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Your friends at PPP



In memory of a very
special friend to PPP:
Karol Alfera

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The dog boarding program
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Judith DiPaola
Rosey
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Prison Pet Partnership Program
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Paw Print Press

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VOL.11 NO.1



Celebrating PPP's Volunteers

by Mollyrose Sommer

Prison Pet Partnership decided it was time for a small change. This year, instead of hosting a brunch for the volunteers on the outside, we decided to include the offenders in the celebration. This October, we invited our volunteers, board members and offenders to a dinner celebration in the prison's gymnasium to thank them for all of the time and effort they put in to the program. Including the offenders in the celebration was important to all of us, and we asked our offender staff to put together a thank you. Even though we forgot to put tissues out on the table for the volunteers,

they were clearly very touched at the sentiments – the offenders thanked them as a whole, and some individually for the time, effort and kindness they give to everyone at PPP.

.....
“...you never treated us like inmates, you always treated us like equals.”
.....

Since we changed the venue we decided to keep with some tradition and give our volunteers a lapel pin

that signified our journey together with PPP. This year, we gave little Lighthouses. Our volunteers are often our guiding light and they provide a safe way for us to navigate the program into the future. Whether our volunteers are taking our dogs to the Boys & Girls Club, out for a walk in town, are sitting on our auction committee, or offering to help in the office (among tons of other things they do!) we appreciate our volunteers for always having our mission in mind.

This year, we honored a very special volunteer, Sheila Wagner - our “groomer from the outside” that has been coming in to help train our offender groomers. With Sheila's help we have watched each of our groomers' skills become more professional. One of our groomers, Leslie, wrote a speech for Sheila, thanking her for her involvement and for the way she interacted with everyone. She said of Sheila, “you never treated us like inmates, you always treated us like equals.” This was one of Sheila's many great qualities, along with her ability to expect the best while simultaneously encouraging all improvements, no matter how small. Sadly for us,

Sheila is moving out of state and will no longer be able to come in to work with our program. We wish her well in her next adventure and hope that she comes to visit us whenever she's in the area!



Leslie, one of PPP's experienced groomers gave a heartfelt speech about our grooming mentor, Sheila.

PPP would like to thank the Department of Corrections staff that helped make this event fall together seamlessly – especially Lynne Newark and her offender staff who put the room together and transformed it from a plain gymnasium to a lovely event hall!



Impulse Control Symposium at the APDT Education Conference and Trade Show

by Grace VanDyke

Impulse control. A term that's a little hard to define but so easy to recognize when it's lacking. And, it was the focus of a one-day symposium at the Association of Pet Dog Trainer's conference in San Diego, California. The symposium featured a panel of leading trainers and behaviorists: Dr. Pamela Reid, Dr. Petra Mertens, Dr. Ian Dunbar, Suzanne Clothier, Trish King and Pia Silvani. Together, they provided a multi-faceted perspective on impulse control in dogs – looking at it from perspectives of training, evolutionary behavior and veterinary medicine.

Through the course of the day's symposium, the panel looked at the topic of canine impulsivity on several different levels. Some discussions focused on how owners and trainers can effect and influence a dog's level of impulsivity. By teaching a dog that the better things do indeed come to those that wait, certain skills and commands, such as Leave It, Wait and Stay may help a dog develop more impulse control. Each of these commands encourage the dog to acknowledge that delayed gratification is better than the more immediate

kind. Some discussions approached impulsivity from a more scientific perspective.

Dr. Petra Mertens, a veterinary behaviorist and the current Director of Behavior and Training at the San Diego Humane Society explored the question of what is impulsivity and lack of impulse control? Several sessions throughout the conference looked at the impact of ambient sound in the environment and how that impacted a dog's (or their person's) arousal and frustration level. In recent years, research in the area of companion dog behavior has revealed an increasing number of similarities between humans and our canine counterparts. Dr. Pamela Reid presented the idea that, likewise, the increase in dogs diagnosed with excessive impulsivity seems to mirror the increase in the number of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. Some very interesting food for thought.



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

PPP has been working on revising our mission statement to better encompass who we are and what we do. After much discussion about how the program has grown and the possibilities for growth in the future, we have a new mission statement!

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

Our new mission allows us to continue to grow in many directions using our foundation of rescuing and training homeless animals and providing job skills training to women inmates. While we will continue to rescue, train and place service, therapy and companion animals, we also provide animal-assisted therapeutic visits to local convalescent centers, help students improve reading skills by having dogs listen while children read aloud. We will still have boarding and grooming facilities to teach women inmates job skills, we also help inmates write resumes, and practice interviewing skills. PPP also scouts for job opportunities in the community in which she will be released, and provides support through job placement as she transitions back into the community.

