



Freedom Tails

Stafford Creek Corrections Center – June 2016 Vol 8/No 6

Second Graduation of the Year For SECC!



Freedom Tails held the second graduation of the year on June 22, 2016 with plenty of dog lovers in attendance. Associate Superintendent Dan Van Ogle (below left) greeted the audience and welcomed them to the ceremony explaining how the program benefited not only the dogs, but the offender handlers. CUS Dennis Cherry introduced both the manager of Pet Sense in Aberdeen, Katherine Oestrich, and Ocean Shores veterinarian Stacy Steele. Ms. Steele informed the audience that she had nominated the Freedom Tails program for the Animal Welfare Award with the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association! We'll see what October brings when the winner is selected, but what kudos for Stacy and other vet's to write in and elect us! Below center a walker receives his certificate from staff, and right shows one of the tables with goodies and information the adopters receive when they sit down to talk with their forever family member's handlers.



More Pies So You Could Be There Too!



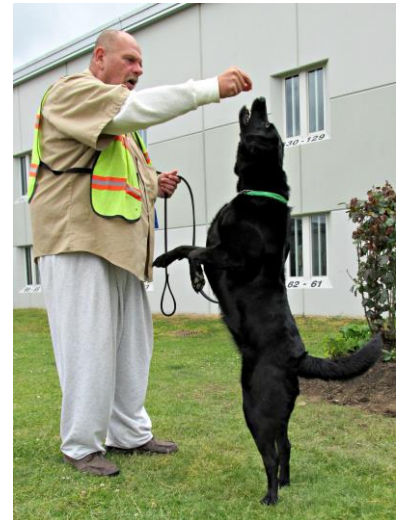
It was a tough day for the goodies delivered from the SCCC kitchen to graduation. Looks like there was a “*crash and burn*” with the delivery cart, as many cupcakes were topsy-turvy. On the plus side, it gave many of the adorable cupcake toppers a little look of their own! Spotted ears, smiles, and even Beagles and Dalmatians!



QUICK SHOTS! Above L-R: Big Draco carefully makes his way down off the ramp; Rolo stands for treats while his handlers expound on his qualities and talents; puppy Seamus has his own agenda even though his handlers try to be serious....he tugs on his leash, jumps up and down, and just wants to play. Hey - he's a puppy! And, his new people get an adorable display of the personality of the new kid who's coming to into their (and his) home! Below L-R: walkers want to explain to the audience their responsibilities, but Maci decides she would rather talk; three big kids from this session entertain their handlers - Draco has his paw on Riley, his chin on his handler, and garnered Guinness's attention.



Miscellaneous Class Shots to Enjoy!



"The intent of the dog handler programs across multiple WADOC institutions is to build offender accountability and skills, while providing a needed service to the community.....the program has clearly succeeded in building a higher-level of accountability, as witnessed by the statistically significant decreases in infractions, grievances, and sanctions among the dog-handlers. The program lends to a safer and healthier prison environment in those pods and facilities where the programs are offered"

Wormer, Kigerl, Hamilton: Digging Deeper: Exploring the Value of Prison-based Dog Handler Programs. 2015

HAVA's adoption coordinator reviews the applications and decides which potential adopter she feels would give the dog the best home possible. She then sets up meet/greet w/the trainer. These are usually 30 min., Fri and Sat from 12:30-1:30pm. All member of the family, including dogs, are required to attend. Afterward, both parties email her as to their decision & whether they want to move forward in the adoption.

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 Balcom at beesnblossoms@live.com

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