



# Paw Print Press

A Prison Pet Partnership Publication

## Special Edition!

SUMMER 2016

## Woofstastic News!

### Our dog training program has expanded! by Grace Van Dyke, Service Dog Program Manager

Prison Pet Partnership has embarked on a new and exciting adventure, one filled with lots of puppy-breath, housebreaking duties and future Assistance Dogs!

As more people with disabilities turn to four-legged partners to help them increase their independence, the demand for Assistance Dogs has been steadily increasing. In recent years, PPP has been fielding an increasing number of requests for Assistance Dogs.

To meet this demand, PPP is expanding

the ways it selects dogs. PPP will continue to provide homeless dogs that demonstrate the trainability and temperament the opportunity to pursue training as an ADI-Accredited Service Dog for individuals with disabilities or as high trained Therapy Dog.

Additionally, PPP is developing a small purpose-driven breeding program centered on the goal of raising and training dogs with the health and temperament traits we look for in potential service dogs. We are carefully

selecting puppies from other accredited assistance dog organizations or from breeders who have a strong record of providing puppies to accredited assistance dog organizations. PPP has also become a member of the Assistance Dogs International Breeding Cooperative (ABC) that was developed by Bob and Marina Phillips. The ABC is a collaborative effort by accredited Assistance Dog Organizations to improve the health, temperament and success of service dogs.

### Training Xavi by PPP Trainer and Office Clerk, Amy

From the moment Xavi and I met, an unspoken bond began. Being a young and handsome black lab he soon earned the nick-name "Beef-Cake." He came to us with some less than desirable behavior issues like no leash manners and jumping up on people;



*Trainer Amy and Xavi work on his skills to match the needs of his client and new companion. Amy must say goodbye with tears of happiness knowing Xavi will be a wonderful service dog.*

typical of many of the rescue dogs we receive. At his initial intake it was discovered he had a ring of missing fur around his neck. He wanted to scratch out of habit rather than irritation. It's not hard to recognize the effects of abuse or neglect no matter how subtle the symptoms may be, especially when you come from a similar background.

**I'm very grateful to be a part of a program where all the staff both challenge and empower me to make a positive impact, not only for rescue dogs and the disabled community, but for myself as well.**

Working with Xavi was a milestone in my journey here at PPP, he was the first dog I had the opportunity to train from start to finish, and we succeeded together. I was proud to see Xavi move on with new purpose in his life as a Service Dog and equally content to have reached a

new personal goal in my own training. On the day he left to go to his new person he kept looking back as if to say "Are you sure you want me to go?" That moment was so bittersweet.

Though I felt completely out of my element when I started working as a dog trainer, I soon realized that in order for me to help a dog with its issues, I had to work through some issues of my own. The process has brought both tears and joy. I continue to strive to hone my sometimes hard-won skills and hope that I will have many "Tails" of hope and redemption to share in the future.

I'm very grateful to be a part of a program where all the staff both challenge and empower me to make a positive impact not only for rescue dogs and the disabled community but, for myself as well. I especially want to thank Sister Pauline Quinn for her vision and tireless devotion to raising the quality of life for so many and for giving me the opportunity to bridge the gap between who I was and who I am today. I'm inspired by her to "dream big" and continue with the same work of "changing lives" when I release.

### A letter from Tiesa Gaston, Xavi's new service partner

My name is Tiesa and I belong to Xavi who is a 2 1/2 year old Black Lab mix "Service Dog". I have belonged to Xavi since Jan 2016 after a very, very long wait. In June 2005 I received my first Service Dog from PPP, his name was Hogan. Hogan passed away in November 2014 after a battle with cancer.

From November 2014 until January 2016 when I received Xavi seemed to be the longest 13+ months of my life. PPP was looking for new dogs to train but the choices were very slim and few and far between. The Service Dog Program at PPP needed to adjust their program quickly so that more good trainable dogs were available for people with disabilities.

For a little over a year I was back to battling with doors into some businesses, some light switches in my apartment, getting items picked up off the ground when I dropped them and most of all I was without my companion. When you are with a Service Dog 24 hours a day, you grow very close to one another. It is a relationship that is difficult to explain but a respect and love for one another that is beyond any words.



**Thank you for your time and thank you to PPP for what you do for people with disabilities like myself to gain some independence by having a wonderful service dog in their life.**

Help us help people like Tiesa get the assistance dog they need.







