



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion  
1450 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010-2307  
650/340.7022 • 650/685.8428 fax • [www.PHS-SPCA.org](http://www.PHS-SPCA.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 10, 2016**

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **First group of PHS/SPCA shelter dogs graduating from inmate training program at San Mateo County's Maple Street Correctional Center**

- WHAT:** Graduation ceremony for the TAILS program, a partnership between Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.
- WHO:** The graduates (shelter dogs Tasha, Elfie, Muñeca, and Oreo) and inmates involved in the program, Sheriff's Office staff, PHS/SPCA staff and possibly some of the inmate handlers' family members will be in attendance.
- WHEN:** Friday, November 18 from 2-3 p.m.
- WHERE:** Maple Street Correctional Center, 1300 Maple Street, Redwood City.
- WHY:** To celebrate the accomplishments of the inmates involved in the TAILS Program, resulting in the graduation of the first group of shelter dogs from the new Maple Street Correctional Center.

#### **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Michele Moyer, communications manager, PHS/SPCA
- Maria Eguren, behavior & training director, PHS/SPCA
- Salvador Zuno, public information officer, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

#### **More information:**

While the program has been in existence since 2009, this will be the first group of graduates from the new Maple Street Correctional Center. TAILS (Transitioning Animals Into Loving Situations) matches minimum-security inmates with shelter dogs who require extra attention to increase their adoptability.

"We're really excited to celebrate this first group of graduates at the new facility," said Michele Moyer, communications manager for Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. "The transformations that take place throughout the 8-week program are remarkable. Since the partnership with the Sheriff's Office began in July 2009, 82 dogs have graduated, and the inmates' work is directly responsible for TAILS dogs being placed into new, permanent homes."

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TAILS gives dogs who are not quite ready for adoption constant care and attention and provides inmates an avenue for developing skills and making their time more meaningful. For the past eight weeks, the

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**Coyote Point Shelter**

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dogs have lived at the facility. Every Friday, a PHS/SPCA trainer conducts an instructional class for the inmate handlers. Outside of class, inmates are responsible for homework from class, socialization, grooming, exercise, clean-up and overall well-being for their dogs.

An average day for the dogs under the guidance of their inmate handlers consists of multiple exercise sessions in the facility's yard, group "play dates" with other dogs in the program, individual work on homework assignments from the weekly obedience classes and socialization with other inmates. While all four of the dogs already have likely placements, potential adopters can contact PHS/SPCA Behavior & Training Director, Maria Eguren, at 650-340-7022, ext. 306 or [meguren@PHS-SPCA.org](mailto:meguren@PHS-SPCA.org) for more information or to arrange a personal meeting with:

- Tasha, a 4-year-old terrier
- Elfie, a 3-year-old miniature pinscher/Manchester terrier
- Muñeca, a 3-year-old Chihuahua
- Oreo, an 8-year-old Shih Tzu

Within a few weeks, PHS/SPCA staff will select another group of dogs for the next TAILS class. More information about adoptable dogs is available on PHS/SPCA's website at [www.phs-spca.org/adopt/dog.html](http://www.phs-spca.org/adopt/dog.html)

#### **About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA**

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit [www.phs-spca.org](http://www.phs-spca.org) to learn about all PHS/SPCA's programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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