



# Paw Print Press

A Prison Pet Partnership Publication

FALL 2014

VOL.13 NO.2



## PPP's Sister Pauline meets Pope Francis

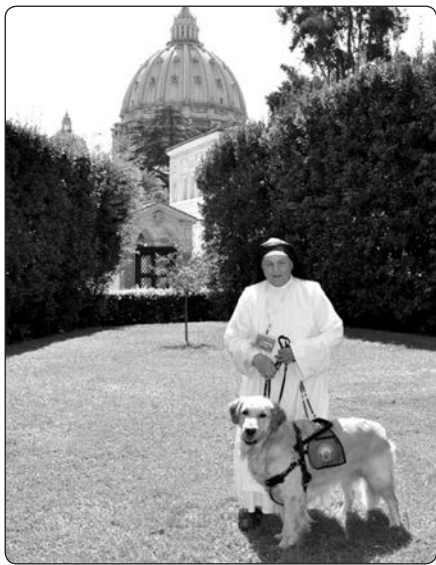
On August 27th, Sister Pauline, PPP's founder, and her service dog, Pax left for Rome to meet the Pope. Sister Pauline was instrumental in getting their program off the ground. As you may recall, Pax polished his service dog skills here at PPP last year after being raised in a prison dog program in Wisconsin.

Sister Pauline visited the Vatican with the director of the prison dog programs in Argentina for which, like PPP, she was instrumental in the start-up. Here is the story in her own words:

"On September 4th the Holy Father gave me a kiss on the cheek with Pax by my side. What a great feeling it was to be received with such love and kindness and to give a talk about my work in prisons. Look where all this lead me, to the Vatican with a kiss from the Holy Father. What a great feeling that was. Pax was so good.

Thanks to Pax's charm, he drew in the Vatican police who wanted to know all about the prison dog

programs. They saw I was in pain and wanted to help me... so we had a wonderful tour of the Vatican gardens by car. The car stopped by the newly planted "peace" olive tree. Allowed to get out of the car to take pictures, I made sure that Pax would not water the one and only tree in this Peace Park that looked out to Saint Peters Basilica. At the Vatican it was great that everyone knew what Pax's name meant. It means Peace in Latin."



*Sister Pauline and Pax visit the Pope at the Vatican – and get a surprise kiss from the Supreme Pontiff!*

## Rachel leaves PPP!

by Rachel Keeler

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when former PPP inmate Rachel left for her new life in Spokane! Rachel had been with PPP since July of 2004, starting in our boarding kennels and quickly making her way up the ranks. It wasn't long before Rachel began training dogs for PPP's service dog program. Rachel shined in training and, by the time she left, had trained many dogs that were placed in Service and Therapy homes. Many of you will know Rachel from her time in our grooming program. As one of our senior groomers, Rachel excelled with difficult dogs and was always up for dematting that tangled Newfy. The groom room just isn't the same without her quick wit and cheerful smile!

Now settled in the Spokane area, Rachel has achieved the hard

task of getting a job (only 2 weeks after her release! Yahoo!!) We are proud to announce that she is grooming in a pet salon in the area. She was so excited tell to us about her new job and we wish her nothing but luck and success for her future. We miss Rachel terribly as she was so special to our program but she is a reminder to us all on why we do the work we do at PPP. She is a shining example of our program and proof that PPP's mission of helping people through the human animal bond is working!

Good Luck, Rachel!!!



*Rachel working with a service dog in training.*

## Bark and Bid REVIEW



**Bark and Bid 2014 was our best yet!**  
**We raised over \$75,000 for the programs of PPP.**  
**A very special thank you**  
**to our attendees, donors and sponsors!**

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**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

PPP has had some big changes. You may recall from past newsletters that we had some funding cuts from the United Way of Pierce County as well as the addition of utility expenses from the DOC that had once been in-kind donations. As a result, PPP had to evaluate our programs and processes to determine the effectiveness of our operations. Consequently, we decided to close operations at Mission Creek in Belfair at the end of June. While at Mission Creek, PPP provided basic pet care classes to over 70 women. Of these, 42 completed the basic dog obedience classes – 21 of whom moved on to become primary or secondary dog handlers. Although we provided much needed programming to the women, offender turnover rate (due to release and mandatory programming) and the inability to house more than 5 dogs at a time at Mission Creek ultimately lead to the board's decision that we needed to end the program at Mission Creek so that we can focus our efforts on growing our program in Gig Harbor. We are proud of our efforts at Mission Creek and we know that the staff and inmates there miss our program and the dogs.



Another big change for us was losing 2 long-time staff. First, Mollyrose Sommer, our program assistant left at the beginning of June. Mollyrose came to PPP in March of 2007. She was the glue that held all of the programs together from coordinating volunteers and outreach booths to organizing Bark and Bid and our service dog team training and graduation. Molly had been commuting from South Seattle for nearly 2 years. She and her husband Ryan purchased a new home in North Seattle last spring so we knew the time was coming that the commute would be too much. Mollyrose is now working at a vet hospital as a client liaison but is still volunteering her time to help PPP.



Teresa Crutchfield started with PPP in 1996 as the correctional officer assigned by DOC. When Teresa retired from the DOC in 2013, PPP hired her to work as a part-time office assistant. Teresa helped us with Bark and Bid, donor relations, bookkeeping and in the boarding and grooming office. Last year, Teresa and her husband bought property in Belize. Once construction began on her tropical home this spring, Teresa was ready to head to the sunshine. Thank you Teresa for 18 years of service to PPP!

*Beth Rivard*

## Grooming update by Ruth Bloch

**We have four new groomers in training!** Each started out, as all groomers in training do, learning to properly handle all shapes and sizes of dogs. Each dog comes with it's own very individual personality and requires different types of love! Then it's on to proper shampooing techniques, blow drying, nail

clipping, ear cleaning and brushing. Everyone is doing so well!

