

# Freedom Tails

Stafford Creek Corrections Center – March 2014 Vol 6/No 3

## First Graduation of the Year!!



**MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>** proved to be a gorgeous day for a graduation. The sight of blue skies and sunshine seemed to lift everyone's spirits – both two legged and four. All 15 dogs this session found new homes and all adopters were in attendance, along with shelter volunteers, visitors, staff, and Tanya, an employee of Dennis Co. Tanya brought Kelly Dietz with her – a representative of Nutri-Source. CUS Cherry presented Dietz a Certificate of Appreciation, as she has made it possible to have all of the Freedom Tails dog food donated from Nutri-Source. Dietz talked to the adopters for a short while, and informed them she had goody bags for them upon their departure. And, in those bags was a coupon for a free bag of Nutri-Source dog food at a retailer near their home. The handlers and dogs again did a fantastic job in demonstrating the skills learned with both verbal and hand commands. Speeches were given by the handlers and for the first time, by some of the walkers. Many of



CUS Cherry congratulating this session's Assistant Trainer Ephraim Smith

the speeches had the audience laughing at one moment and crying the next. One visitor said they cried about 75% of the graduation, and many tissue boxes could be found empty. One speaker related how the handlers could relate to the dogs, as both had hard lives and bad circumstances in the past. Yet, they were helping to redeem each other, and with the adopters help, the dogs were finding their freedom. Interestingly, another speaker informed the audience that the men in the program represented 1000yrs of incarceration. And, involvement in this program helped them in changing their way of thinking, their morals, and their values.



Kelly Dietz. Rep for Nutri Pro



## Graduation Activity Includes Smiles and Wags



Pssst – wanta go play?



Someone or something has their attention!



Dogs and birds circle the room.



We ARE big dogs!



The gift of touch.



Nope, it's not one big leash.



Walker, Cupic, cracks the audience up.



# Jonny Justice Becomes a GUND Stuffed Animal

Edison, NJ (PRWEB) August 27, 2012

The dog days of summer brought a hot competition on Facebook, in the form of the first-ever GUND “Top Dog” photo contest, where thousands vied to become the next GUND plush pooch. Today, GUND, known for its top-quality, soft and huggable plush designs and gift products, announces the Grand Prize winner: Jonny Justice, a Staffordshire bull terrier with a touching past and a promising future. GUND will create a plush version of Jonny Justice, available for sale at specialty gift and toy stores in 2013.

Jonny Justice, who was rescued from Michael Vick’s illegal dog-fighting ring, received more than 12,000 votes. The contest, which launched in July 2012 and ended in mid-August, received 1,305 entries and more than 50,000 votes. The concept for a canine model was inspired by GUND’s version of Boo, The World’s Cutest Dog™ and real Pomeranian with millions of fans.

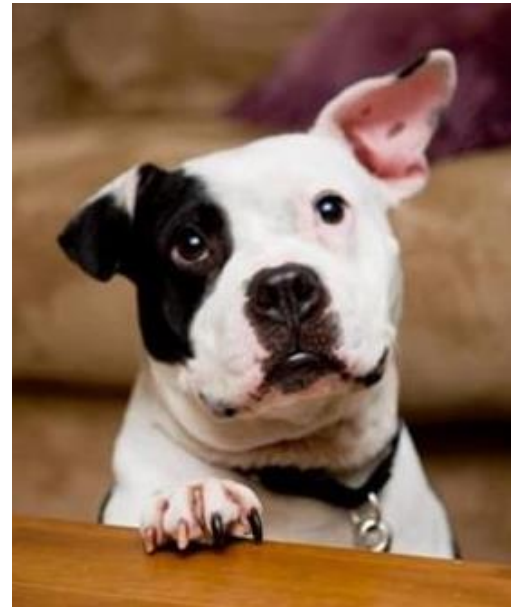
Jonny Justice, who since his rescue has been trained to work with children, received the most votes of all dogs whose photos were entered in the contest’s four categories:

Most Beautiful Dog

Face Only a Mother Could Love

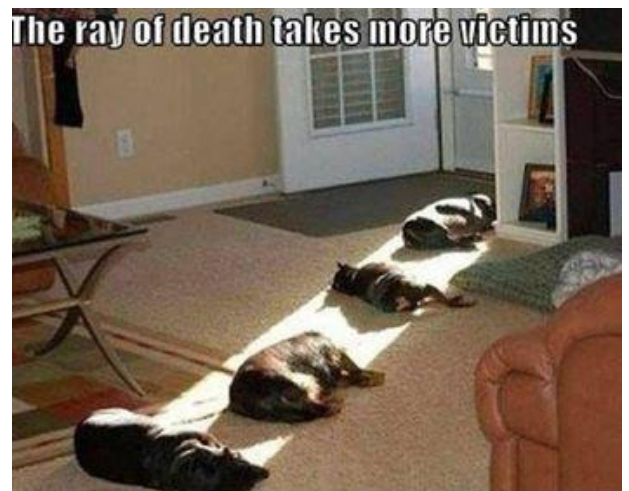
“Doganista”/Best Dressed Dog

Dog that Most Resembles its Owner



Jonny Justice was chosen as the Grand Prize winner, after also winning for Most Beautiful Dog. Other category winners whose owners will receive recognition and prizes include: Rose, a black pug pup who received nearly 2,400 votes in the “Best Dressed” category; Yogi Bear, a silver and black pug who took the top of the “Face Only a Mother Could Love” field and Reeses, a dachshund, who won “Dog that Most Resembles its Owner” with her owner and best friend, young Ariana.

