



Freedom Tails

Stafford Creek Corrections Center – June 2015 Vol 7/No 7

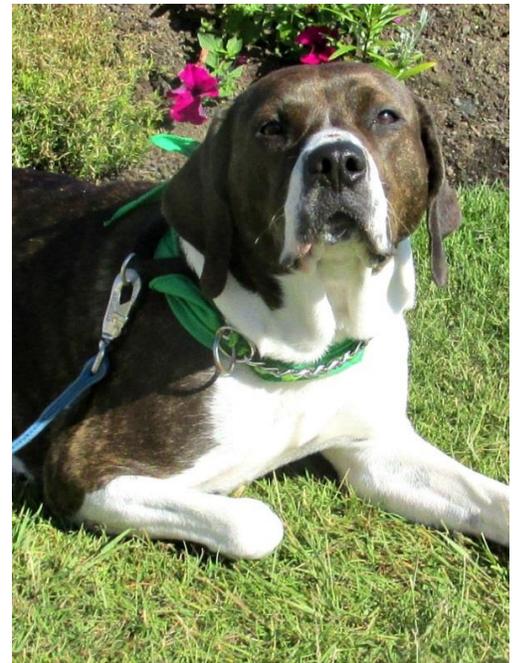
Four Kids Still Looking for a Home!



REX



GENIE



PRECIOUS

KEBA



Rex: is a Springer/English Setter Mix boy and almost 3 ½ years old. He weighs 70lbs, and loves to play Frisbee. He has really become a star at catching in air. Rex is a very happy boy, and will bring that happiness to your home.

Genie: this 2 ½ year old Lab/Boxer Mix is not only stunning to look at, but is as smart as a whip. Gracie is as sweet as the day is long, but will need lots of room to run and a home that can keep up. Genie knows all her commands, and is ready to show them off to you.

Precious: is a 54lb, 2 years old Boxer/Terrier Mix who loves people and belly scratches! This stunning girl is good with other dogs, knows her commands, is microchipped, and, per her handler, is *FABULOUS!* Precious proves to be the definition of her name.

Keba: at 3 ½ years old, Keba is a beautiful Border Collie Mix who has proven his manners and calm demeanor at two events that attended by people and critters alike. He is quite loving, extremely well mannered, and will enjoy playing with other dogs if you have them.

Seattle Dog Spot Adopts a FT Dog!

Big news from Seattle DogSpot: We're adopting another dog!

May 29, 2015 by SDogSpot Author

<http://www.seattledogspot.com/dog-adoption-rescue/big-news-from-seattle-dogspot-were-adopting-another-dog/>



We visited Haley earlier this week at the Stafford Creek Correctional Center in Aberdeen. Photo from Seattle DogSpot.

I'm happy to announce that we're adopting another dog next month! Her name is Haley, and she's a beautiful 2-3 year old Yellow Labrador retriever. We're getting Haley from the Harbor Association of Volunteers for Adoption (HAVA), an all-volunteer rescue in Raymond, WA. We aren't getting Haley until the end of June because she's currently part of the HAVA's Freedom Tails program at Stafford Creek Correctional Center (SCCC) in Aberdeen.

Freedom Tails takes dogs that would most likely be euthanized in animal shelters and gives them "a second chance at life" by pairing them with offenders who improve the dogs' chances of adoption by teaching them "socialization, house training, and much needed obedience skills."

SCCC was the first male correctional facility in the state to have offenders train dogs. The Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor pioneered the first program, called the Prison Pet Partnership, in 1981. Now offenders train dogs in all of Washington's correctional facilities. Some offenders train shelter dogs to be service dogs. Others, like Freedom Tails, train the dogs so they will be adopted into forever homes.

I first learned about Freedom Tails when I visited SCCC in August of 2013 to spend a day watching the offenders with the dogs they were training. During my visit, I learned the program takes in dogs that "don't have a chance" at getting adopted. The dogs in the Freedom Tails program typically have "kennel stress, no manners, and sometimes medical issues."

Freedom Tails is designed to give the dogs structure in their lives, good grooming, house training, medical care, some socialization, and the ability to trust humans again.

Haley's past is a bit murky. The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) pulled her from a shelter (we don't know which one or how she got there) to train her to sniff for drugs, but they took her out of the program because she wasn't ball reactive enough. The DOC uses balls as a reward to train the dogs to find contraband. When they find the drugs, they get to play with their ball.

But if a dog like Haley doesn't care that much about playing with balls, they aren't likely to make it through the training.

The DOC turned Haley over to HAVA, which then put her in the Freedom Tails program. She apparently suffered from kennel stress at some point in her past because she had open sores on her front paws caused by excessive licking. Fortunately she is over that now and her paws have almost healed. I'll share more information about how we decided to adopt Haley, plan to get our home ready for her, learn how to integrate her into a household with 2 cats and another dog, and help her adapt to something she has never experienced before: a permanent home.



We'll bring Haley home in about a month. Photo from Seattle DogSpot.

FT Attends Pet Sense Adoption Days Again!



May 30th and 31st Pet Sense held their Annual Adoptathon in Aberdeen, WA, and Freedom Tails was represented for a second year in a row. The weather wasn't quite as nice as last year, so the turn out wasn't quite what was expected – but there were still plenty of people to share word of the program to. Freedom Tails volunteers (L-R) Karen Diehm and Pat McCarty (Freedom Tails trainer) attended with Keba, who wowed the crowd. A perfect gentleman at all times, he met dogs big and small without a growl or hackle raised, and even stayed mellow with an array of snakes and lizards on hand! Keba is still looking for the forever, loving home! Manager, Brittany Schultz, was on hand both days going out of her way to accommodate both customers and participants, and we'll see her at graduation on June 24th with goodie bags for the new adopters!

- ~Three dogs in New Zealand were taught to drive a modified car around a race track in an effort to show the intelligence of shelter dogs.
- ~Russia's Vladimir Putin brought a large dog with him to a round of negotiations with German politician, Angela Merkel, knowing that she had a pathological fear of dogs, in order to gain a psychological edge.
- ~If a guide dog judges that a command is unsafe, it will refuse the command. This is called "intelligent disobedience".
- ~A Labrador retriever service dog pulled his disabled owner into the recovery position after he was struck unconscious, then covered him with a blanket, retrieved his mobile phone and pushed it against his face, and only left his owner to fetch help once he had regained consciousness.

When you access the HAVA website, slowly drop under the Freedom Tails tab...magically an application link appears!



Brigadoon Service Dogs
"Offering a Helping Paw!"
<http://www.brigadoondogs.com/>

HAVA House - 431 2nd Street – PO Box 243
Raymond, WA 98577 – 360.942.4716
For an adoption application see the website or contact:
Christine Bascom at beesniblossoms@live.com
<http://www.hava-heart.org/freedom-tails>