the different sights, sounds and smells of this area. Selma also spends her time in the House of Hope with her other handler. In this role she is an invaluable part of the program as she attends group and provides a calming presence for women working through traumatic experiences. This is also a good experience for Selma as she must learn to be quiet and (mostly) still in case she eventually works with a recipient who lives or works in a similar environment.

All of the CPL dogs learn from being in their different work environments, but the dogs are also an enjoyable part of the work day for the staff in these areas. With the cooperation of the staff, inmates and CPL we will continue to have a positive experience for all involved.

Elias Stevens
Unit Manager



Where are they now?



Kudos to Tracker, one of our very first K9's.

He is now residing with a veteran and accompanies him to his office each day providing unconditional love and companionship. New Hope Assistance Dogs reports that he fits in perfectly. Hats off to you, Tracker. We knew you would be the very best from all the rest.

Our Paws for a Cause Program is one of the most rewarding experiences for both staff and inmates. We feel lucky to partner with New Hope in this training program.

Thanks so much to Superintendent Miller, Deputies Bassett, Grillo, Major Gibson and the following who serve on the Paws for a Cause Committee: Jody Smith, Chairperson; Joe Karlavige, Karen Obelenus, Kathy Millard, Deb Solomon, Kris Quinn, Amanda Taylor and Jamie Chiampi.

SCI Coal Township

STATS

January 1, 2019 to November 1, 2019

40 dogs joined the FIDOS program; 30 of those dogs have been adopted

Seven dogs currently at FIDOS



Certified Trainer/Evaluator Speaks of SCI Coal Township's FIDOS Program

As a certified trainer and evaluator of many years, I am amazed at the education the dogs receive from going through the FIDOS program at the SCI Coal Township. What a win-win for everybody involved – from the dogs, to the handlers and then to the lucky adoptive owners.

The handlers are responsible for not only teaching the dogs basic obedience, but also bathroom habits, controlled behavior and the ability to remain calm despite the number of distractions in a given environment. Not to mention socializing, walking, feeding and playing with the dogs.

By preparing these dogs for adoption, the handlers are providing a valuable service and benefit to our local communities. Community members can adopt one of these preselected dogs knowing that after the training, they will be bringing home a well-behaved canine companion into their home.

With the partnership of Mommy and Me (Rescue), the prison allows the dogs to get the extra care and attention that they need, but could not possibly get from volunteers, who are unfortunately limited. These handlers are putting a lot of time and a lot of effort into each dog, which are both aspects that a shelter could not give.

It is gratifying to observe these handlers eager to learn. Many have become very skilled and knowledgeable — and they work with some challenging dogs! I have also witnessed how compassionate the handlers are and how much they care for the dogs they are responsible for training. The handlers in the program are skilled and capable, the prison staff is welcoming and supportive, and the handlers friendly, attentive, and eager to share their experiences and concerns about a particular dog if need be.

After working with the program for a year, I have witnessed how the handlers have: transformed dogs to have trust and respect for their handler and other humans; many of the dogs have a decrease in symptoms of nervousness, insecurity and fear; and the dogs also have an increase in a balance of social behavior toward other dogs.

The handlers involved with the FIDOS program are turning the lives of the dogs they train around in a positive and meaningful way. In addition, I am grateful and appreciative of all their hard work. There is an amazing team of individuals involved in this program and they are making a difference in the lives of the dogs (as well as the handlers).

Happy Tails,
Nancy



Hi,
My name is Wendell and I would like to admit being around the dog program really changed my outlook on dogs. Before I was scared to walk up to a dog. Now I feel comfortable to go pet one. I also learned how to get a dog to listen to you without making the dog scared of you. They also helped me when I was feeling down, so now I want a dog for myself when I go home. The dogs really are a man's best friend and I'm so happy I was able to learn things about dogs just from being around the program. This program has helped me understand dogs and I got so much respect for them.

~ Submitted by inmate housed on SCICT FIDOS unit (not a handler)

SCI Waymart

Meet Zyla, Zetta and Zee, three new Lab puppies who arrived at SCI Waymart on Friday, September 20, 2019, to commence their training to become Companion Dogs to Veterans and children with special needs. They are four months old, and have lots of energy and are certain to be a big hit with everyone who is lucky enough to meet them. (Remember... Do Not pet them if they have their vests on).

Staff members and Inmate Trainers were on hand to welcome the three new pups, as well as members of the Paws for a Cause Committee, who could not give them enough attention and make them feel welcome to their new homes. There's Nothing like three little pups to brighten the day.



Zetta, Zee and Zyla meeting staff members.

Zyla sitting at attention for a treat.



The New Pups were introduced to the other two dogs, Winter and Wanda, and they enjoyed running all around in the yard together.



Bidding Farewell to Wanda and Winter. Wanda and Winter with Jody Smith, Program Chairperson, Karen Obelenus & Kathy Millard, members of The Paws for a Cause Committee



We miss Wanda and Winter so much. They have returned to New Hope Assistance Dogs to get their Master's Degree and graduate with honors from the program and make a special difference with a veteran who will be so lucky to get one of these Labs. Sweet dispositions and very obedient. Staff who took them home for weekend socialization wanted to keep them.

*Kathy Millard
Clerk Typist 2*



The Play Sneeze

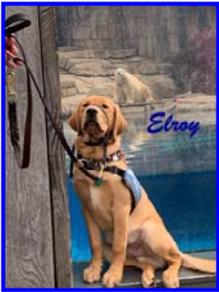
Have you ever noticed your dog sneezing while playing? Have you noticed as their play becomes more intense their sneezing is more frequent?

The "play sneeze" is a way for dogs to show us that they are having fun and being playful. When dogs sneeze while displaying rowdy/fight play behavior, it signals they are enjoying themselves and is not typically a true fight.