The women have now advanced to creating simple styles and perfecting their scissoring techniques. Styling a moving, living being isn't easy but everyone is hard at work and we are so proud of them! The dogs love them, too!

In the next couple of months, each woman will be tested by a certifier from the International Professional Groomers Association. Through IPG, they will receive a certificate in Salon Details. This provides them with the ability to shine when entering the work force as new pet groomers. It also offers prospective employers the chance to hire women who are certified and professionally trained in the field they have chosen.

The next step in the certification process will be mastering the individual breed groups. Stay tuned, we'll keep you posted as the women continue their progression into becoming Certified Dog Groomers!

*New grooming student, Engre, styling a grooming client.*



## CALENDAR ORDER FORM

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*All proceeds will benefit the service dog program of Prison Pet Partnership. Thank you!*

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**Prison Pet Partnership**

9601 Bujacich Road NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332

PH 253-858-4240

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PrisonPetPartnership.org



## Welcome new staff member, Jill Voelker!

In mid-September, Jill Voelker came on board as PPP's new Development Manager. While Jill holds a biology degree from the University of Northern Colorado, she soon discovered that fund raising and event planning were her passion. Jill started her career with the Boy Scouts, which is also where she met her husband, Ralph. Jill has held fundraising positions with The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People, Oregon College of Art and Craft, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Foundation and Sonoma State University. Jill and her husband Ralph have two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Barney and Ruby Sue. When not working or when her dogs allow her to have free time, Jill enjoys card making, scrapbooking, photography and quilting to name a few.

**Welcome Jill!** PPP is thrilled to have you on board!

## PPP welcomes Quentin!



**Quentin** arrived at PPP in August, donated to us by Puget Sound Rescue. At about a year old, this Shepherd mix is still very much a puppy! He is close to mastering his first level of obedience commands – soon he'll be venturing out into the big world clad in a stylish red training vest!

## Current Dogs In Training



**Dave** – This dapper young man has been in training with us for several months and has been working on his service dog skills. His breed heritage remains a mystery but he has a personality that matches his noble appearance.



**Finley** – Finley came to PPP with her brother, Gatsby. She aims to please, loves to learn and has been working hard on learning to be confident in the wide world.



**Nellie** – Sharp as a whip and eager to please, Nellie is an eager learner. Nellie originally entered one of the other prison dog programs but was sent to us after they saw her potential. She loves to train and work but loves chasing a tennis ball a little bit more. She is currently working towards her Level 4 evaluation and hopes to become a stellar Therapy Dog.

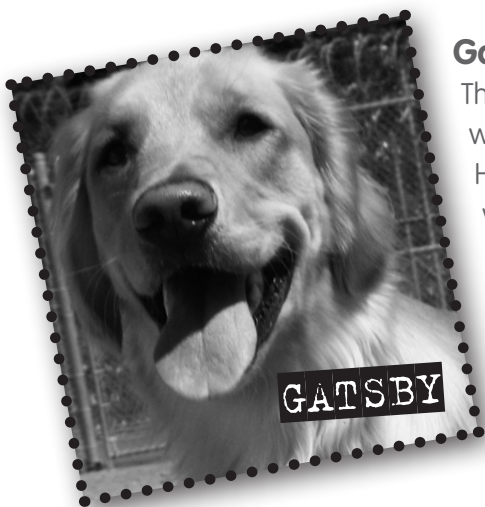


**Paisley** – One of our most recent arrivals, Paisley came to us at the start of the summer. She was originally rescued by Second Chance Rescue where she was nursed through a rough bout of distemper. After recovering, our friends at Second Chance insisted we take her – and for good reason! Paisley has just started on her Level 3 Training skills and has a sweet, easy going personality.



*Thank you!*

## Paroled Pets looking for loving homes:



**Gatsby** (*home pending*) This playful, enthusiastic fellow has been working hard on his upper level service skills. He loves to work and loves to please. PPP was disappointed to discover that Gatsby has some hip dysplasia that prevents him from being placed as an Assistance Dog. Luckily, he will soon be evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be partnered with a returning Veteran.

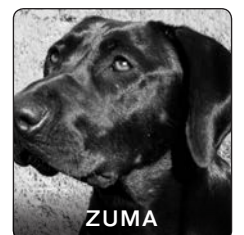
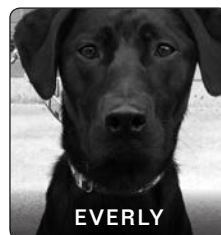


**Journey** (*new home pending at press time*) This young Australian Shepherd mix is active and loves learning. Like many of her breed, she is easily bored. Journey's perfect new home will be one that gives her the opportunity to exercise her body and mind! This sweet girl would also be very well suited as an Agility or Herding partner.

**Hampton** – Hampton is looking for his forever home! He and his sister, Iona, were very under-socialized when they came to us as puppies. He's looking for the right home that will give him the time to learn to trust his new people.



## Congratulations to our Recent Parolees:



## Thank you, volunteers

Another busy summer! We went from six staff to four, yet with the help of our wonderful volunteers, we kept PPP out there in the community! We started at the Maritime Gig Parade in June, Dogathon and Bark for Life in July, Woofstock in August and of course, Harbor Hounds in September. Volunteers spent countless hours transporting supplies and dogs, handling our dogs-in-training, and answering questions at our booths. Thank you all for your continued support of PPP! A special thank you to volunteer, Gail Hume for donating much needed supplies for our booth and for donating her time restocking the outreach supplies before each event. We could not have done this without Gail!

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