



# Freedom Tails

Stafford Creek Corrections Center – January 2015 Vol 7/No 1

## It's a New Year, and We Have a New Class!



**MISSY:** is a beautiful 1 ½ year old Pointer Mix. At her young age, she is still full of vim and vigor, so will need a very active new home. Missy is coming along great in her training, but being a bird dog and still a kid, gets distracted easily. She is a bit overbearing with the other dogs right now, but socialization will help with that. Missy is a loveable girl, and will make a wonderful, new forever friend. (PAWS of GH)



**ROGER:** as one of the younger dogs this session, 6 month old Roger is already at 49lbs. This Black Lab-Anatolian Shepherd Mix has a sweet demeanor, is full of energy, and loves to play. Roger is going to be a big boy, plays well with the other dogs, and when it's time to relax, likes to lay on your feet so you can't "sneak away"! He will become a protective dog as he bonds with his new family or person. (HAVA)



**ABBY:** for a "Chi-Weannie", this little dog is quite a character. A one year old Chihuahua-Dachshund Mix, Abby is very affable upon meeting - but she will need a home with no infants/little kids. On the flip side, cats are OK—maybe due to them being closer to her size? And dogs are good too. ☺ At 8.4lbs, Abby probably won't get much bigger...except for her heart when finding her new home. (PAWS of GH)



**STAR:** is a gorgeous 1 ½ year old Border Collie Mix. She is an intelligent girl, sweet as a dog can be, and very energetic. Star is fine with cats and other dogs, but is a bit on the timid side – so she might do better in a slower paced home. She is a very well-mannered girl, and will be sure to steal your heart away. (PAWS of GH)

**JOJO:** steals the scene when it comes to love and affection. This soft coated 4 year old Yellow Lab-Golden Retriever Mix loves people, is great with kids, and gets a little rowdy and a bit vocal when playing with other dogs – who'd thought. JoJo will make a loving, dedicated forever friend for years to come! (PAWS of GH)





# Wow - Quite the Mix of Breeds & Sizes

**BANDIT:** at 12 months old, this beautiful Border Collie will play fetch all day long if allowed to! Bandit has energy to burn, and will definitely need a person/family to keep up with him and continue his training. He is good with cats and dogs, is smart as a whip, and is still quite the puppy at heart. Bandit will make a loving forever friend, and keep you busy for quite some time. (DOC Donation)



**TODD:** is our youngster of the bunch. This 4 month old Mix breed puppy is soft as silk to the touch, is good with cats, dogs, and children, and is already 23.4lbs! Todd is a very affectionate kid and obviously loves to play – but can be very calm and reserved - not quite what you expect in a pup. He will make some family/person very happy for years to come. (HAVA)



**KATO:** at 1 ½ years old, this stunning Black Lab Mix may look stoic in his picture, but loves to play ball. He has a great personality, loves everyone he meets, and is ok with cats, dogs, and kids - the pure essence a Lab. Kato will need an active person/family to keep up with him over the years, and he will prove the dedicated forever friend and protector. (HAVA)



**FLASH:** is a Basset Hound Mix, but true to the breed in every sense. At 4 years old, Flash loves everyone one he meets. He's great with cats and dogs, has a wonderful personality, and like his breed, is inactive in house, but outside, loves to play tag! Flash will make a devoted forever friend, and his sweet nature will calm any stress you have when you come home at the end of the day. It will be the lucky home if he becomes yours! (HAVA)



**SHERLOCK:** this striking Black Lab Mix boy is 2 ½ years old, weighs in at 69.2lbs, and is good with cats and dogs. He's obviously another lover of people, but should go to a home with children over 12 years of age. Sherlock is very intelligent, listens well, picks up on his training and hand commands very quickly, and loves balls. There's the "in" to be his best friend! Count yourself lucky if he becomes yours! Sherlock is also micro-chipped. (HAVA)



## Two More and FT Brags!



**COPPER:** this beautiful boy is a Dapple Red Dachshund with one blue eye! Copper is 4 years old, is also good with cats, dogs, and kids, and makes for a wonderful lap dog. He'll be a 17lb lap dog, but what warmth for the winter! Copper is a friendly, outspoken boy and is very affectionate. He also likes to use pillow cases as little caves to sleep in. Copper came in a bit overweight, but is trimming down nicely. Count yourself lucky if he becomes yours! (PAWS of GH)