SCI Greene

In March 2014, SCI Greene's partnership with Canine Partners for Life (CPL) began and five little puppies arrived at the facility. Six years and 24 puppies later, we continue to take on the challenging, yet rewarding task of teaching each puppy a set of skills within their first year of life. It is always a heartwarming moment to reflect back on the many puppies that have been raised at Greene. It makes all the hard work worthwhile. The amount of support it takes to set our service-dogs-in-training up for success is monumental and I am incredibly proud of our team. Each person plays a crucial role. It takes a great deal of commitment from our community and staff volunteers, CPL liaison and coordinators to assure the puppies are socialized and exposed to new experiences. We can't thank them enough for being such strong pillars in the program. The inmate handlers continue to work through each challenge with patience in order to reach training goals. Their ability to remain resilient never goes unnoticed, especially on the tough days. The handlers are currently raising Betty, Elroy and Andie. Their around-the-clock commitment is the solid foundation for which we build on. A big thank you goes to the staff from all classifications who continue to support the handlers on a daily basis. Officers who take time to help a puppy overcome a fear or allow a few extra minutes for a handler to work through a challenge is appreciated. Nurses, teachers, counselors and clerks who know each puppy by name and can be counted on for snuggles is cherished. Administration that continue to support our goals is valued. To complete the team, a very special thank you goes to Waynesburg Animal hospital for their continued sponsorship and care of our puppies. They have sponsored 24 canines at no cost. This summer, we were fortunate to show our gratitude by holding a 50/50 raffle in an effort to assist with costs associated with the care the animal hospital provides. Staff was able to raise over \$500. In addition, SCI Greene's inmate organization (ACE) matched the 50/50 earnings and donated another \$500 as a result of proceeds earned from a rain coat sale. As we approach the holiday season and conclude what has been another wonderful year for our canine program, we give our thanks to everyone who continues to support us and extend our gratitude to all the canine programs throughout the DOC for truly making a difference.



*Kayla Shaner
DATS II*

SCI Somerset



To meet the recipient of one of the puppies your organization raised in prison is the dream of many a prison puppy handler. All the hard work and dedication it takes is nothing compared to knowing that someone in need will be getting a dog that will change their life and especially when you get to meet that recipient...it is life-altering.

On November 15th, SCI Somerset Canine Connection got that opportunity when Kaggie and her 4 1/2 year old black Lab, Denver, came to visit. Just seeing them interact was very emotional, then to hear all the ways in which he helps her do the things she could never do before brought tears to our eyes. It was truly the most rewarding experience that many

of us have ever had in prison.



- G. S. Canine Handler

*Melanie Pyle
CCPM*



SCI Rockview

SCI Rockview is transitioning into a new dog program. We are expecting to welcome Canine Partners for Life; but changing it up a bit from CPL's typical dog program, by using puppies from a rescue.

While the inmate handlers, inmates and staff patiently wait for the next program to begin, we do not go without seeing a dog at Rockview, since the prison adopted a St. Bernard named Fred. Fred can be seen visiting inmates in the SRTU, DTU and RTU, along with visiting staff. Fred lives with his handlers on the unit and when he is not making his rounds, he can be found sound asleep.

Sheena Drukemiller *Diana Simpson*
 PSS MRS



Volunteers with the SCI Rockview Prison Pup Program are fortunate enough to get updates from the families of the former prison pups. It's safe to say, they are living quite the life! Here are just a few!



Jackson, the loud hound, well his dad suffers from 'canine paralysis', which he is unable to move due to Jackson's presence on his lap. Prior to the prison program, Jackson was in five different foster homes. No more bouncing around, he has found that "forever" home.



Colt, the quirky hound, enjoys staring at his luxurious, large pool deciding whether to jump in and retrieve his ball! Colt was surrendered with claims of aggressiveness, which was unfounded. He's now a West Coast dog, living the high life between his homes in Oregon and Arizona.

now a West Coast dog, living the high life between his homes in Oregon and Arizona.



Gunner, the mouthy Weimaraner, enjoys relaxing on his back porch. Prior to rescue, Gunner was pretty much crated 24/7. He came into the program infested with fleas, and other skin conditions. No worries now for him!!



Wolfie, the smiley Shiba-Inu, enjoys playing with his canine siblings and eating the occasional remote control. Wolfie was surrendered to rescue when he became very sick, and diagnosed with Parvo. He overcame that, entered the prison program and into the heart of an employee, who adopted him. He now gets everything his little heart desires.



Daisy, the silly Lab, now enjoys evenings by the fire, with an occasional roasted hot dog no doubt. Daisy was surrendered for being too hyperactive. Hmmmm, a young lab who is hyper, who would have thought. She is now with a family, one being a SCI Rockview employee, who loves her and all her hyperness.



Tiggs, the oh so sweet Lab mix, will hopefully be going to his "forever" this weekend. After a couple homes and a couple surgeries sustained from being hit and dragged by a car, he entered into the prison program physically and mentally a mess. He had to learn to trust humans again, while also rehabbing his legs, along with a couple other medical issues in between. Still, after everything Tiggs has been through, he is one of the most loving, sweetest, loyal dogs. Tiggs deserves the best of the best and One Dog at a Time (ODAT), along with staff volunteers will ensure he gets it.

Inmate Testimonials

Dog Gone Beautiful

As a dog handler in state prison, I'm asked a number of questions about my experience training rescue dogs for adoption. I find it interesting that most people ask a variation of the same question: Don't you miss the dogs when they're gone?

The assumption suggests that dog handlers are prone to excessive emotional attachment to their dogs because prison limits access to intimate relationships. Then, after adoption separates dogs and dog handlers, the handlers plummet from the heights of emotional attachment to the depths of emotional loss. Or so the assumption goes.

Granted, prison can be a lonely place. And most people do prefer the affection of a familiar dog. But frequent good-byes to adopted dogs don't add up to an abundance of personal loss.

The process of training and adoption doesn't place dog handlers on an emotional rollercoaster ride of attachment and separation. It doesn't trigger an internal tug-of-war between intimacy and abandonment. In my experience, a handler's good-byes transcend the horrible and result in something beautiful.

Rarely does a handler fixate on the absence of a dog from his life. Instead, he chooses to focus on the presence of a dog in someone else's life. That's the mission after all: to prepare rescue dogs for successful participation in other people's lives. It's a mutually beneficial affair that results in a favorable outcome for handlers and adopters.