“The enthusiasm for the ‘Top Dog’ contest was truly touching,” said Bruce Raiffe, GUND’s president. “We saw beautiful photos that told emotional stories and funny images that made us laugh. It’s obvious that canine companions mean so much... to so many different people. We couldn’t be happier to honor Jonny Justice with his own plush and piece of history in the GUND family. And we congratulate all the category winners.” <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/8/prweb9835269.htm>





## ***Freddie Attends Another Timberland Library Sleep-Over!***

Timberland Library hosted another Stuffed Animal Sleep-Over on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Children bring in their favorite stuffed animal to spend the night and have fun with other stuffies. Since this was the second time for Freddie to attend, he gave the limelight to his friend Johnny Justice. Johnny not only bragged about the Freedom Tails program, but also talked about his story and rescue from Michael Vick's dog fighting compound. When the talks were over, the attendees were given their choice of what they wanted for dinner and the overwhelming response was PIZZA! Afterwards, Johnny was asked to read the group a bedtime story. A great time was had by all, and each took a certificate home to share with their special people.



**Stuffed  
Animal  
Sleep  
Over**



*March 2014*

**Sleepover at the  
Westport Timberland Library**  
Freddie was invited back again  
this year...

Freddie liked eating pizza!  
Freddie loved spending the night at the  
library!  
But I think Freddie's favorite thing was  
speaking about Freedom Tails !

## Memorial Fund established for dental students and Freedom Tails

**10:30 am** - December 26, 2013 ABERDEEN— In the memory of John and Ella Mae Daly, their family has decided to start a new Donor Advised Fund at the Grays Harbor Community Foundation titled the Dr. John F. and Ella Mae Daly Memorial Fund. This fund has the intent to award a scholarship each year starting in 2014, as well as benefit the organization Freedom Tails through charitable distributions. "We are pleased to be able to help the Daly Family honor the memory of John and Ella Mae. This scholarship is something new and we will be dedicated to carrying the donors' wishes forward," said Maryann Welch, Board Chair. The Dr. John F. and Ella Mae Daly Memorial Scholarship fund will establish an annual scholarship that will be awarded to a Grays Harbor resident for up to four years of graduate level Dental School studies, with a preference for those attending University of Oregon Dental School or a Pediatric Dentistry program. Preference will also be given to veteran students or students with a Military commitment upon completion of their studies.

Rich Vroman, Scholarship Committee Chair, echoed "We are thrilled to see this scholarship established. Our regular Scholarship program supports undergraduate students only, but we are very open to donors who have specific ideas on the types of scholarships they want to support. I think this Scholarship will be very helpful to Grays Harbor students hoping to attend Dental School."

Because of their lifelong love of dogs, the fund will also provide annual funding to help Freedom Tails, a dog-training program that is based at Stafford Creek Prison. Dennis Cherry, SCCC Custody Unit Supervisor (CUS) and SCCC Freedom Tails Dog Program Manager, said: "We actually get/gather dogs from Grays Harbor PAWS, North Beach PAWS, private rescues, and other places. None of the dogs we get have a home. The offenders volunteer to train the dogs at the facility on basic obedience, and NB PAWS adopts them out upon completion. We also monitor the offenders' behavior while at the prison and when they release to see if this helps them keep from returning to prison. So, it's not just about the dogs."

The Grays Harbor Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission "to improve the quality of life in the communities throughout Grays Harbor County." This is accomplished through many projects and processes that work through or in support of other non-profit organizations, including a quarterly discretionary grants cycle with applications accepted on the first business day of January, April, July and October. Tax-deductible donations may be made to: Grays Harbor Community Foundation, P.O. Box 615, Hoquiam, WA 98550

<http://southbeachbulletin.com/livinglifestyles/memorial-fund-established-dental-students-and-freedom-tails.html>

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

124 N Sylvia St • Montesano, WA, 98563



### ***We are: "Large Enough to Share, and Small Enough to Care"*** **Community Outreach for the 2012 year**

Over \$8,000 from special offerings and out of our annual operating budget of about \$23,500, went to financial outreach in 2012; listed recipients below received support:

PAWS and Freedom Tails, Aberdeen, WA (\$226, raised from Blessing of Pets Sunday)

<http://www.stmarksmonte.com/>