

Healing the Body and the Spirit



NH PATHWAYS TO HOPE

<http://pthnhpdp.org>

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Points of Interest

- We welcome two more dogs into the NH Pathways family.
- How effective are prison dogs really?
- A new trainer takes over, and we go into overdrive.
- Blogging for the program, or Jasmine speaks her mind.
- Sam's Club gives **BIG**.



Inside this issue:

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MISSION STATEMENT

NH Pathways to Hope is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding the independence of people facing physical or emotional challenges by providing service dogs trained by selected prison inmates, using a personal approach based on mutual respect and dignity that forges a shared bond among our dogs, their trainers, and above all, their eventual partners.

BELLA AND AMBER JOIN THE SERVICE:

We are happy to report that Bella, all 7 1/2 pounds of her, has joined the other dogs at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men in Concord. Bella is a Cairn Terrier, and for those of you who might not be familiar with the breed, her ancestors originated on the island of Skye off the coast of Scotland in the 16th century. Bred originally to flush vermin from among the piles of rocks on the island—hence the name—these fearless little dogs continue their service to their human companions.

Despite her diminutive size, Bella can be a service dog. For example, she could eventually serve someone with a hearing disability. Incredibly bright, she has already learned to respond to both hand and voice commands, and she could easily be taught to alert her service person to a smoke alarm, doorbell, or other audible signal.

With respect to the other dogs five and six times her size, she easily holds her own. Eager to play, she is not shy about letting the poodles know when they're getting too rough. In fact, she has chased the much larger dogs away from toys and training treats! So don't be fooled if you are lucky enough to meet her. She's tiny, yes, but she has the heart of mastiff.

We also welcomed into the program Amber, a gorgeous mixed-breed and an eager learner. She was originally scheduled for basic obedience training (6-8 weeks) but things changed, and she is now a full-time service dog in training. Like Bella, she has shown a talent for helping people with hearing impairments

HOW THE DOGS ARE PROGRESSING:

After a month at the prison, the dogs have settled into their training routines and adjusted to their new handlers. Diet has been an experiment as we try to find the proper food that will provide adequate nutritional needs without upsetting the dogs' digestive systems. Thanks to generous donations from suppliers, we finally got things under control. Fortunately, none of the dogs is a finicky eater, even after consuming handfuls of training treats.

Since all the dogs are smart as well as curious, their arrival quickly became a contest to see whether the men could keep the dogs from pilfering treats, clothing, and any other articles found lying around their cells. Jasmine, the most notorious pirate of the crew, proved especially adept at sneaking into open cells and doing her "shopping." She has, however, reformed her act and proven her good citizen credentials—at least most of the time.

Jasmine and Bella were both recently spayed and have recovered from their surgeries without complications. That leaves only Hope left for the unforgiving scalpel.

PRISON DOGS STEAL THE SHOW!

On February 11 at 7:30 p.m., WMUR's "New Hampshire Chronicles" featured none other than our NH Pathways to Hope Prison Dog Program. Channel 9 reporter Heather Hamel spent an entire training session interviewing Dee Ganley about her experience and approach to training service dogs. Dee, of course, is our training supervisor and the author of books and articles on the subject and provided a concise, accessible overview of the program's methods and objectives. She even brought along her Australian shepherd Dazzle to demonstrate some of the things service dogs can be taught to do.

In this feature:

- Dee Ganley takes the program on TV
- The handlers talk about what it means
- Bella steals the show
- More star appearances in the future

Heather also expressed a wish to talk to some of the inmates involved in the program. Unit Manager Clay LeGault selected men who agreed to be interviewed on camera, each relating a brief summary of why he was in prison and what the prison dog program had come to mean for him personally. Two of the men were veterans of the first phase of the program. Charles Huckelbury had trained Joey, a black Labrador retriever, and John Bass had trained Rosie, a golden retriever mix, both of which had graduated the previous August and been placed with their companions.