**GRACIE:** is a very cute, very young 12 month old German Shepherd Mix. Gracie is good with cats and other dogs, and loves people. She is an exceptionally sweet girl, and a tad bit timid - until she gets to know you. This girl is full of energy, still puppyish, and will chase a ball all day as long as you're there to keep her company and entertained. Gracie is just starting her training, but with the Shepherd in her, she'll pick it up very quickly. This girl will make some person or family very happy for years to come. (DOC Donation)

In Australia, a man who was arrested for drug possession argued his civil rights were violated when the drug-sniffing dog nuzzled his crotch. While the judge dismissed the charges, they were later reinstated when a prosecutor pointed out that in the animal kingdom, crotch nuzzling was a friendly gesture



Dogs are the only species that look where humans point their eyes or fingers. But, they watch only human eyes, not dog eyes.

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<http://www.hava-heart.org/freedom-tails>



## First Freedom Tails class graduates under HAVA sponsorship

8:48 pm - December 25, 2014



*Handlers and supervisors show off the latest group of Freedom Tails four-footed graduates at Stafford Creek Corrections Center on Dec. 4.*

By Barb Aue, Editor, photos by Karen Diehm

Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC), located off SR105 approximately five miles south of Aberdeen, operates a highly successful dog-training program called Freedom Tails. Freedom Tails partners rescued shelter dogs with SCCC offenders. Caring for their charges 24/7, offender handlers work with the dogs over a ten-week period, preparing them for well-behaved lives in adoptive homes.

Freedom Tails has proven to be a win, win, win for dogs, offenders and pet adopters. The offenders learn responsibility, gain self-esteem and enjoy canine companionship. The dogs receive loving care, socialization skills and training in basic commands, and the adoptive families get a great new pet that fits in and functions well.

**Program history** - The first prison dog-training program in Washington started more than 20 years ago at the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Purdy. The Stafford Creek program, started in 2009, was the first for all-male offenders. It has been so successful, several other all-male offender facilities in the state system now



have programs of their own, with other facilities considering it, as well. Former SCCC Superintendent Dan Pacholke was the first to investigate the possibility of starting a dog-training program at Stafford Creek. While still in the planning stages, Pacholke transferred to state Department of Corrections headquarters in Olympia. New Stafford Creek Superintendent, Pat Glebe, moved forward on the project with Correctional Unit Supervisor (CUS) Dennis Cherry and North Beach PAWS (NBPaws) Director Joan Baus to bring Freedom Tails to fruition. The program included efforts by the sponsoring organization and NBPaws shelters to place each dog in the current class in a 'forever home' by the time its training session was completed.

*Stafford Creek inmate handlers show off their charges' obedience skills as a part of the Freedom Tails graduation program.*

**HAVA new sponsor** - Earlier this year, North Beach PAWS chose to step down as the Freedom Tails Program Administrator. Harbor Association of Volunteers for Animals (HAVA) was approached to see if that organization would be willing to become the Administrator. After discussions, HAVA entered into a four-year contract to take over sponsorship. The Freedom Tails Graduating Class of Dec. 4, 2014 is the very first group of dogs to complete their training under HAVA's umbrella. That brings the total number of dogs that have been placed with families following Freedom Tails training to 252.

**HAVA beginnings** - HAVA had its beginnings right here on the South Beach. Founded in 1990, the organization was created as a lost and found pet registry with its own telephone line set up in Westport resident Shirley Brown's home. Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1993, Brown and volunteers maintained a small shelter and thrift store in Westport until the spring of 1999, when funding ran out. In order to keep the non profit organization in tact, Brown contacted animal welfare activists in the Raymond area who were willing to take over the reins and continue the organization. Since then HAVA has continued to care for abandoned cats and dogs.

**No-kill cat shelter** - In 2012, with a generous financial donation, volunteers were able to purchase a house in Raymond and remodel it into a no-kill shelter for cats. HAVA continues to foster dogs in private homes in Raymond and South Beach area communities until they find forever homes. Sponsorship of the Freedom Tails program at Stafford Creek is the latest major milestone in meeting HAVA's mission to rescue and find loving homes for animals that are in need.

**Donations welcome** - If you would like to help continue HAVA's mission of rescuing animals in need and helping their humans whenever possible, you may send monetary donations to: HAVA, PO BOX 243, Raymond, WA 98577 or go to [www.hava-heart.org](http://www.hava-heart.org) and make a contribution via PayPal.