



# Freedom Tails

*Stafford Creek Corrections Center – December 2014 Vol 6/No 9*

## **2014 Ends with Graduation & Special News!**



**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** was the last graduation of 2014 for Freedom Tails. With the switch up from one Administrator to another, it's been quite the year...and has worked out wonderfully! Program Manager, Dennis Cherry got things rolling, then the dogs and handlers hit the spotlight! This graduation there was a bit of a change in the regular routine, which was fantastic. The audience was greeted, then shown a great display of verbal and hand commands; a run through a newly formatted Obstacle Course came next, and each dog was introduced individually and cheered on. The handlers made it a point to truly acknowledge the audience and thank them all for their involvement and participation in the program. Kleenex was running low as every handler told his story of living with one of these wonderful dogs full-time for many, many weeks. The dog walkers also had the opportunity to speak (and brag) about their positions – as they have the luxury of dealing with ALL the

dogs, instead of just one! As one walker related it, it's like being a grandparent...you can do all the playing and spoiling! CUS McElravy had a chance to speak about Brigadoon (see below), Kelly Dietz from Nutri-source spoke and left gift certificates for the adopters, and CUS Jennings was introduced as the new Asst. Program Mngr. The volunteers from both HAVA and PAWS of Aberdeen were given an enthusiastic standing ovation by the handlers for their participation and involvement in the program. 2015 – Here we come!!!!



**L:** Visit room before the deluge.....

# Graduation and Other News



Freedom Tails has been blessed with a kind hearted Volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous. She creates hand-sewn, padded blankets for the dogs to use while in the crates. The dogs can then take them home with them when graduation comes! 3 kids show them off in the sun (above), while (left) they are showcased at graduation on the individual tables, cleaned and waiting to go to their new homes too! She already has the next batch ready!!  
**WE THANK YOU!!**



**Above:** Kelly Dietz, the Rep for NutriSource, takes a few minutes to talk to the audience about her company. They are now donating all the dog food to Brigadoon, besides Freedom Tails! Another Big High Five and Thank You!

**Above:** Hey, since when did red scarf mean play dead?

**Right:** another beautiful piece of art work in H3.

**Far Right:** Dog Whisperer? Or, are the dogs just whispering about him?



# Brigadoon Speaks Up.....



"...in the State of Washington alone, there are 398,000 mobility impaired, and 226,000 hearing impaired individuals. This is only a small part of the services Brigadoon dogs provide help for, and a small part of the area that Brigadoon services."

The SCCC Vets Pod has partnered with the Brigadoon Service Dog training program out of Bellingham, WA. The dogs coming into the program are trained to be certified Service Dogs for combat wounded Veterans – at no charge. If one of the dogs does not find a match to a Veteran, it's possible that they may go to a person with physical or developmental disabilities, anxiety, Post-traumatic Stress

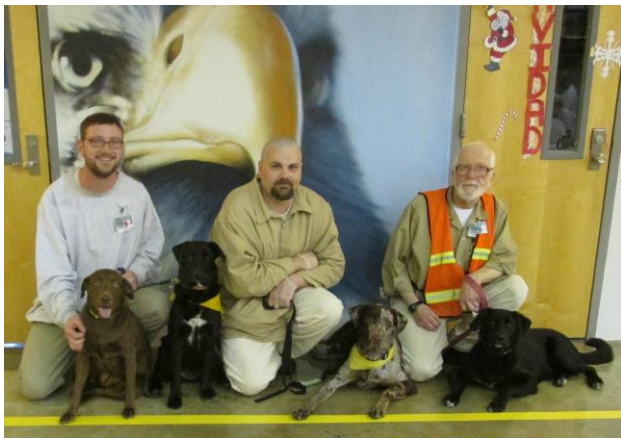
Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury. For these individuals, there would be a fee.

Brigadoon dogs will in the working mode most of the time (pups still gotta play!),

and training will last up to one year at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. After that, they will spend an

additional year at another facility. The Service Dog's main function is to assist their human. SCCC staff and offenders are honored to be given the opportunity to be involved in this program, and assist in the training of these wonderful dogs. The Brigadoon Service Dog program supports a great cause and also provides some of our offenders with a marketable job skill when they are released.

**L-R:** Snickers, Ebony, Morgan, and Panda - you may recognize the last three as previous Freedom Tails dogs – they were hand-picked by Brigadoon for this new chapter in their lives!



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<https://www.cfd.wa.gov/search.aspx>



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

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](mailto:beesnblossoms@live.com)

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