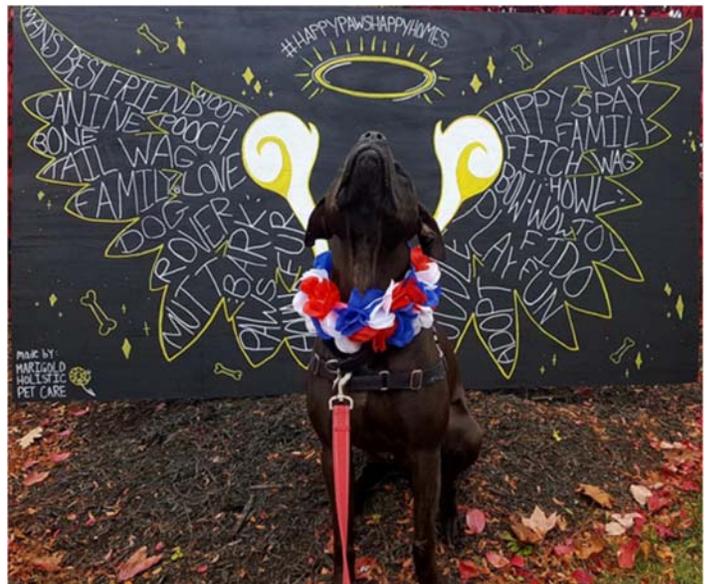
Dog handlers take great comfort in knowing their dogs will become valued members of other people's families. They know their dogs will bring joy and solace to a generation of children, parents, elders and acquaintances. They know their dogs will serve as steadfast companions through life's many triumphs and tragedies. It's in this way that handlers know the dogs they work with will enable them to reach beyond prison and tangibly improve other people's lives.

That knowledge satisfies deeply. It's powerful and amazing. None of it is possible until a dog handler bids his dog farewell. An inevitable good-bye precedes each enduring union between a dog and an adopted family. Sometimes saying good-bye is a beautiful thing.

Ian @ FIDOS, SCI Coal Township



***"A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, educated or illiterate, clever or dull. Give him your heart and he will give you his."
~Author John Grogan***



SCI Retreat

*A Story of Companionship, Life and Love found through SCI Retreat's
New Leash on Life Pup Program!!*



While working as an acting counselor on B block, I fell in love with two dogs, Riley and Max, that were part of the SCI Retreat dog program. Riley was timid and shy, but also cuddly and sweet. Max was big, goofy and either extremely hyper or very lazy. One day I took both dogs for a walk on the compound and while playing tug a war with Max he decided standing was too much effort and just plopped on his side. He got up and plopped down again. He then on the way back to the block spent 20 minutes trying to play with the dog in the window (his reflection), drooling barking and prancing the whole time, while Riley and I just watched entertained. Every day I would make sure to visit and play with them. After getting to know them I knew I had to take them home. I went to the SPCA and was able to take Riley almost immediately. Once home and comfortable, all her shyness left her and she became the most lovable dog in the world. She was with us for the 4th of July and enjoyed all the love, attention and food everyone snuck to her under the table. I was nervous the fireworks would frighten her, but she just sat on my lap and enjoyed the company. She loves to snuggle, go on walks, go for car rides and play. Three weeks later Max was able to join us at home. They recognized each other instantly and began running around playing. Max brought with him chaos, humor, lots of drool, and of course love. Max joined us on our walks, car rides, and of course cuddles. Just when I thought that was all the craziness I had in store my nephew needed a place to stay. He was almost 14 years old, emotional, frustrated, and bold. Both this child and these two dogs instantly fell in love with each other. They provide for him a love and therapy that only a dog can. To see him run with Riley and ride his bike with Max, or take them for a walk just to show them off to anyone who wants to see melts my heart. They have made our lives so much better. The greeting they give when you get home from work, there is no comparison. Even on a bad day when they may have an accident, eat a book, destroy toys, eat my glasses and blanket or terrorize the cats I would not change bringing them home for the world. In my nephew's words, "They are cute, goofy, Max drools too much, they are protective and he really loves them." I encourage anyone looking for a dog to adopt and give them a new chance at life. They will give more to you and pay you with more love and kindness than you can ever imagine!

*Felicia Rocco
Acting Counselor/Corrections Officer 1*

SCI Smithfield



SCI Smithfield was selected as one of the institutions to start the second level/phase of training for Canine Partners for Life. Carbon, who we have had since he was an eight week pup, will be our first dog to begin the second phase of training without leaving the institution. SCI Smithfield took on a fifth dog, Carbon's brother, Frebe, so they could complete the program together. Carbon was fitted for his harness and is getting used to wearing it. Frebe is waiting to be fitted for his harness. Both dogs are learning to turn lights on and off, open and close doors, closer, brace and push/pull. Both dogs are fast learners and doing very well.

Owen returned to SCI Smithfield in October to see if the inmate handlers could break him of a few bad habits that were keeping him from advancing on in his training. The handlers are doing great with Owen. They have broken him from almost all of his bad habits. Staff at SCI Smithfield were glad to get Owen back and have high hopes that he will graduate a full service dog.

Budd and Popeye are our newest dog pups. Both arrived at Smithfield as eight week old pups. Budd came to SCI Smithfield in August and Popeye arrived in September. Both pups are doing great. The handlers have stated they are both very smart and are learning their basic commands along with a few advanced commands already.

Hunts left SCI Smithfield in July to begin his second phase of training. He was brought back for a training to visit on October 16. Hunts immediately ran to his handlers. The bond between the dogs and the handlers are strong. Everyone was happy to see him again and was impressed of how much he learned in a short period.



*Jeffrey Runk
Acting Unit Manager/Corrections Counselor 2*

SCI Laurel Highlands



On Wednesday, November 13th, staff from Somerset CART (County Animal Response Team) provided Laurel Highlands' staff volunteers, community volunteers and inmate handlers with a CPR/First Aid training.

Following the training, the CPL handlers made a monetary donation to CART as a special "Thanks"!