The men spoke consistently of the profound changes the program has made in their lives, from instilling a sense of responsibility to the moving experience of unconditional love. They described the overwhelming sadness that accompanied the first dogs' graduation after two years of sharing every part of their lives. Charles Huckelbury, with the chocolate standard poodle Jasmine lying in front of him, spoke of their departure in terms of watching a child leave for college and then qualified that observation with the painful knowledge that the "child" would not be coming back. He then reminded Heather that the program was not, however, about the handlers, at least not primarily, but about the dogs and the people they would eventually help. That awareness helped partially ease the pain of losing the dogs that had become part of the family.

John Bass followed with his assessment of his participation as a trainer and echoed those sentiments. He described his efforts to find a way to give back to the community something of value. While doing the interview, he held Bella, the newest addition to the program, who preened and mugged shamelessly for the camera.

During the filming, the camera focused not only on the people involved in the program but also on the dogs themselves, a logical focus since the program was, after all, about the dogs. An additional day of shooting was required to obtain more footage of the dogs performing the tasks they had learned at that point. Dee supervised a special training session in the prison's gym, and after setting up a series of agility drills, including tunnels and a mini obstacle course, she asked the handlers to put the dogs through their paces.

Even at this preliminary stage of their training, the dogs performed remarkably well, which is a comment on both the breed and the training methods employed. The dogs negotiated the obstacle course, walked around the gym calmly, and used their noses and paws to press buttons in preparation for turning lights on or off or activating appliances for their prospective clients.

Reaction to the program was uniformly positive, and Dee has received inquiries from other media sources for more interviews and possible filming. In early March, she filmed an episode of "Vito and Friends," taking along Bella and Hope so they could show off their skills. Apparently, Dee and the dogs were such a hit that they were invited back to film another show, and that is still in the development stage.

NHPWH Head Trainer Publishes Second Edition of "Changing People Changing Dogs"

Dee Ganley has announced that the second edition of her remarkable book, "Changing People Changing Dogs," will be published soon. This book is a revised version of the first edition with additional information and training techniques. For those of you who enjoyed the book the first time through it, you'll find even more to like in the newest edition.

A rumor has it that Dee is also planning a book about training dogs in prison, based on her experience with NH Pathways to Hope. More information on that as it comes available.



Dee Ganley (center) with her two Australian Shepherds Dazzle (left) & Tucker (right).

MOTIVATION & CELEBRATION

Most people might be surprised to hear that not everyone at the prison welcomed NH Pathways to Hope with open arms. Many of these individuals have not had the opportunity to become familiar with either the program or its history and therefore underestimate its impact

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tional skills and service to the community. Christiane Deaton puts it succinctly in her paper on the subject: "If correctional education aims to transform individuals and bring about change, it is necessary to consider the whole person inside the uniform, who always comes with human needs, emotions and attitude" ("Humanizing Prisons with Animals." *Journal of Correctional Education*, March 2005.)



every participant, including those who have only a tangential contact with the dogs and their handlers. They tend to ignore the human-animal bond that has evolved along with both species, a bond that produces incredible therapeutic effects, such as enhanced self-esteem and increased capacity for affection and compassion, as well as practical results like the acquisition of voca-

including grooming and training. Because funding for the nonprofit is limited, only 10 women can volunteer at any given time. Since its inception, 75 women have been able to enroll.

As proof of the program's practical efficacy, recidivism rates for participants in these programs are demonstrably lower than the average. Additionally, as Deaton points out, the dogs donated to the program by the humane society would have been euthanized instead of becoming service dogs for people with special needs.

NH Pathways to Hope continues to follow the example Sister Pauline set over twenty years ago. The men at the Concord prison undergo the same type of introductory education prior to their becoming handlers. This includes videos and hands-on instruction with dogs provided by our trainer, Dee Ganley, who continues regular training seminars at the prison throughout the dogs' stay. By offering the structured, incremental training required and providing people with special needs a well-trained dog to enhance their lives, NH Pathways celebrates the history of our long and enduring relationship with our canine companions, truly a win-win proposition by anyone's definition.

