PPP Hosts Animals Behind Bars Symposium

Since the beginning, Prison Pet Partnership has been a pioneer in the area of helping women inmates discover and develop new strengths and paths through the unique power of the human-animal bond. When Sister Pauline and Dr. Lea Bustad, former chair of Washington State University’s veterinary program, started our program back in 1981, we were at the fore of this kind.

Over the last thirty years, the concept of using animal care and training for personal development and rehabilitation has grown, spread, and gained international recognition. Animal care and training programs have been started in State Prisons, Juvenile Detention Centers and long-term rehabilitation centers across the world and Prison Pet Partnership has remained a model for these programs. With the support of Washington State Prison Director, Dan Pochek, dog and cat programs have been established at state prisons across the state.

This fall, Prison Pet Partnership was a pioneer once again. On Wednesday, October 24th, we hosted the first Animals Behind Bars Symposium. Representatives from ten prisons across the state as well as non-profit humane societies, rescue organizations and service dog organizations travelled to the Washington Corrections Center for Women. For many of us, it was our first chance to meet the other programs. Even more so, it was an opportunity for all of us to discuss how we can help each other.

Housing and training dogs and cats in an adult correctional facility is a uniquely challenging prospect. DOC Correctional Staff and Animal Rescue representatives from across Washington State gather at WCCW to mingle and collaborate about prison-based animal programs.

From working dog puppy schedules in with daily routine of prison life to getting prison staff used to fur in the unit, having animals in prison is like nothing else.

Through collaborative efforts, like the Animals Behind Bars Symposium, we can share ideas and help overcome these unique obstacles. Hopefully, this is the start of a whole new chapter in the history of Animal-Assisted Rehabilitation. Through the collaboration of programs like ours, there is much we can accomplish.

Thank you Donors!!

Donations are a vital part of the Prison Pet Partnership’s mission. We are a recognized non-profit organization (EIN: 52-0293489) with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. We must rely on donations to support the work of our animals and programs. If you are interested in donating, please visit our website for more information.

If you’re interested in volunteering with Prison Pet Partnership please contact us at info@prisonpetpartnership.org! 

Hugs of gratitude for Christy Mueller from PPP staff.
A note from the director

This past fall PPP had a nice visit from Sister Pauline Quinn. For those of you know to PPP's story, Sister Pauline started PPP way back in 1983. As a teen, Pauline Quinn was a runaway who spent a lot of time in and out of institutions and had difficulty trusting others. In her early 20’s, Pauline adopted a German Shepherd Dog, named Joni, who helped Pauline break down the walls she had built up to protect herself from others. Over time, Pauline learned to trust others and recognized that if animals could help her, she was certain that animals could help others with similar pasts. After connecting with Dr. Leo Bustad, a veterinarian at Washington State University who was studying the human-animal bond, Sister Pauline approached the Department of Corrections with her idea of bringing animals into institutions to help people like her. Thus began the Prison Pet Partnership. Although Sister Pauline left the Gig Harbor area after a year with PPP, she has helped prisons around the world start dog programs.

On her October visit, Sister Pauline came with two documentaries she was doing research for a potential series about prison dog programs. Hopefully, their pitch will be well received! We are always happy to see Sister Pauline. The offenders love to hear Sister Pauline talk about the programs she has started around the world and how also about how proud she is of all of us at PPP!

Hi my name is Ruth, the new PPP Grooming Instructor. I live on acreage with my three German shepherds and two cats (a menagerie of frogs). Besides a history of grooming I’ve also worked dogs in Schutzhund and French Ring. I love gardening and growing my own vegetables and being outdoors, when it’s not pouring down rain!

I started with Prison Pet Partnership in October and I am thrilled to be here! I have been grooming for over 30 years, spanning from the east coast, where I grew up, over to the west. We know that meeting staff at PPP is not like meeting staff at a groom shop on the outside, so if you would like to talk to me about your pet, I’m happy and available by calling the office. I am hoping to bring my skills to the program and share them with my students. PPP’s 5 groomers. We are working on designing a curriculum for our students to achieve the master groomer certification. Our goal is to provide them with the highest certification and skills available to be able to compete with any groomer on the outside. I look forward to meeting you and your pet!