*Rebecca Witt
Unit Manager*



SCI Camp Hill

Where exactly were you in the early weeks of September 2017? Remember? No? Me neither. In the span of 14 days in September 2017, two major hurricanes—Irma and Maria—devastated Puerto Rico, resulting in excess of \$132 billion in damages and still counting. Rebuilding efforts continue today. Untold numbers of dogs were abandoned, lost, or just ran away. Who would have thought the HOPE program on P Unit in Camp Hill would have any impact? Because of the tireless dedication of the HOPE volunteers and an international animal rescue mission, HOPE made its mark! HOPE was ready for the challenge. His name is Big Boss; he did not know any commands when he arrived. The only word he immediately recognized was mira. He was in the HOPE program just over two months before being adopted. When he left HOPE, he knew all the basic commands; some in English and Spanish. So there you have it, a bilingual dog. His two year journey started when he was rescued from the devastated streets of Puerto Rico after the hurricanes and now he is in a forever home. I thought I would briefly share his story as I find it remarkable.



*Tim Hornung
Unit Manager*



Homemade Valentine's Day Dog Treat Recipe



What You'll Need

2 cups of Whole Wheat Flour
2 Different Flavors of 4 oz Jars of Baby Food
Any flavors will do but make sure they don't contain onions or grapes.
It works best if you get two flavors that differ quite a bit in color. We did a light tan Vegetables & Chicken and an orange Sweet Carrots.

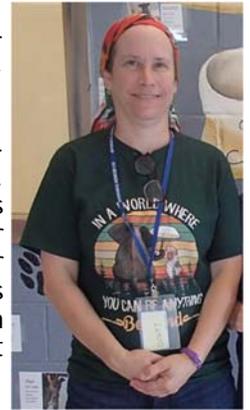
How To Make It

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In separate bowls, mix 1 cup of flour with each jar of baby food.
3. Lightly knead dough on floured surface and roll out each dough separately.
4. Use paw-shaped cookie cutter on each dough.
5. Use a small heart-shaped cookie cutter and remove center of the paw cut-out.
6. Take heart cut-out in one color and place in the opposite colored paw. Lightly pat them together. They will seem like they will fall apart but once baked, they will stay together.
7. Place on baking sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes. Let cool before serving to your pups.



SCI Benner Township

In October, SCI Benner Township celebrated its sixth year anniversary of its dog program, "A Dog's Tail From Jail." To the right is the dog program's founder and trainer, Pam Graci of Wags and Woof Dog Training.



The dogs are primarily rescued Greyhounds from Nittany Greyhound here in State College, Pa., but we have also trained different breeds from Rondout Kennels of New York.



At the institution, the Greyhounds are taught life skills and socialization with people. These dogs have spent their first two to five years racing around a track for our amusement. Therefore, they lack the basic living skills your typical family pet takes for granted, i.e. walking on linoleum, climbing stairs, and knowing their human isn't going to beat them.

On September 5, Toni Duchi, of Nittany Greyhound, Inc., presented the 2019 Foster Home of the Year award to SCI Benner Township's K-9 Handlers. Pictured to the left is Corrections Counselor Ali Schilling accepting the certificate from Toni. The staff and inmates have put in a lot of training hours to make this award possible; to date we have had nearly 90 dogs graduate to adoption.



To wrap up the celebration, the inmates working in dietary prepared a celebration cake for both staff and inmates alike. The pups on the other hand, had to settle for Milk Bone treats. I'm sure they didn't mind.



Trixie

*Chris Spangler
Unit Manager*



Cece



Dream



Foxy



Alpha

The Paw Pact...

**It means that when you adopt me,
 You will love me for my whole life,
 No matter what...**

**When you move, you will take me with you.
 When you have a baby, you won't give me up.
 If you get another pet, you will still love me.**

THE PAW PACT = FOREVER

SCI Huntingdon



Smokey and Tore

My husband and I have been involved with Canine Partners for Life for several years at SCI Huntingdon. Over the years, we have taken many CPL puppies home and out on various excursions with our family, as often as we can. Being a part of such a wonderful program has enriched our lives greatly as we've watched these puppies grow and develop into their roles in life as service dogs who will, ultimately, enrich the lives of others who so desperately need them.

Bringing these puppies into our lives, even for a short period of time, makes it easy and natural to become attached to them and grow to love them. While it's hard to say goodbye when it's time for them to move on to their next phase, we focus on the good that they are going to be doing in their future. There was one puppy in particular that my family and I had a very hard time saying goodbye to. That puppy was

Tore. I always said that if, for any reason, Tore had to be released, he was mine! I never actually thought that it would happen, though, because Tore was a rock star! He excelled with his training. He was eager to learn and eager to please. We knew he would make the biggest difference in someone's life someday, and for that we were happy. However, one day at training at the prison, it was mentioned in passing that, due to medical reasons, Tore was going to be released. I thought for sure that I had misheard. I turned to a friend for confirmation, and I hadn't imagined it or mistaken it. Tore was being released! I, of course, submitted my application for adoption immediately, and my family and I held lots of discussions about the possibility of adopting Tore. We were excited to have the chance to maybe be approved as an adoptive home, but we were also trying to be realistic about what it would mean to do so. We wanted to find out as much as we could about his medical condition, and we also had to consider what bringing a puppy into our home would mean and how it would change our current situation. We already have an older pit bull, Smokey, who adopted us several years ago and was very used to being the queen of her domain. While Tore had been in our home many times, we usually keep Smokey separated from the CPL puppies that we bring home, just to cause her less stress. We knew it would take time, and be an adjustment for her, but we also thought it would be good for her to have a companion. And we really wanted to bring Tore into our family!

The day finally came when we were able to bring Tore home. It was an exciting and emotional day for all of us. Tore's famous "Wiggle Butt" was going a mile a minute. While it was wonderful to have Tore with us on a permanent basis, it was also an adjustment for everyone in the family, animals and humans alike! The cats were skeptical of the new addition, and Smokey was possessive of her space and her family. For Tore, it was like he was waiting for us to take him back. It took him awhile to settle in and become comfortable and fully realize that he was home for good. He's still adjusting to life as a much loved pet, (albeit the most well-behaved and trained of pets!) instead of life as a service dog. After almost three months with us, he is just beginning to, sometimes, remain lying down in a room if I get up and leave, rather than getting up and following me. He still tends to follow me, in particular, wherever I go. He is definitely all about being with his people. Tore has, on occasion, tried to get us to think that he has forgotten some of his training; but unfortunately for him, being staff handlers for CPL, we are very familiar with all of his commands and don't let him get away with it! Tore and Smokey have become the best of friends, though Smokey will still at times try to remind Tore that SHE was there first and therefor has certain rights to toys and beds. Tore has improved Smokey's health and mobility already, as she strives to keep up with him. Tore has easily and quickly become a natural part of our family's life and daily routines. I am thrilled to now have a very willing companion for my early morning walks, and each of our daughters now has a nighttime roommate for company. It's still sometimes hard for us to believe that he is actually ours forever. While it was unfortunate that Tore was not able to complete the training program and go on to make a difference in some special person's life, the joy and love he shares with us every day makes us so very thankful that we've been given this opportunity to have Tore as part of our family. He has definitely made a difference in OUR lives.

