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Prison Pet Partnership Program
Washington Corrections Center for Women
9601 Bujacich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Harbor Hounds 2011 September 17

Register online at HarborHounds.com



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Judith Smith & Roger Rue
Thomas & Elizabeth Robinson
Guiding Hands, Noel Ritter
Lester & Estelle Reid
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Max & Mini!
Ron Kinzel
All the wonderful ladies at PPP
Amy & PJ McGuire
All who adopt a senior dog
Patricia Terenzi
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SUMMER 2011

VOL.10 NO.3

Congratulations Graduates! by Grace VanDyke

Client training began on June 20th this year, and we have had two exhilarating and exciting weeks of training. Putting the experience into written text is a daunting task for, as diverse as the English language is, there really is no single adjective that conveys the array of emotions, dreams and expectations that everyone involved with the service dog placement process experiences.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Everyone comes into client training with slightly different dreams and everyone seems to get something different out of it. If you were to ask everyone associated with PPP what they get out of client training, you'll get an astonishing array of answers. But, quite frequently, the beauty and wonder in the relationships we hold with dogs is a common denominator. Whether the dog we share our lives with is a working service partner we rely on daily, a therapy dog we

share with others or beloved family pet that provides us with comfort, joy and companionship, it's easy to see that we wouldn't be who we are, as individuals, a community or a species if it weren't for the dog.

Starting bright and early Monday morning, our recipient joined us to meet the dogs for the first time. Though Perry Smestad has had several dogs over the years, he is being partnered with a working service dog for the first time. Perry was joined the first week by some of last year's graduates, Sue Miller and Decatur, for some follow-up refresher work.

Over the course of the first two days, Perry had the opportunity to work with three potential dog graduates, each with a solid foundation of service skills, but each with very distinct "dog-inalities". This gave him an opportunity to practice his dog skills with a variety of personalities and allowed us the opportunity to see which dog was best suited to his needs. After a long session of playing matchmaker, I partnered Perry with Quinlan, the most easy going Labrador this side of the Mississippi. It was clear that Quinlan had gotten the memo as he greeted Perry Wednesday morning with a wagging tail.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Our new team spent the second week of training navigating their new partnerships in public, as Perry put his new skills to use, and fell every day more in love with his new best friend.

Even in the short time since they've been paired together, I can see obvious signs of the relationship between dog and handler blossoming. Watching the team together on graduation day was a delight, and a reminder of why this program does what we set out to do.

This year, PPP decided it was time to recognize all of our successful dog placements, and invited back dogs that we "paroled" in the past year

with their new families. It was great to see some familiar faces, and the offenders were thrilled to see their old friends again. A big thank you to all of the families who attended and a big congratulations to our Graduates!

.....
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.....



The rain stayed away so we could play

Despite the dark clouds and the heavy downpour that occurred just before setting up, PPP's Volunteer Picnic at Crescent Creek Park was a sunny success!

Welcoming four brand new volunteers to the party PPP prepared a "Getting to Know You" game

to play while everybody enjoyed sandwiches, chicken wings, guacamole and many other delicious treats. We discovered we have a well traveled, antiquing-friendly, "Glee"-watching group of volunteers! Our volunteers also humored us long enough to compete in a team game

Mollyrose hands out prizes to our winning team of ice-cube balancers! They excelled in teamwork and communication, earning them snazzy new reusable water bottles!

that involved balancing ice cubes on plastic spoons. The picnic is always a great opportunity for the program to celebrate the accomplishments and efforts of our volunteers, and to excite everyone about our upcoming summer season of events!

We truly cannot thank our volunteers enough for all of the time they give to our program, not to mention their collective sense of humor and willingness to help in all situations – this program would literally fall apart without you all, and we thank you for all you do from the bottom of our hearts!



New service dog-in-training "Abner" practices his command "under" while hoping for a few pieces of chicken to drop!

Mission Statement

The Prison Pet Partnership Program rescues and trains homeless animals to provide service dogs for people with disabilities, and operates a boarding and grooming facility that provides vocational education to women inmates.

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A note from the director

Summer is always a busy time for us at PPP. Numerous outreach events, boarding kennels at capacity and a crop of new dogs who need training will keep us hopping long into fall. In addition to our routine activities, the board and staff are gearing up for our strategic planning session in the fall.

One of the first steps in this process is evaluating our mission statement.

Our current mission statement defines specific tasks we do at PPP but does not sufficiently encompass all that we do. We are not just a service dog training organization; we train dogs for therapy work and as companion animals, too. We are not just a boarding and grooming facility but we teach offenders job skills, help them transition into the community and provide follow up support to help them stay out of prison.

Additionally, our mission doesn't mention our impact in the community such as the reading program at the Boys and Girls Club or therapeutic visits to area nursing facilities. PPP's reach goes well beyond the prison walls. PPP's work impacts homeless animals, offenders and their families, persons with disabilities and the community. Our recent growth to Mission Creek is just one step in PPP's future growth. We are all excited about the opportunities ahead of us and look forward to sharing these opportunities with each of you.

Beth Rivard



Beth with her dog "Manu"



Our Volunteers are out in force!