Sister Pauline Quinn recognized this need. She was responsible for bringing NH Pathways to Hope to the Concord prison, one of more than 17 dog-training programs she helped found in correctional institutions across the country, beginning at the Washington State Correctional Center for Women in Gig Harbor, WA. In that maximum-security setting, prisoners wanting to participate in the program must first pass a 12-week training course in the fundamentals of caring for the dogs,

POST-OP PROGNOSIS

We are happy to report that Sister Pauline Quinn is recovering from recent surgery and is on the mend. Being indisposed certainly hasn't stopped her connection to the program. On the contrary, she has been sending and receiving e-mails and other correspondence nonstop, which is precisely what we expected. :-) Not one to sit back and take life easy, she is already traveling, recently to Baltimore for Fidos for Freedom, where she met our own Camille MacKnight. She is also scheduled to fly to California for team training with the family who last month was paired with Joey, one of our first graduates. Our fervent best wishes for a continued speedy recovery go out to Sister Pauline. Welcome back, Sister. We missed you.

Meet Bella



JAZZIE'S BLOG



I know that many of you think you know a lot about dogs, just because your friends have a dog, or maybe you've got one or two in your house, if you're lucky. And I know that even more people out there in the blogosphere think they know a lot about prison from watching all those reality shows or the "American Justice" series on A & E. Well, you're wrong both times. I'm a poodle, I'm in prison, and I decided to start this blog to post accurate information about me and my home.

First, I don't know what all the whining is about. Prison has traditionally been a place where bad things happen to you, but I've been here nearly six months, and it's been a party from the get-go. I get all sorts of treats when we do the training, and if I give the guys The Look, I can usually coax more even when I'm not working. I've got a roomy crate, stuffed with comfy blankets and a pad, to sleep or relax in and my handlers even have a fan blowing on me when the weather gets hot and humid. When I get a special treat on Tuesdays when Dee and Dawn come in for training sessions, I usually take it into my crate where I can take my time, especially when I get one of the HUGE rawhide bones that need a lot of TLC.

I have the run of the pod area and can go into any cell I want. Since all the guys have TV's, the chances are good that at least one of them will have The Animal Planet showing, especially in the cells where the other dogs live. But on those days when ballgames or MTV seem like they are priorities, I can usually talk one of the other girls into going with me to a certain cell and looking cute enough to convince the handler that he really should be watching something about animals. Of course, I don't watch when they show those animal

abuse episodes. That makes me SO mad. They should tie those people to posts outside in July and see how they like it.

Since it's summer, the men do what they can to keep us cool. Dee recently brought in a plastic swimming pool for us, and that helped us get through that nasty heat wave the first weekend of the month. The pool isn't deep enough for big girls; only Bella was small enough to get in and get wet all over, but we did what we could. My handler kept squirting me with the hose and pouring water over my neck and shoulders. My hair was a fright when we went back inside, but the guys do a pretty good job of grooming us, at least until Dee can come in and repair the damage. My handler even lets me wear dreads, which is a nice touch, considering all the other girls have closer styles.

I'll be at the big house anywhere from a year to eighteen months, but it's not all doing time. I get weekly furloughs with Dawn, Rich, and Karen when we go to parks or doggie day care. We even sleep over sometimes, and when we see Camille, well everything's on the table with Camille! So I can't see why these humans get so upset about having to spend time in a place like this. The other girls and I, and even Beamer in his own way, threw a party after we got settled and realized what we were in for: treats, pedicures, manicures, beauty shop weekly, facials, and all the TV and extra food we want. I'll let you know when to call me for parole.



The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you but he will make a fool of himself, too.