*Beth Linn
Records Specialist*



SCI Houtzdale

Poppy came to us at 14 months old as a very happy and high-energy dog. She came here with the intention that we would help her control her energy and impulses. The goal was to focus that energy into her work in a healthy fashion. Poppy made great leaps in her self-control, while remaining a happy and loving dog. Poppy loved belly rubs, chasing tennis balls and playing in the water. She was fearless in exploring new areas and even run a 5K color run with staff in memory of SGT Baserman. To our dismay, the life of a service dog was not in her destiny. Poppy has been adopted to her forever home.



Sully arrived to us as a little fuzzy ball of fur. That did not last long. He is a VERY high-energy dog that loves to play. One of his favorite games is hide and seek. Sully has won the hearts of the inmates on his housing unit. One handler shared his experience that numerous inmates have told him, "It has been years since I touched a dog." This has a very powerful impact on the therapeutic value within the prison setting. Our dogs put smiles on the faces of inmates and staff alike. Sully attends church and veteran services with his handler. One of his handler's stated, "Working with Sully has been amazing. He has helped me be a calmer and more patient person. When he leaves, he is taking some of me with him."



Cody is loving, playful and a high-energy puppy; he is too smart for his own good sometimes. Cody joined Poppy and staff running the 5K memorial color run in honor of Sgt. Baserman. One of his handler's commented, "He has the most infectious personality that you can't help but love him." Cody instantly becomes best friends and instantly loves everybody he meets; he absolutely loves people and children. Cody has mastered tilting his head and giving the "puppy look," and he gets "belly rubs" out of this. He has made leaps and bounds working on his self-control. "As always thank you very much for the privilege of working with Cody. It has been my honor to help raise him."

Keller is a great pup that is always happy and full of energy. He is learning when to use that energy and when it is time to relax. When Keller first arrived with us, he wanted to chase everything on the ground and blowing in the wind. Keller especially liked balled-up pieces of paper or paper towels. He probably thought they were toys because they were round and would roll around in the wind. Over time he has learned to leave most everything alone on the ground and does great going on walks. Keller loves to play fetch with this soft softball. I could throw it 100 times and he would sprint after it to go get it every time. At first, he would always drop it at my feet instead of putting it in my hand. After a lot of practice, he is learning what he is supposed to do. Some of the things we are currently working on are putting his snow boots on. They are booties that protect the pads of his feet from the elements.

It is a long process to get him to allow us to put the boots on without him fidgeting with them. Once they are on his feet he walks perfectly and doesn't even notice he is actually wearing them. We are also working on the commands: tug, push and get it. Keller can pick up pens, toys, ID cards and give them to you. He can push doors closed and push chairs in too. When it is time to relax Keller loves to curl up and go to sleep right on your feet. If you are on the floor, he will put his head in your lap and go to sleep while you give him a nice massage.



Harper is our newest little girl; she's super sweet and very smart. She arrived in September; she is a very fast learner. She knows many commands already and her handlers are even teaching her a few tricks. Harper loves playing with the boys and usually dominates them. When not playing she is a very calm puppy and brings a soothing effect with her when she visits. Harper has become a favorite of the staff; she melts hearts with her sweet eyes.

Craig Petulla
Unit Manager

SCI Frackville



On May 29, 2019, staff at SCI Frackville had the great pleasure of being part of the filming process for an episode of a popular television show known as Pit Bulls and Parolees. The program is aired on Animal Planet and highlights Villalobos Rescue Center which is based out of New Orleans, La., and is geared toward giving Pit Bulls, along with parolees, a second chance at life. They partnered up with the DAWGS Prison program which was founded by Amy and Steve Eckert and are based out of Minersville, Pa. The relationship developed between the two rescues after Amy Eckert



answered Villalobos request for help at which time Amy emailed those at the Villalobos Rescue Center and the relationship grew from there. Even though Villalobos Rescue's primary focus is the Pit Bull breed, they take on many other breeds also with the hopes of giving our canine friends a second chance at life. Since the relationship began, SCI Frackville has had the pleasure of receiving three separate transports of dogs from Villalobos Rescue Center.



On the day of the film shoot, which was also the first transport by Villalobos, staff patiently awaited the arrival of Tia Torres, Mariah Torres, Mariah, Earl, and the film crew from Villalobos Rescue Center and the production company for Animal Planet. The time came, they arrived, and the staff's anticipation quickly grew. The convoy of vans pulled up to the front of the facility and they all began getting out one by one. They brought us five dogs whose names were Fancy, Cheesecake, Cavalier (now known as Cali), Tindal (now known as Murphy), and Zelda. All of the dogs participated in a one-month basic obedience training which was facilitated by Amy and Steve along with the inmate handlers. The staff members present for the



filming were Superintendent K. Brittain, Unit Manager J. Weissinger, CCPM K. Sheluga, CCII S. Sadler, Supt. Assistant J. Newberry, Supt. Secretary B. Lazusky, Maint. Secretary C. Halford, and DSFM Secretary C. O'Connell. We are proud to announce that all of the dogs who arrived on the first transport from Villalobos Rescue Center have found their forever homes and doing well. Since the first transport, SCI Frackville has received two more transports from VRC totaling 12 dogs total with the most recent occurring on 11/22/2019.

S. Sadler
CCII



Where Are They Now?



CPL puppy, John, graduated in summer 2019 with his new person, Tori. Tori has been sharing her and John's adventures on her Facebook page, as well as stories about how John has changed her life. Shortly after graduating, John and Tori moved across the country, visiting many state parks and having many adventures along the way! With John by her side, Tori is able to work, go to school, and enjoy her favorite activities such as hiking and camping safely.