Be sure to look for our volunteers and service dogs-in-training in the community this summer as PPP attends:

Dogathon – July 23 Fort Steilacoom Park in Tacoma

Woofstock – August 6 University of Puget Sound in Tacoma

SUNDogs – August 20 Bridgeport Park in University Place

Puyallup Fair – September 9-11 Puyallup Fairgrounds

Harbor Hounds – September 17 Donkey Creek Park in Gig Harbor

INMATE CORNER

Good-bye PPP – Hello big world!

Hey everyone! Mary and Zander here! Well its getting really close for me to go home. I thought I would let everyone know how your support for the program affects me as an inmate employee. I have enjoyed the 3 years I have worked for the program. I began my work in the kennel facility and worked my way up to training service dogs. Once released, I will be applying to work at the local humane society where I live. It is my goal to utilize all of the skills I have learned through dog training as well as working in the boarding facility at PPP. I want to set an example for all the women in the program that we can make it once released!

As you know, the recidivism rate for the program is less than 5%! Rachel, my boss, told me the state average is 40%! Wow! There's a reason for that; PPP is awesome! I plan to release and stay out! With the skills I have learned at PPP, my options are limitless. My dream is to someday have the resources to foster dogs that may not be "adoptable" and train them so they are able to find loving homes. I will greatly miss the staff and volunteers at PPP and can't wait to show you all what your guidance and example has done for me! I thank you for the trust and faith you put in me and hope to exceed far beyond your expectations of me. See you at Bark and Bid 2012!

- Mary &



Prison Pet Partnership Program

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PH 253-858-4240

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PrisonPetPartnership.org

The Dogs Go Marching On

by Mollyrose Sommer

Prison Pet Partnership is always ecstatic to start their summer “event season” off with the Gig Harbor Maritime Parade, where local groups, schools and programs march down the waterfront through hundreds of residents and guests of Gig Harbor. A big thank you to the Gig Harbor Midday Rotary for sharing their spot in the parade and supporting us with Harbor Hounds, the end-cap to our summer!

PPP Staff, volunteers and 10 dogs strutted their way down Harborview with members of the Midday Rotary, sharing candy and dog treats with everyone who came out on the bright and sunny day! PPP was thrilled to be joined by long time supporters and friends of the program, John and June Mercer. During this year’s Bark and Bid auction, the Mercer’s fiercely bid on and won the “Make Your Pet a Star” live item – a prize that includes putting their personal pets’ faces on our print ads for next year’s auction and joining us in the parade! John and June brought their fabulous four legged friends “Guinness” and “Alfie” (who spent the previous day being

spoiled in our PPP groom room) on the parade and we cannot thank them enough for joining us!

The parade is not only a great way to get out into the community, it is an excellent opportunity for our service dogs-in-training. There are cannons and marching bands, strange dogs, yelling children and lots of fun smells on the ground! PPP’s dogs did a great job considering all of the distractions, and we all look forward to seeing you there next year!



John, “Guinness”, “Alfie”, and June enjoy a sunny day with PPP on Harborview (above).
PPP volunteer Christy and Service dog-in-trianing “Flex” strut their stuff at the parade (left).

**CHECK OUT THE ADOPTABLE
DOGS & CATS ON OUR WEB SITE!**
PrisonPetPartnership.org

PPP’s Mission Creek Curriculum is Underway

by Nicole Ribeiro

On June 17th, Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women graduated its first PPP Basic Obedience Course. The course is 16 weeks long and covers topics from basic care and handling to learning theories, behavior evaluations and writing case studies. Twelve offenders graduated and will move on to house

dogs and continue training in areas of advanced obedience training and handling. PPP will also be starting two more Basic Pet Care classes offering an additional 25 offenders the opportunity to learn about pets and the pet care industry!

As the Mission Creek program grows PPP will be in need of volunteer

help with socializing program dogs, making vet runs and helping with dog outings in the Belfair area. If anyone is interested, please contact us at info@prisonpetpartnership.org or get started by filling out our volunteer application which you can find on our website!

WishList

For kennels & grooming:

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

For Service Dog Program:

- Purina Pro Plan Chicken and Rice
- Kongs
- dog treats



Dr. Dumm adds Insight

On Thursday June 16th, Prison Pet Partnership welcomed back a friend of the program, Tyler Dumm DPT. Tyler is a physical therapist with Olympic Sport and Spine Rehabilitation in University Place who visited the program last fall to share information about some of the most commonly seen disabilities and conditions of our

service dog applicants. With Client Training fast approaching we invited Tyler back to speak with our offenders and volunteers specifically about the conditions that affect the lives of our upcoming graduates.

Tyler spoke not only of the physical side of these conditions, but also shared his view of the common psychological journeys of the variety of disabilities. PPP believes that we can connect our community with the clients and applicants for service dogs by helping educate and dispel inaccurate notions about people with disabilities.

Tyler attended Stanford University for his undergrad education in Human Biology, and recently graduated from the University of Puget Sound with his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Due to two battles with childhood cancer, Tyler has lived with no vision and one

prosthetic leg since his early youth. His personal insight with living in a world built for able-bodied people is an asset for our program. He shared personal stories of interactions with people asking questions about his life, which helped PPP offenders and volunteers alike think critically about their own interactions with our clients. Longtime volunteer Donna Hixon attended the presentation and shared “the insight into what our clients are going through and how to approach helping but not be pushy or intrusive will be most helpful in the next few weeks, and our future trainings.”

Prison Pet Partnership looks forward to having Tyler back for further education, and what will inevitably be another great presentation and hopefully a long partnership!

.....thank you!