— Samuel Butler

GETTING TO KNOW OUR DOGS

HOPE

Hello, World!

My name is Hope, and I guess you could say that I'm the diva of the bunch. I'm very obedient and attentive, but when I want something, I'll use my big, brown eyes and tilt my head to give you my look. That usually gets me what I want. I've appeared on the "NH Chronicles" and "Vito & Family" television shows, and like Paris and Lindsay, I'm a picky eater. I've also been known to get in a little bit of trouble. I think I'll make a great service dog, and I love to perform—even without the paparazzi around. *Submitted by William Chestnut.*



BELLA

Bella and I start our day at 6:30 a.m., and it's off to work at 7:00. The Education Department provides the ideal environment for the practical application of our training. Bella must be well behaved in public and lie patiently on her mat during class periods.

Following classes we return to the unit for more well-deserved play time, followed by more training. A quick noon nap and we're out the door again.



We often visit the chapel/mental health area where we train and socialize.

Bella's favorite time of day begins at 5:25 p.m. when the dogs get to play on the yard. She tirelessly chases a handball across the yard and returns for another pursuit.

The sun sets and Bella's day comes to an end. She retreats to her crate where sleep overtakes her soul, and she recharges her batteries for the next day's adventure. *Submitted by John Bass*

JENNI

Jenni is the oldest of the poodles. She's easy going and always ready to go anywhere she can tag along. This all takes place once she gets to know people. Her puppy phase was spent kennel bound, which left her shy, and she's only taken to a few humans. The future is a steady road, and we are ready for the adventure. *Submitted by Bobby Vargas*



"The future is a steady road, and we are ready for the adventure."

BEAMER

Brash, bouncy, and occasionally bumbling, “Big Paw” Beamer is the only male dog on the pod. True to his Germanic heritage as a retriever, he loves the water and the mud. He is eternally optimistic that today will be the day he catches those birds that dare to intrude upon his domain. Born on August 26, 2007, and brother to Hope, he yet retains the joy, inquisitiveness and playfulness of a puppy. He will stay (sometimes) but would rather go and go. He loves to chase and be chased, and one of his favorite games is playing tag among the stacks of shelves and books in the library.

He can be somewhat shy when meeting a new person but usually warms up and is always receptive to the possibility of a treat. Daring to be different, Beamer eschews the normal poodle cut of the “mutt” look and is the only dog without the pom-pom tail. Destined to be a trusted work partner and companion, Beamer greets each day with happiness and exuberance, which he then passes on to all around him.
Submitted by James B. Hobbs

**He can be somewhat shy
when you first meet him.**



AMBER



Hi, everyone! My name is Amber, and I'm a Tennessee mix. I am currently enrolled in the New Hampshire State Prison Pathways to Hope service dog program, or what I like to call “Doggie Boot Camp.” I hope to provide loyal service and companionship to someone in need of my expert doggy skills. Well, I've got to go for now. My drill instructors—excuse me—handlers are calling for me. Bye for now.

Submitted by Randy Duquette

“Amber: A hard, translucent yellow, orange, or brownish-yellow fossil resin, used for making jewelry and other ornamental objects.”

JASMINE



Jasmine is having a ball here at the prison, primarily because she's spoiled rotten and gets everything she wants. Her day begins at 5:30 when she comes slowly out of her crate, stretches languorously, and takes her own sweet time in acknowledging the rest of us. After her morning ritual, again at her own pace, she has breakfast, plays a little with the other dogs, and spends about fifteen minutes walking on a loose leash. At 7:00 she begins a relaxed day filled with adoring fans who can't wait to pet her and give her treats. In fact, her entire day is spent basking in the affection of everyone who meets her. When she wants, she trains specific tasks that will make her a successful service dog, including retrieving, opening and shutting doors, removing specific items of clothing, and turning lights off and on. But everything is always on her terms! If you check out the look on her face in this photo, you'll see what I mean.