#### Mission Statement

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

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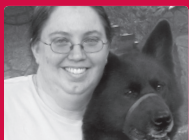
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# PPP to the Rescue!

by Beth Rivard, Executive Director

One facet of our program that we have always been proud of is rescuing homeless animals. In recent years we have found it challenging to find enough rescue dogs appropriate for service work. The rescue dogs we evaluate and accept into the program for service work are the same highly adoptable dogs that the public wants. The result is dogs who could really use our help through additional training are overlooked. PPP remains committed to help the homeless pet population.

Through expansion of our training program, PPP can help those dogs who really need rescued! By accepting a wider variety of dogs into our program, we not only help more dogs, but offer our offender trainers the opportunity to train different types of dogs, thus expanding their training – a win-win for all!

## Rescue spotlights

In addition to working with local shelters and rescues, we have branched out to other parts of the country where the homeless pet population shows little sign of easing. We have taken in dogs as far as Texas and Georgia. Here are two of their stories.

**Luther** came to us on a transport from Texas. When he arrived at PPP he could barely put weight on his back leg. After further investigation, it turns out that Luther had surgery to remove the ball of his femur bone while still in the shelter. Whether that was from dysplasia or an injury, we do not know. Unfortunately for Luther, he did not receive the rehabilitation he needed while still at the shelter or during transport and had very little muscle mass in his hind leg. With the advice of our friends at Harbor Animal Hospital, Luther's trainer worked with him to strengthen the muscles around his hip to make it easier for him to walk, play and even run.

Luther's lucky day came in early June when his new moms came to meet him at the prison. Anne and Patrice fell in love with Luther and he is now living with them in the Seattle.

Luther is having a great time with us (we think.) On Saturday, Patrice spoiled him by playing with him in the backyard for hours and Molly came over to review the commands with us. On Sunday, we took Luther to our favorite dog friendly brewery, and he did really well for his first time. He slept about 5 hours straight afterward from all the stimulation, but I think he enjoyed himself. Today, I took him to the beach... and at first he was terrified by the waves of the lake, but eventually he decided that frolicking through the water was safe.



*Luther is so happy with his new family. Lots of play dates keep him smiling and wagging!*

**Ulea** a 3 year-old beagle mix came to us from Georgia in February of 2015. Ulea was challenging to train as she had the typical beagle-nose-to-the-ground personality. Ulea was also very choosy about other canine friends. Finding the right home where Ulea could be queen bee took us a while. In May of this year, she found her perfect home.

A note from Ulea, now Leah's, new mom Char:



*Leah (was Ulea) loves playing in her new yard and stalking tennis balls! She is queen of the castle.*

We absolutely adore her, she has, I believe, finally decided this is her forever home and her shining personality continues to reveal itself. She loves her squeaky toys and balls, and loves to chase the balls but she doesn't quite get the concept of bringing them back so we get as much exercise as her since we have to retrieve the balls. She loves her walks, especially on the waterfront and on trails through woods, and she loves to go shopping with mom. Not surprisingly, she charms everyone we meet. And when we settle down for the evening, she loves to sit and snuggle with mom.

In short, we are delighted that she has become a member of our little family. We also wish to thank all of you at PPP for everything you all did for her. She's such a happy girl and seems to be thriving.

**Help us rescue and place more dogs like Ulea and Luther.**





# Board and Train

by PPP Offender Trainer and Kennel Worker, Sheri

The board and train program is a great program all around. I found myself jumping at the chance to train the dogs that board here to give them some basic skills that will fulfill their lives as well as make life easier at home.

By teaching dogs that when acting appropriately rewards them with affection, everyone involved is happier. As a program, we value our clients and get to know and love their dogs. We know our clients’ dogs on deeper level than because we consider them our dogs, too. We spend our days with them

observing behavior and habits and know what he or she may need to work on as far as manners are concerned.

The board and train program enriches my life on a daily basis. This added responsibility motivates me to strive to do the best job as a trainer that I can for the dogs that I teach. It’s so gratifying to come to work and take a dog out for the

first lesson of the day and see that my canine client is changing as they learn that specific behaviors get the positive reinforcement that they need. Most dogs, in my experience, want to learn and are eager to please so when they get praise for walking nicely, or sit when asked, their eyes light up like a child learning something new.

**Note: Board and train services are an add-on service to our boarding program. If you are interested in board and train, please visit our website at [www.prisonpetpartnership.org](http://www.prisonpetpartnership.org) and click on our “Boarding and grooming” tab.**

## Labradoodles Ellie and Beasley attended our new Board and Train Program

Here is what their parents said:

Having been very impressed with our experiences in both the boarding and grooming program at PPP we were excited to sign our two dogs up for the board and train program. The training they received in just 6 days far, far exceeded our expectations! We really



appreciated that they asked what we wanted our dogs to work on, and gave us the tools to follow up with at home.