SCI Cambridge Springs



Flash

SCI Cambridge Springs continues to work with the ANNA Shelter, bringing rescue dogs into CAMP for basic obedience training and socialization to aid in possible adoption. Recently, some of the staff members at SCI Cambridge Springs have been taking advantage of the adoption opportunity within the new program.

Flash is the young, male three-legged Pit Bull/Terrier mix who had just arrived to CAMP in our last article. Flash was in an unfortunate accident at a young age where he was struck by a vehicle and had to have one of his hind legs amputated. His disability didn't slow him down though. Flash was surrendered to the ANNA Shelter by his owner because he was too strong and stubborn to be handled in the household. He was a challenge for the inmate handlers, with his high-prey drive and unpredictable behaviors. Flash successfully completed the program and was adopted by a Cambridge Springs employee, CO1 West. The family quickly fell in love with Flash; he was sweet and loving toward all members of the family of all ages.

Sammi is a young, female black Labrador Retriever mix who was



Officer Gibala and his wife, their dogs Landon and Sammi

brought to CAMP shortly after Flash. When Sammi first arrived, she was very unsure and "skiddish" of others. She was in a home where she was not socialized properly; she did not ever leave the home or interact with people other than her owner. Sammi was surrendered to the ANNA Shelter because her owner could no longer provide her with the proper care she deserved. Her lack of socialization consequently led to unusual behaviors and trust issues. With the help of her inmate handlers, Sammi was able to conquer some of her fears and improve her socialization skills. She caught the eye of an officer who was assigned to the dog unit, COT Gibala. Officer Gibala and his wife had adopted a dog from the ANNA Shelter years ago and were looking for another companion to join the household. They decided to adopt Sammi, and she turned out to be the perfect addition to the family. Officer Gibala is a veteran and had his adoption fee covered by a sponsor through the ANNA Shelter as part of their Veteran Adoption Program.

gram.

Roman is a young, male Pit Bull/Hound mix who stole the hearts of many staff and inmates at Cambridge Springs. Roman was taken to the ANNA Shelter after he was found abandoned in a wooded area tied to a tree. He was in extremely poor condition, starved and suffering from terrible skin infections.

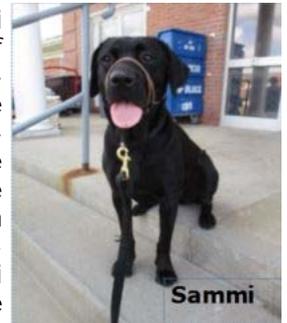
Roman was treated by the ANNA Shelter's veterinarian services and cared for by staff until he was brought back to good health. He began to show his true colors at the shelter, being rambunctious and full of energy. When Roman arrived to CAMP, he was so scared that he had to be carried in by CAMP Program Coordinator Mr. Schneider. Once he warmed up to the environment, he was able to relax and enjoy himself. His behaviors were nothing like those he had demonstrated at the ANNA Shelter. Instead, he was very calm and slow moving, always going with the flow – we think he was just happy to be alive, healthy, and living a normal dog life! Roman was adopted by CBS staff members, Mr. and Mrs. Morris (both CO1s). Mr. Morris is a veteran and had his adoption fee covered by a sponsor through the ANNA Shelter as part of their Veteran Adoption Program.

CAMP has been working with SCI Mercer's CARE Program on structuring the training curriculum and making improvements to increase the success of the program and ultimately, save more lives!

*Alicia Groover,
Clerk Typist II*



Officer West and her family, CAMP Coordinators Ms. Groover and Mr. Schneider, and Flash



Sammi



Roman

SCI Mercer

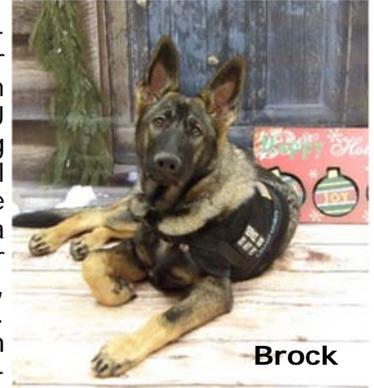
Incarcerated Veterans Training Medical Dogs for Veterans



TJ

On October 4, 2019, SCI Mercer received four five-month-old German Shepherd puppies to train for the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dog program in Florida. Twelve inmate veterans from the VSU were accepted into the program after completing their first seven day training program. The dogs will be at the facility for approximately a year before they are paired with a Pennsylvania veteran. After a year of training, the dogs will be able alert on their veteran for a variety of reasons (diabetic shock, seizures, nightmares, PTSD symptoms, and more). They will be able to brace so that the recipient can

use them to get up off the ground or out of a chair, bring them their medications, shield them from approaching people, and so much more.

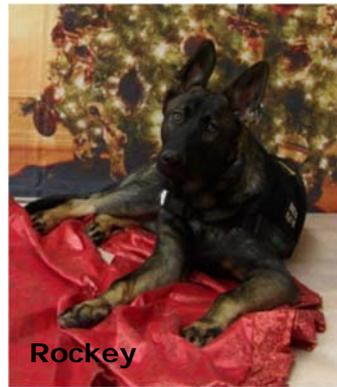


Brock

*April Harvey
CAMII*



Semper Fi



Rockey



Hi, my name is Barney!! I am temporarily residing at the SCI Mercer dog program. I am living with two people who are good to me and give me plenty of nice yum-yum treats. They introduce me to a lot of people. At first I was a little leery of these humans and would bark a little, but I soon learned they were not about hurting me they just want to pet me and give me some love and why? Well to be blunt, I am just so darn cute. I love to run and jump in the dog pen, and play with the other dogs. Some I get along with and some I do not but I really do love other. Sometimes I get so excited to meet and play with them that I can get a little over excited... but I really just want to play!! I'm a BIG dog so the smaller dogs can be a little intimidated by me but they soon learn I can be gentle when I need to. The two humans who handle me teach me many neat little tricks to get extra treats and I do my best cause I love to please them and I love those treats... yum-yum!! I think I like it here but I am told I am leaving someday. They keep

saying something like a "Forever Home" I am going too. I don't know exactly what that means but it sounds good. This is Barney signing out, so good-bye for now.