Submitted by Charles Huckelbury

**HEALING THE BODY AND THE SPIRIT
PRISON DOG PROGRAM AT THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PRISON
FOR MEN IN CONCORD**

Interested parties should contact Dee Ganley at her website www.deesdogs.com or Camille MacKnight at 603.746.2199 PO Box 672 Concord NH 03302-0672 for more information.



Volunteer Service Dog walker Betsy Richardson with Jeni and Bella.

PRISON STAFF HELPS SICK DOG

As everyone with a dog knows, keeping them healthy and out of trouble is a perpetual struggle, and although you might think that a prison would be one place where temptations are at a minimum, it didn't work out that way for Jasmine recently.

During one of her off-leash exercise periods with the other dogs, Jazz ate something that effectively poisoned her. By noon the following day, she could barely stand and was having difficulty breathing. Instead of the active dog we had come to expect, she lay beneath a table, uninterested in her favorite treats. Her handler, Charles Huckelbury, asked for help from the staff in his housing unit, and they responded immediately by trying to contact Camille MacKnight, our executive director, for advice and assistance.

While the staff and Camille played phone tag, Jasmine was able to eliminate whatever had threatened her and began to improve. Her normal breathing resumed, and she began to respond to food and water. She eventually got over the episode, but if she had needed emergency care, the prison staff would have done everything they could to make that happen. Their genuine concern made a difference. Thanks to all of them for their care and support. (See the article in the "Viewpoints" section of the April 6th edition of the *Concord Monitor* for more detail and a [great](#) picture of Jasmine! Or check out charles-huckelbury.blogspot.com)

VETTING THE HANDLERS

Finding men inside the prison who want to participate in the NH Pathways program has never been a problem. Although previous experience with dogs is an obvious plus, that criterion is not restrictive during the interview process.

Since the program is long-term commitment, we prefer men who are at least two years away from their minimum parole date. Applicants also have their disciplinary histories checked to eliminate anyone who has demonstrated a pattern of misconduct that would potentially have them removed from the program.

Individuals who have been convicted of specific crimes also cannot participate. Crimes against children or animals obviously indicate psychological problems that could result in the mistreatment of the dogs as part of a need to control.

The men selected for participation must all live on a single pod, consisting of ten cells with two men in each cell. In such close quarters, the ability to coexist peacefully is a must. Personalities will always come into play in any organization, and NH Pathways is no different. We do our best, however, to select participants with a stable work history, both inside and

outside the prison, and who have demonstrated an ability to work with others, often under stressful conditions. Things don't always work out as planned, and we have had to make a few adjustments along the way. And we might have to make more in the future.

The focus of the program is ... the successful training of the dogs in our care.

The focus of the program is of course the successful training of the dogs in our care. Naturally, benefits accrue to everyone who is a part of the program, but the welfare and training of the dogs must be our priority. The men currently tasked with achieving the goal of placing the dogs with someone who needs them understand this hierarchy and accept the challenges involved. If at

any time they feel that for whatever reasons they can no longer assume the responsibility that comes with the program, they are free to transfer out, at which time, another prisoner from the waiting list will be interviewed.

This newsletter was designed and written by NHPWH dog handler Charles Huckelbury. It is printed at the NH Prison for Men in Concord. Thanks to Nancy Lyon for sharing her indispensable editorial experience.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Imagine opening a business that generates no revenue with constantly increasing overhead and you'll understand our position. Costs for training a dog can run between \$10,000 and \$20,000, depending on the nature of the service the dog will provide. This includes veterinary expenses, food and supplements, toys and training tools, crates and sleeping pads, travel expenses for our volunteers*, and associated legal and administrative obligations. And that is to bring **ONE** dog to service capacity.

Not all our dogs graduate from this intensive training regimen. When it becomes obvious that a career as a service dog is not in the future of a particular dog, we then place him or her elsewhere. Some function as therapy dogs for psychiatric patients or autistic children, for example. Others may find a place in law enforcement, and some are placed with vetted families who want and need a friendly, dependable pet.