The PPP staff and Board of Directors are committed to the continued success of this organization, therefore, in early November we had a retreat to discuss opportunities for growth and set the groundwork for further planning around board sustainability, capacity building, and program development. Our new mission statement is the first step in this process and we are excited about PPP's future! Stay tuned.....

Beth Rivard

2012 Friends of PPP calendars available!

featuring Bark and Bid's 2012 Poster Pooches!



Beth with her dog "Manu"

photo: "Alfie" by Kelly Coultas Photography



Call or email our office to get yours today!



Saying goodbye to some of PPP's four-legged friends

by Rachel Keeler

All of our boarding and grooming customers hold a special place in our hearts here at Prison Pet Partnership. We enjoy the work we do and love to see your pets grow throughout the years! Unfortunately there is also a side to this industry that we don't like and that is losing some of our beloved friends. This past year has been one of

great accomplishments but also one of loss. We would like to take this time to say goodbye to four of our regular clients who have passed away. Romy, Sebastian Jake and Isis were incredible dogs who will be missed dearly by everyone at PPP. To their owners: We hope you find comfort in your memories of your precious pets!

"A good dog never dies. He always stays. He walks beside you on crisp autumn days when frost is on the fields and winter's drawing near. His head is within our hand in his old way." Mary Carolyn Davies

Romy



Sebastian



Prison Pet Partnership Program

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Dog Updates



Seymore
3-year-old Seymore came to us from Kitsap Humane Society about a year

ago and has progressed well in his training. We are hoping to place him as a working therapy dog early this spring.



Kodak
This young Golden Retriever mix came to us from the Pierce County Humane

Society and is energetic and quirky. Kodak is currently working through his second level of training and is getting ready to take his AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluation.



Naudia
With the docile days of puppyhood behind her and the exciting

and trying days of adolescence before her, Naudia continues to work through her obedience levels of training. This young shepherd mix came to us from Pierce County Humane Society and continues to progress in her training.



Reggie
Our newest puppy, Reggie came to us from Pierce County Humane Society

and is a bundle of energy and business.



Eeyore
A bright, active and happy young lab mix, Eeyore loves playing with his person and

tennis ball. Another budding therapy dog, Eeyore has been with us for about six months and we're also hoping to place him early this spring.



Leroy
A young shepherd mix from Kitsap Humane Society, Leroy has recently

finished his basic obedience training and is also getting ready to take his AKC CGC evaluation.



Porter
This young, energetic Golden Retriever from Kitsap Humane Society has been

with PPP about two months and is progressing steadily through his obedience training.



Tova
Another recent addition for Pierce County Humane Society, this young black

lab mix just arrived at PPP a few weeks ago and is still setting in and getting used to her new home.

Remembering Dana-Victoria by Kay Hayes, Board President

I met a lady named Dana-Victoria when I joined the Prison Pet Partnership Board of Directors. She and I began our terms around the same time. A nice soft-spoken person who loved animals, especially dogs. Her experience in human resources and life-coaching was an asset to the board. She would sit at the board meetings knitting away yet she knew every word spoken. She said she needed to keep her hands busy while her mind processed what was going on. A year after joining the board Dana-Victoria was diagnosed

with a rare cancer, she resigned from the board with hopes of returning. For the next couple of years she fought hard to make sure she received the best care by researching every opportunity available. I was amazed at her uplifting spirit and constant smile. I took her to a chemo treatment and she was making me smile! I was worried about her; she was laughing and saying "lets play cards, this is nothing!" Every time I ran into her at the store she was upbeat, smiling and telling me "life is good." Her faith was her rock and her

spirit was an inspiration. I would say she loved life but I think life loved her. In late November Dana-Victoria was diagnosed with liver disease and was in need of a transplant. Sadly, on December 8th, Dana-Victoria lost her courageous battle. Dana-Victoria was a Prison Pet Partnership Board member and friend. She will be missed but the spirit of happiness she spread to everyone will always remain. Dana-Victoria you will be missed.



An update from Mission Creek by Nicole Ribeiro

Greetings from MCCCW! On Dec 16th PPP graduated another training class and 18 offenders received certificates for Basic Pet Care. These offenders will be moving on to the Basic Obedience Training class and we look forward to working with MCCCW to continue to grow our training program. MCCCW PPP is also happy to announce the recent adoption of "Jaydee" our little chocolate lab and her family reports she is settling into her new home fabulously. Great job to all the trainers who helped prepare her for her new 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

thank you!