Trainers, Lisa and Sheri were wonderful and it was obvious that not only were they extremely skilled, but they really loved our dogs! Our dogs learned so much more than we thought possible in such a short time. We continue to reap the benefits of their training every single day. One behavior, Ellie’s jumping on every stranger when off leash, has not occurred even once since her training in March!

Who could ask for more? What a fabulous program! We hope to come back soon for even more training.

– Molly and David Langford



*Labradoodles Ellie and Beasley are even more irresistible after learning a few new commands to enhance their manners in our Board and Train program.*

**How you can help:**  
**Please visit our website at [www.prisonpetpartnership.org](http://www.prisonpetpartnership.org) for more information, our wish list, donating and volunteer opportunities. Thank you!**

## Introducing Dog Training Sponsorships!!!

**I want to sponsor a PPP dog!** A PUPPY who enters our program needs up to two years of care, training and love! Your support would help cover the costs for veterinary care, vaccines, genetic screenings, food, leashes, toys, beds, bowls, foster family supplies and so much more! A RESCUE DOG has many of the same needs.

Naming a PPP dog has never been open to the public before. Please consider a naming and sponsorship gift or a gift in support of our training program today! We have an approved list for you to select from, or if you choose a name in honor of a special friend, we recommend that names are fairly easy to say, one or two syllables and of course, no inappropriate or offensive names are permitted. If no puppies or rescue dogs are available at the time we receive your sponsorship, your name will be placed on a waiting list.

☐ **\$5,000 Name & Sponsor a PPP Puppy or Rescue Dog**

- Your name or your company name or logo on a patch for a puppy or rescue dog’s training vest – to be displayed on vest throughout their training time
- A special visit by your PPP puppy or rescue dog to your office or agreeable location (such as a family B-B-Q, birthday party, etc.)
- Get electronic “pupdates” or “dogtales” and photos of your puppy or dog
- Invitation to Graduation, special recognition, certificates and photos included
- Your name or company name or logo on PPP’s website for one year

☐ **\$2,500 Veterinary Sponsor**

- Get electronic “pupdates” or “dogtales” and photos of your puppy or dog
- Invitation to Graduation, special recognition, certificates and photos included
- Your name or company name or logo on PPP’s website for one year

☐ **\$1,000 Training Sponsor**

- Invitation to Graduation, special recognition, certificates and photos included
- Your name or company name or logo on PPP’s website for one year

*You have the option to make a one-time payment or multiple payments for your sponsorships of \$5,000 and \$2,500 or \$1,000! Call 253-858-4200 x82409 for more information.*

☐ **I’d like to support the dog training program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
My gift will help cover heartworm/flea preventatives, grooming/hygiene, training treats, vests, collars and so much more for dogs in training.

☐ **Please accept my donation to be used wherever the need is greatest at PPP: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return this form and gift to:**  
Prison Pet Partnership  
9601 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332





**PPP Founder, Sister Pauline Quinn, started our program in 1981. It was the first of its kind.**

For over 30 years, PPP's Service Dog Program has focused around one core goal: rescuing homeless dogs to be trained as assistance dogs for individuals with disabilities by women offenders at WCCW.



**Prison Pet Partnership Program**  
Washington Corrections Center for Women  
9601 Bujacich Rd NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8300



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**New arrivals!**  
**A targeted approach to acquiring dogs to maximize the success rate of assistance dog placements not only includes rescue dogs but also puppies from service dog lineage.**

Thanks to the gracious help and support of our founder, Sister Pauline Quinn, PPP welcomed its first two puppies at the end of March. New Horizons Service Dogs in Florida entrusted PPP with two yellow Labrador Retriever sisters, Beatrix and Eleanor. A month later, Billie, a Golden Retriever joined PPP from New Horizons Service Dogs. All three puppies made their way from Florida to the Pacific Northwest thanks to American Airlines Puppies-In-Flight program. At the end of June, four black lab puppies joined the PPP family. Willa, Potter, Rigby and Harper have begun the long and exciting journey to potentially becoming service or therapy dogs!



The dog training program allows offender handlers to focus on their lives and see the world through others perspectives. With positive reinforcement methods of training, the program inspires inmates to make changes in their lives they are proud of. They can use these skills to live healthy, productive lives once they reenter society.

– Sister Pauline Quinn