Love,
Barney

Hi, my name is Blue, I am a Blue Tick Tree Walker Coonhound. I had a somewhat tough start in life.... tied up and chained outside for five years with my brother. I survived in spite of that... Now, I am trying to trust in humans again and get used to the urban life.

I am working on letting humans in my space and letting them love me. I am house-trained in spite of being an outside dog. I do get along with other dogs and I am OK with being home alone. Right now, I am working on my sits, waits, stays and I am improving on my downs. I am working really, hard on my leash walking skills at SCI Mercer. My dog handlers want to do the best they can to help me be the best dog I can be. I am looking forward to learning all that I can, so I can bring JOY into your home. I hope that you and I get a chance to meet so I can melt your heart. So take your time to read this short profile about a dog name Blue. Hope to see you soon....

Yours truly,
BLUE



SCI Mercer cont.



Hi, my name is Dion! I am a handsome, two-year old Boxer mix with lots of energy. My previous owners felt that I was too hyper to be a good pet, so I ended up at Strayhaven Animal Shelter. Fortunately, Strayhaven said I have huge potential and sent me to SCI Mercer to be trained in the C.A.R.E program.

I showed up ready to learn because I really want a permanent family and a permanent home. I was amazed to find out that I

am not a "bad" dog. My handlers showed me that all my energy could be used in ways that do not frustrate my parents. All this time, all I needed was for somebody to show me better ways to use my energy. (i.e. Frisbee, stuffed kong, nice walks, chew toys, interactive food-dispensers, playing with dogs, etc.)

After five weeks, I have learned loads. I have learned to greet politely, to play with my doggy friends nicely, and to be calm in the house. I no longer chew on things that are not my toys (or my doggy friends). I have also learned a long list of commands and trick like sit, down, leave it, drop it, stay, play dead, rollover, shake and spin.

I still have five more weeks to learn more...yaaa! I hope that you see I am trying hard to be the best dog you could ask for. And I'm working hard so that somebody will give me a chance!! I am ready to show my new family what it is like to have a happy, loving and cuddly dog around to cheer them up all the time!

Love,
Dion



Hello, everyone, Queen Hawn here coming to you from SCI Mercer's C.A.R.E. program. If I look familiar and you think you have seen me before, you are right!! I am doing two cycle's here at the C.A.R.E. program. I learned a lot my first time around here, but I was having trouble warming up to people. This time around, I have learned some new tricks and have warmed up to a bunch of people!! But only in time, I can't be forced into being petted. If you come into

where I am most comfortable, just give me time to figure you out and ignore me. I will eventually warm up to you! I like it when people I know and trust want to wrestle with me and chase me around the pen. I have gotten very good with the dog games they have here! They boost my confidence. The games they bring me ... I conquer them!! Yeah, I am smart. You can't hide a treat that I won't find..lol. I love to play with other dogs when introduced properly. I like it when there are not too many people around, then I feel less threatened. I require a lot of time and patience, but when you get to know me you will not regret it!! I have a great personality. OK, thank you for listening to me. Please, I am waiting for my forever home so come adopt me – see you later.

HAWN

**We're Adopted?
OMG!!!**



You mean you're not our real Mom?



Hello, allow me to introduce myself. I am a two-year-old Pit/Terrier mix named Kingston, but you can call me "KING", because I rule at this thing called the C.A.R.E. Program. For the last five weeks, my two most loyal servants (handlers) have been tirelessly grooming me so I may hopefully rule your heart with my royal skills. Right now, I am learning the proper way to walk on a leash, which I am sure I will pick up easily, since I am super smart and very treat motivated. My servants have already taught me the basics like how to sit, stay, down, look at me, touch, come, stand, and wait. Besides the basics, my servants have taught me some tricks to help win over your heart!! I know how to roll over, play dead when you say "bang-bang," give paw, put my paws up and pray. During my free time when I am not training, I love to play fetch and run around. I am very hyper and love to play, play, play! When we are not playing, I really like to cuddle up and be by your side. If you don't want me to sleep in your bed then just say "bed" and point to my crate. I will go sleep in there. My servants also love to leave me a feast of food in my bowl so that I can eat when I want too. And, when I have to go to the bathroom I tell my servants and make them take me out! Well, if you are still reading this then I guess I have your attention and I will wrap this up by telling you that I am just a happy dog that loves attention from everyone. I want to play with other dogs as much as I can!! I also have lots of energy to share with the whole family or whoever wants to play and spend time together. I am very loving and just want to be loved!!! So if you are looking for

that missing piece or special friend in your life---then I am your guy!!!

P.S. I'm looking for my new castle to call my own... **KING**

SCI Mercer cont.



Hello, everyone, my name is Minnie!! I am a Bull Terrier mix, female, about three years old. I was a stray and now looking for a family to love!! To describe myself, first I am sooooo cute with a Mickey Mouse head on my right side. At first, I can be shy with people especially if you try to greet me by reaching over my head. I am a Queen so nobody has the right to touch my crown until we become family... OK! Ever since I left Strayhaven, I have been in the C.A.R.E. program at SCI Mercer with my two handlers training me everything I need to know before I come home to a loving family. So, I have learned to sit, stay, wait, come, down and stop. I practice my training everyday so I can be sharp... once I am with my new family. I also have time to play with my peers (dogs)!! Whenever I have free time to exercise, I play with my best friend (Ruger) who wants to be my boy-friend... but he hasn't earned the right yet, to take care of a Queen! So people, if you are looking for the most adorable dog in the world, I am here waiting for my royal family to come pick me up and live happily ever after – I'll be waiting.....**Minnie**

Hi, my name is Ruger. I am a male Terrier mix, about one year young. A lot of people tell me how sweet and cute I am, so this must be true! I really like playing with the other dogs. I enjoy taking walks, especially if I get to see rabbits and birds. I think they would be so much fun to play with, but they always run or fly away. I have my own bed that I sleep on in my crate, but if you want me to snuggle with you in your bed, I like that also!!! I am house broken, do not worry I will let you know when I really need to take care of business. I know all my basic commands like sit, stay, down, etc. I have a few special tricks I do that really seem to make my people friends so happy!! **Ruger**