**Your support
Counts!**

We believe in this program for both its intrinsic worth and the practical results the dogs will achieve once they complete their training. That's why we are asking for your participation in a venture that doesn't get a lot of publicity but is still remarkably successful in bringing both hope and assistance to members of the community who most need it. Similar programs across the country and literally throughout the world have demonstrated the viability of our philosophy and work, and we expect even better results right here in New Hampshire.

Here are some of the people and companies who have generously contributed time, money, services & support to this important program:

- Blue Seal Feeds—Donating the dogs' food
- Northern Woods Web Solutions - Website hosting
- Russell Animal Hospital—Veterinarians
- Caves Emergency services Veterinarians
- Woodlawn Kennels—Training classes & supplies, boarding and daycare for the pups in training
- The Ranch of Etna Road—Crates, treats & toys
- Dee, Dawn, Terry, Bob, Richie, Nancy plus many more—Our trainers and assistants, volunteers
- Camille MacKnight—Our Executive Director and contact person
- Nancy Troubh—Supporter and good friend
- Richard Gerry—Warden at the state prison
- Clay LeGault—Unit Manager of the North Unit where the pups live at the prison
- Crab Apple Poodles—Puppy donors
- Sr. Pauline Quinn, OP—Our prime mover and without whom we wouldn't have embarked on this wonderful journey

FROM ALL OF US AT PATHWAYS TO HOPE, THANK YOU!

*Trainers are unpaid volunteers, reimbursed for gas and tolls. Pathways to Hope covers all costs of the program. The State of New Hampshire and the Department of Corrections incur absolutely no expense for the duration of the program.

HOW TO GIVE

YES, I would like to become a supporting member of Pathways to Hope. I have indicated my preference by checking the appropriate box below. NH Pathways to Hope is a registered 501c3 organization, making your contribution fully tax deductible.

My chosen level of participation is:

- Guardian at \$1000.00** (The pup I would like to hear about is _____)
- Patron at \$100.00**
- Sponsor at \$50.00**
- Other donation** (Any amount of cash donation will be greatly appreciated.)

Please make checks payable to NH Pathways to Hope and mail to P. O. Box 672, Concord, NH 03302. Or you can visit our Website www.nhpth.org or contact our Executive Director, Camille MacKnight, at 746-2199.



Pathways staff and friends accepting a \$1000 donation from Sam's Club in Concord.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

I am interested in becoming a Puppy Walker Volunteer.

To be successful, the dogs need to practice skills in “real” situations. The Prison Pup Program Volunteers take the dogs out of the prison for training—to restaurants, vet appointments, malls, movies, and bus rides, anything to acclimate them to the world they will live in. Volunteers must attend training sessions to learn how to handle the dogs in public and what to work on during each outing. Upon completion of the training, volunteers will receive an identification badge that will provide access to all public places as a Service Dog Handler. The minimum requirement is an understanding of the science of operant conditioning (clicker training), using lure and reward methods, or with the permission of the Volunteer Coordinator. Your involvement can be as little or as much as your desire or your schedule permits. In the beginning of their training, the pups will need to go out only once or twice a month. As they get further along, they’ll need to practice in public on a more regular basis. It does not have to be the same volunteer for each outing, so any commitment will be helpful.

I am interested in providing a Foster Home. (Raise a donated puppy for a few weeks or as long as 4 or 5 months. You’ll expose your foster pup to real life by socializing him or her to people, places, and things. At the end of this period, the puppy is brought to the prison for training for up to 18 months.)

I would like to volunteer in some capacity. Let me know what you need.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Repeat email _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

Tell us briefly what your interest is:

Note: Submitting this form does not obligate you to anything other than learning more about participating in **NH Pathways to Hope~Prison Dog Program**. We appreciate your interest.