Boarding Kennel Renovation Complete! by Rachael Keeler

The Prison Pet Partnership boarding kennels received a major facelift thanks to Viking Fence of Bremerton, WA! Our original kennel facility was built and opened in 1996 so needless to say we were in desperate need of a makeover! At this year’s Bark and Bid, our Fund Fetch was set aside to redo our tired kennels. With your help we were able to raise about $10,000 to help with renovation! In early October our remodel began with a crew of 2 from Viking Fence. As you can imagine doing construction in a prison can be difficult but our crew was extremely flexible and understood this wasn’t your “normal” work environment. As you can see in the pictures we had to do some dog shuffling and actually closed down parts of our facility to help construction move along more quickly. We want to thank our clients for their patience during our time of limited availability due to our kennel remodel. We would also like to send a great big thank you to John Roseberry and Bill Sloman of Viking Fence! You did an amazing job on our kennels – the dogs send you a great big WOOF as their thanks!

PPP’s brand new kennels installed by Viking Fence Co! Our new kennels are not only beautiful to look at but provide a safe environment for our precious boarding animals!

Congratulations Conservation Canine Graduates by Nicole Ribiero

Happy Update: PPP is proud to report that both Winnie and Gloria (now “Ripley”) have completed their scent training and handler training with UW Conservation K9 Detection program. Both Winnie and Gloria and their new trainers, along with a team of wilderness orienteers and other dog teams will be heading to Alberta, Canada to help with a new study. The Center’s Conservation Canines program has been non-invasively monitoring a diverse array of threatened and endangered species around the world, including tigers, orangutans, chimps, spotted owls, bears, wolves, caribou, giant armadillos, giant anteaters, pumas, jaguars, and even Pacific pocket mice. DNA from found animal scat is used to determine species, sex, and even individual identities, allowing the program to estimate population size and distribution of endangered and threatened wildlife.

You can follow Winnie and Ripley on the University of Washington’s Center for Conservation Biology’s website or on . Please join all of the staff and trainers at PPP to wish Winnie and Ripley a safe trip! For more information visit conservationbiology.net/conservation-canines/meet-the-dogs.

EARLY REGISTRATION CARD

The early bird reservations will be postmarked no later than February 15th. Registrations postmarked after February 15th are $50 per person or $500 for a table of 10. Paper tickets will not be issued. Reservations will be held at the door. All proceeds to benefit the Prison Pet Partnership. Questions? Please visit prisonpetpartnership.org or send an email to barkandbid@yahoo.com or call 253-858-4240.

TICKETS $45 individual or $450 per table for registration before February 15, 2013. After this date, tickets are $50 (tables $500)

☐ I would like ____ individual reservations at $45 each: $______
☐ I would like ____ table reservations at $450 each: $______
☐ I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution: $______
☐ I have an auction item for donation, please contact me!

Name
Address
City ________ State ______ Zip
Phone ______ Email ______

I would like a reservation confirmation: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please make checks payable to “Prison Pet Partnership” or “PPP.”
Mail reservation form, list of additional guests and check in the enclosed envelopes to:
PPP – Bark and Bid 9601 Bujacich Road NW Gig Harbor, WA 98332

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EARLY REGISTRATION CARD

Register now for the 10th annual Bark and Bid Saturday, May 11 • 5-9PM
Tacoma Convention Center
auctions • dinner • cash bar • fun-fun-fun!!
Act Fast! Space is limited!
Please return the registration card to reserve your seat.

Wish List

For kennels & grooming:
• cat litter
• cat food (wet and dry)
• gallon containers of bleach
• fabric scarves
For Service Dog Program:
• gift cards to animal or office supply stores
• Kongs
• dog treats
• post-it notes

thank you!

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