Come	Bend your arm from straight to your chest in a come here motion while say "Come"
Crawl	In down position drag treat across floor while say "Crawl" (He will only do this on soft floor grass)
Down	Point to the ground while say "Down"
Leave it	Drop something on floor and say "Leave It"
Look-at-Me	Point to eyes and say "Look – at – Me"
Paw	Hold hand out and say "Paw"
Play Dead	While he is sitting point a gun at him and say "Bang – Bang" (He loves this command when he is excited)
Roll Over	In down position make a circle with your finger in front of his face and say "Roll Over"
Sit	Raise your hand from his mouth to your chest in a arm curl motion while say "Sit"
Stand	While the dog is in sit or down have your hand by your side and move it towards your back and say "Stand"
Stay	Have your palm in front of you and say "Stay"
Touch	Hold hand out and say "Touch"



Hi, my name is Nuggs!! I am three years old and a Pit mix. I am in the C.A.R.E. Program at SCI Mercer. Here, I am being trained for many kinds of things so I can be better for the people adopting me. I have learned how to sit, lay down, shake paws and stay when I am told to. If you ask if I would like to go outside and tell me to go get the leash,

I will and bring it to you. I am learning more every day!! I am house broken and crate trained. I will wake you up if I can't wait until morning. I will play with only my toys! I love playing ball with people. I sleep on my bed made for me. I love taking walks and spending time in and outside with you. I am a loving and caring dog. When I first got here, I did not trust anyone. Now I love doing tricks for anyone giving me a treat. I am looking for a family I can love and that will love me back... Someone to share my life with and have years of fun and loving memories together. I hope I am the one for you! **Nuggs**



SCI Mahanoy



The SCI Mahanoy PUP program continues to run with 11 dogs and 22 handlers. The knowledge of a "puppy delivery" causes excitement throughout the institution. And rightfully so. Sometimes our excitement makes us forget that the dogs we get are not always "well-adjusted" and many have just traveled several hours and are now thrown into "prison." The change in climate, sights (snow), smells, and sounds (COUNT TIME!) are significant enough, but we need to keep in mind that for many of these pups, this is the first time in their lives they have a warm bed to sleep in, regular meals, and a person who will not mistreat them. But as we all know, building trust takes time, perseverance and consistency.

We have a rule where the dogs will not travel off the housing unit for at least a week, allowing time for the dog to bond with his handlers, and for the handlers to report to staff their impression of their new friend. Is he playful? Is he shy? Does he like to run or prefer to sit on someone's lap and be petted? Is he good with other dogs, or is he a loner? All these considerations and how the handlers respond to them, make the difference between a successful future adoption or a possible failed adoption which is totally unacceptable.

Before Pepper was turned over to the shelter he was chained to a tree for so long that the collar and lock were embedded in his neck. Thanks to the love, compassion and valuable work that is done with these rescues, he is now the beautiful, loving animal pictured above.

One of our more senior handlers was asked to submit a statement on the program for this newsletter. He also presents a brief synopsis on the program for the Pathways to Success Class.

*Christine Griffin
Unit Manager*



I've been a part of the PUP program for close to 3 years now. SCI Mahanoy's puppy program has given me positive qualities that I haven't seen in myself in a long time. This program teaches you various dog handling skills such as identifying the personalities of the dogs we train and care for, as well as different ways to train dogs. Not all dogs train the same, some are food motivated and some are toy motivated.

The thing that is very vital to this program that is rarely spoken about is what this program does for the trainers and handlers. This program has showed me that I can care about other things besides myself. I've learned to have patience for others as well. If I can have patience for a puppy I can have that same feeling for my peers as well.

Doing this program allows me to see my worth when a dog comes to us in shambles and scared then gets adopted with happiness, confidence and love in his/her life. And that is what I'm sending out into the community. The PUP program is truly a life-changing program.

- Mario D.

Featured Dog Breed

AND THIS WINNER IS...St. Bernard



The St. Bernard is a breed of dog that comes from a very large working dog from the Western Alps in Italy and Switzerland. Originally, they were bred as a rescue dog by Hospice of the Great St. Bernard Pass. They are named from the Italian monk Bernard of Menthon and the first dog was acquired between 1660 and 1670s.

The weight of the dog can be between 140lbs and 260lbs or more and the approximate height is 28 to 35 inches. Their coat can either be smooth or rough. Their color is typically a red shade with white or a mahogany brindle with white. Black shading is usually found on the face and ears. The original dogs were much smaller than today's show dogs. They were only about the size of a German Shepherd.

The dogs never received training but the younger dogs would learn from the older ones. Due to their high growth rate they can have a very serious deterioration of the bones in a healthy diet is not kept. Some health issues that can happen are hip and elbow dysplasia, entropion/ectropion (which is an eye disease where the eyelid turns in or out), epilepsy, seizures and heart issues.

The St. Bernard is a calm, patient, loyal, affectionate, and sweet with everyone if well socialized. While the breed is generally not instinctively protective, they may bark at strangers, and their size makes them a good deterrent against possible intruders.

Trivia Answers



1. 3 - Dogs have a third eyelid called a haw that lubricates and protects.
2. Kublai Khan had over 5,000 Mastiffs, the most dogs owned by one person.
3. Socrates thought that if dogs could distinguish between good and bad strangers they must be philosophers.
4. Ozzy saved the family Pomeranian from a coyote by actually wrestling the wild animal.
5. Greyhound type dogs were depicted in Egyptian and Western Asian pottery 3,000 to 4,000 years ago and are the first evidence of a distinctive breed.
6. Dogs leave detailed information for other dogs in their markings including their height, gender, social status, stress level, stage of fertility, and more.
7. Dogs have a primal need to protect their organs from predators so they sleep curled up to keep their vulnerable parts safe.
8. Dogs have scent gland secretions in their feet that can leave an additional message for other dogs for emphasis beyond marking with their waste.
9. Wolves roll around in both good and bad smelling things to bring the information back to the pack so that other wolves can find the spot.
10. Both dolphins and dogs will act with kindness without expectation of reward.

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).