



Paw Print Press

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A single endeavor with a multitude of impacts

by Grace Van Dyke

Through the unique and varied benefits of the human-animal bond, the Service Dog program improves the lives of countless individuals. Women inmates are partnered with homeless dogs and provide them with the care, socialization, and training necessary to be working Assistance Dogs or AKC Canine Good Citizen-certified 'Paroled Pets'.

Service Dog Training Program

Women inmates who complete the Basic Pet Care class are eligible to enroll in the Service Dog Training Program. In these classes the women learn about proper dog care, training techniques and learning theory. While the curriculum may focus, superficially, on dog training and behavior, it also teaches the importance of effective communication, interpersonal relationships and teamwork.

This past year:

- 16 women inmates were employed as trainers at our main office
- 5 of them were new trainers starting in the training program
- 3 of them were promoted from obedience to service dog trainers
- 5 of them continue to train as experienced service dog trainers
- 2 were released into the community

Dog Program

In the spirit of the program's dedication to providing second chances, all of our dogs-in-training come from shelters or private individuals who need to rehome their family dog. The dogs are provided with veterinary care, socialization both within the prison and out in the community, and training to help prepare them to find new, permanent homes.

This past year:

- Staff and volunteers conducted 52 visits to area shelters and humane societies looking for potential dogs
- 32 new dogs were brought into the program
- 24 dogs were adopted as 'Paroled Pets'
- 1 dog was transferred to another training program
- 1 dog was placed as a working therapy dog
- 14 dogs continued in the program into the following year

Client Services

As accredited members of the Assistance Dogs International, we provide ongoing services to those

While the curriculum may focus, superficially, on dog training and behavior, it also teaches the importance of effective communication, interpersonal relationships and teamwork.

that acquire an Assistance Dog or Paroled Pets from us. We provide initial training and education to those who are partnered with a trained Assistance Dog as well as regular follow up and recertification.

This past year:

- 4 new applications were received for Assistance Dogs
- 30 active applications remain on the wait list for an Assistance Dog
- 28 Assistance Dog clients were provided with on-going follow up and routine recertification

As our program continues to grow, so do our opportunities to develop each piece of this program. I look forward to the potential within the Service Dog program in the coming year!



Joanne Hopper and her service dog Heidi during their annual Public Access Test this year.



Volunteer program

by Mollyrose Sommer

April through July tends to be the time of year with the most volunteer participation – the rain has started to subside, the sun is out later, and the group is reminded of how nice it is to walk with a friendly canine by their side! The other months can slow down with school back in session and the

holidays always creeping around the corner. And let's face it, walking in the cold, harsh rain of February and March just isn't enjoyable!

We have seen a marked growth in volunteer involvement over the last year, with an increase in opportunities and participation. Between April and July of 2011, our program averaged 626.9 volunteer hours per month.

For a list of volunteer opportunities, or to fill out a volunteer application please visit our website at prisonpetpartnership.org!

This year, I am happy to report that our average participation for the same 4 months was up to an average of 833.3 volunteer hours per month! If we had a paid staff member do what the volunteers do and we paid them Washington State's 2012 minimum wage (\$9.04/hour), Prison Pet Partnership would have spent over \$45,000 just from January through August alone!



Volunteers Cathleen and Jackie schmooze PPP's Bark & Bid auction crowd with service dog-in-training "Naudia" and demo dog "Tonka" in tow.

We are so thankful for our volunteers for all that they do for our program and we look forward to some expansion and improvement projects within this piece of the program in the coming year. To our volunteers - we could not run this program without you!

Mission Statement

Prison Pet Partnership enriches the lives of inmates, homeless animals and the community through the human-animal bond.

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A note from the director

This issue is full of numbers and stories to give you a snapshot of what PPP has done during the past year. None of which would happen without the people who share their time, energy, sweat, commitment and heart with PPP. I'd like to take this opportunity to share my gratitude to the folks who make PPP a challenging, rewarding, and inspirational place to work.



Beth with her dog "Manu"

This has been a busy year for the organization's leadership. The board of directors revised our mission statement and continues to develop the board and strategize PPP's future. We still have lots of work to do, but the board charges forward with new members who offer fresh outlooks and seasoned members who provide consistency and experience.

Volunteers continue to amaze me with their commitment to the program. Volunteers are the conduits to the "outside" world for our dogs-in-training. From the countless hours of dog outings, booth sitting, home visits to potential adopters and follow-ups with service and therapy dogs, we simply could not operate without their dedication.

I am continually inspired by the empathy the offenders have for the animals in their care. Whether a nervous boarding dog or brand new service-dog-in-training, the women are attentive and kind in every interaction. Knowing that many of the women have seldom experienced this type of compassion prior to incarceration, I am astounded by how quickly and deeply this life lesson is learned through their work with the animals.

And finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the PPP staff. Operating a business within a prison is not an easy task. At any given moment, 75% of our work crew can be pulled away for part or all of a day-not to mention the potentially hazardous working environment that you hear about too often in the news. Despite the myriad lockdowns, cease or late movements prohibiting offenders from coming to work, PPP staff step in to answer phones, make appointments, groom, feed and exercise the animals in our care, all while tackling the projects and tasks demanded by their own jobs. This is a crew that is dedicated to the transforming lives of the offenders, animals and the community and I am grateful for each of them.

Beth Rivard

♥ Remembering Doris



Doris and Jake

In late July I received news that Doris Vinzant, PPP's former boarding and grooming supervisor, passed away after her extended battle with cancer. Doris was a true believer that with hard work and attention to detail, the offenders who worked in our program could be successful in the pet care industry when released. Doris helped to identify job opportunities for and stayed in contact with several women even after she left the program. Doris was a kind and compassionate woman whose deep love for animals and belief in people was limitless. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family.

