



Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2017

MEDIA ALERT

First group of women inmates graduating from shelter dog 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:** Graduates of the program, featuring the first group of women graduates; the shelter dogs they trained (Lizzie, Stella, Summer, Gypsy, Kobbie and Elfie); Sheriff's Office and PHS/SPCA staff.
- WHEN:** Thursday, February 9 from 1-2 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, including the first group of women graduates.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

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

More information:

TAILS (Transitioning Animals Into Loving Situations) matches minimum-security inmates with shelter dogs who require extra attention to increase their adoptability. While the program has been in existence since 2009, this will be the first group that includes women graduates. The women trained Lizzie, Stella and Summer. The men worked with Gypsy, Kobbie and Elfie.

"We're really excited to celebrate this first group of women graduates at the new facility," said Maria Eguren, behavior and training director for Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. "The transformations that take place throughout the 8-week program are remarkable. The inmates' work is directly responsible for TAILS dogs being placed into new, permanent homes."

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 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.

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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.

Potential adopters for the shelter dogs that were part of this graduating class can check PHS/SPCA's website at <https://www.phs-spca.org/adopt/dog.html> or contact PHS/SPCA Behavior & Training Director, Maria Eguren, at 650-340-7022, ext. 306 or meguren@PHS-SPCA.org regarding their availability:

- Lizzie, a 3-year-old long-hair female Chihuahua. She is on the shy side but slowly warms up to people. She likes to rest on someone's lap and would enjoy a mellow home.
- Summer, a 6-year-old gray female poodle mix. She is a confident, friendly dog. She is active and would like to continue training and exercising.
- Kobbie, a 5-year-old male Chihuahua. He can be a bit shy when he first meets people, but very friendly and playful with dogs.
- Stella, a 10-month-old female Chihuahua. This puppy is still working on her socialization. She needs a quiet home with an owner that is willing to introduce her to new situations gradually.

Within a few weeks, PHS/SPCA staff will select another group of dogs for the next TAILS class.

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 to learn about all PHS/SPCA's programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

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