WishList

For kennels & grooming:

- cat litter
- cat food (wet and dry)
- gallon containers of bleach
- fabric for scarves

For Service Dog Program:

- gift cards to animal or office supply stores
- Kongs
- dog treats
- post-it notes

REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR 2013 POSTER POOCH CALENDAR TODAY!

thank you!

Prison Pet Partnership Program

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Inmate groomers Rachel, Alvi, Leslie and Teresa (kneeling) show off their finished dogs after a grueling Poodle Examination last fall. They are joined by our dear friend Sheila who helped create a great sense of self-esteem in the groomers, through her tough but encouraging instruction in the groom room.

2 office clerks, 5 full time groomers and 10 kennel workers! Our boarding facility has remained extremely busy with an average occupancy rate of 154% and our groom room does, on average, 230 grooms per month! I so appreciate our clients' commitment to the program and the women who work here! We could not do this without you!

PPP is also proud to mention that 2 women have successfully released from our program into the communities. Our first release, Mary, left in August of 2011 to the Seattle area. We are very proud to say she

is working at The Pet Stops Here in Bellevue, WA. I'd also like to say a big thank you to her boss and shop owner Diana! Diana has become a great resource for our program in the Seattle/Bellevue area. Our second release, Lani, left in February of this year to the Longview area. I am very happy to report that Lani has full time work and is enjoying catching up with her family and new grandson!

Lastly I'd like to tell you about our Poodle Test Day, featured in the picture! Four of our groomers worked with professional groomer Sheila Wagner and 4 fantastic poodles in a mock grooming competition. Each groomer was graded on their dog's overall appearance and style. As you can see the women did wonderfully – we were all impressed with their skill level! Thank you again to all of our devoted customers out there - we hope to make this year as successful as our last!



The Vocational Education Program's year in review by Rachel Keeler

As I sit at my desk writing this article the sun is shining and blue skies are upon us...it's hard to believe September has come and gone! Washington has been good to us this summer! I'd like to take this time to share with you some end of

the year numbers that I think highlight our Vocational Education program nicely. From July 2011 to June 2012 the program employed 22 women. Of those 22, 17 women are currently employed with the program. We have



MCCW update by Nicole Ribiero



Gloria waits patiently at the PPP booth at Washington Corrections Center's Family & Friends day in Shelton! Gloria was recently transferred to UW's Conservation Canine Program where she will be trained to do scent detection work on different animals being researched all over the world!

MCCCW PPP program is looking forward to another great year. We have expanded the training program and number of dogs being housed at Mission Creek, and are looking forward to increasing the number of classes held during the year. We are also looking forward to increasing our network of animal care related companies that are interested in hiring our graduates. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers that are willing to take MC dogs into the community on regular outings.

This year Mission Creek PPP completed:

- Pet Care Services Classes
Total participants - 17 offenders passed
- Basic Obedience Classes
Total participants – 16 offenders passed
- MCCCW PPP has increased the number of employed trainers from 3 to 5
- MCCCW PPP has also graduated 5 offenders, 2 are currently working full-time in the animal care field
- MCCW PPP Trainers have also helped with training of 8 paroled pets and 2 working therapy dogs
- Trainers have also helped train 2 dogs for work with Washington Conservation Dog Program



Goodbye to a loyal friend

On April 19th, 2004, PPP volunteer Vianna Engel rescued a tall, brindle Greyhound from the Lewis County Animal Shelter and brought him up to the program for training. The new addition to the PPP program was given the name Leif and in June 2005, was partnered with Ashlee Eddy as her service dog. Leif quickly became a constant and reliable companion for Ashlee, accompanying her to school and providing Ashlee with not only companionship but confidence and independence as well. Leif was a social, outgoing dog who enjoyed getting dressed up to celebrate the holidays. Leif passed away at the beginning of September, leaving behind a wealth of memories with those who loved him. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Dog updates



Keeper Keeper came to us from Kitsap Humane Society and after a long round of kennel cough and pneumonia, she has just passed level 2 (extended basic obedience) and is working on desensitization to large moving objects and other scary things. She is also working on her CGC and will be ready for parole soon, so if you're looking for a spunky playmate who needs to work, and live in a house without kids or small animals, Keeper could be your girl!



Lotte Lotte, along with Keeper, came from Kitsap Humane Society and had a round of health issues shortly after arriving to our facility. He is now working on his Level 2 skills and should be ready sometime soon to take his

evaluation. He is a sweet little boy and once he passes Level 2 and CGC he also will be ready for parole! Though it is not a requirement for their adoption Keeper and Lotte love each other dearly and would be content in a home together.



Marni Marni is also a Kitsap Humane Society dog and she has been transferred to our Mission Creek program. She has passed her basic obedience test and is doing well with her new extended obedience skills. She is a bit of a scardy cat in new situations so her trainer is working hard to help her get over her fears!



Norman Norman is a great little boy from NOAH rescue in Stanwood. A big thank you to the

staff there for contacting us when Norman came in to tell us "hey, we think this dog could be great for you!" He is doing great with his commands and enjoys going out with volunteers. He is working on his basic obedience skills and loves spending time with his trainer.



Opie This silly looking dog came to us from Pierce County Humane Society and he is as smart as he is funny! Opie just passed his Level 1 and his trainer is working hard with him to teach him to settle down and follow commands. He is a bit of a wild-child at heart but is sweet and affectionate and clearly likes to play games. We have high hopes for him to mature into a nice, smart boy!



Prison Pet Partnership Program

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