



Puppies Behind Bars

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PHOTO (MIDDLE) BY VALERIE SHAFF

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE SERVICE DOGS FOR THE DISABLED AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Winter 2009

EDC DOES IT

ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE world, a growing number of talented dogs are displaying their skills in ballparks, opera houses, theaters, and courtrooms. It's not that sports teams, law firms, and ballet companies have suddenly opened their doors to canine membership. Rather, these dogs are working to protect the public from terrorist and criminal attacks. We depend on expert explosive detection canines, or E.D.C.s, to use their noses to "sweep" for dangerous devices. Given their extraordinary sense of smell, these dogs are often thought to be doing what comes naturally. But in fact, a great deal of skill and hard work is involved, on the part of the dogs and their trainers.

A dog can detect a distinct odor that is approximately one million times less concentrated than a human can recognize. E.D.C.s are called on to use this olfactory talent to its full extent as they are trained to recognize the smell of chemical compounds that might be used in as many as 19,000 different compounds. E.D.C.s are part of the first line of defense against terrorist attacks by explosive devices in the U.S. and abroad. Accelerant detection canines, or A.D.C.s, are important partners in finding critical evidence to help prosecute arsonists. Puppies Behind Bars is proud to play a role in getting more of these spe-

cial dogs out into the field.

In Afghanistan, a P.B.B.-raised E.D.C. on a seven-week special mission helps find explosives before they can find our troops. In Alaska, the F.B.I. calls on P.B.B. graduate MacDuff to find a



An E.D.C. at work at the United States Military Academy at West Point

missing murder weapon. In Texas, a playful and outgoing Labrador named Polly becomes the star of a judicial conference, making the high-level federal and district judges in attendance feel safe and confident—not to mention bringing smiles as she greets them on her rounds. In Pennsylvania, one P.B.B.-trained A.D.C. finds conclusive evidence of arson crimes week after week, leading to multiple arrests after just months on the job. At a baseball stadium in the mid-Atlantic region, Dover rounds the bases to find a hidden object and thrill the crowd at an E.D.C. demonstration and exposition game benefitting a Hall of Fame

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baseball star's charity. These are just a handful of the stories we hear at P.B.B. each year about the dogs that have graduated from the program.

E.D.C.s have been an important part of P.B.B. since 2002. After 9/11, law enforcement agencies were called on to ramp up their bomb detection capabilities, virtually overnight. E.D.C.s are more cost effective, and can be used in many more circumstances, than mechanical detection methods. P.B.B. recognized that its training methods could produce excellent E.D.C.s, and that adding these working dogs to the program could strengthen it in an important way. By training both service dogs and EDCs,



ATF Deja

P.B.B. can switch a dog from one type of work to another if it finds that the pup shows a greater instinct for, say, constant sniffing than it does for opening doors and picking up dropped objects. This means the program doesn't waste valuable resources training a dog that might not be right for the job, and increases the overall success rate of its pups.

The early steps of E.D.C. training at P.B.B. are very similar to those for a future service dog. The puppies have the same happy and engaged lifestyle, with daily massage, three sessions of outdoor exercise and playtime with other pups, and 24-hour-a-day care from a dedicated puppy raiser. Housebreaking and "the Name Game" (which not only teaches a dog its name, but also helps establish a strong bond between raiser and puppy) are followed by basic commands such as "Sit," "Stay" and "Come." A major difference is the early introduction of "Find It" and "Special Play" for E.D.C.s in training. These exercises teach pups to use their noses to locate objects and increase their motivation to perform an exercise with playtime as the reward.

The exercises grow in duration, frequency and difficulty, and are paired with other drills until the dog can enter a room, vehicle, or open area where multiple objects have been hidden; conduct a "sweep," or search, according to a specific "search pattern;" and find all the hidden objects. After many months of patient repetition

and guidance from P.B.B. instructors and puppy raisers, the pups are ready to be tested and, hopefully, move on to formal E.D.C. training.

P.B.B. works closely with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or A.T.F., which provides certified E.D.C.s to other federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies. A.T.F. tests between 40 and 50 P.B.B.-raised dogs every year, with a "pass" level close to 100 percent. The bureau then exposes the dogs to five basic explosives groups, including com-

pounds used in thousands of explosives formulas. To earn A.T.F. certification, all dogs must pass a blind test and detect 20 different explosives odors, two of which they never encountered during training. Here again, P.B.B.'s dogs have a near-perfect record. The E.D.C.s (and A.D.C.s) are then paired with handlers from law enforcement agencies around the U.S., plus many international partners, who attend either a ten-week E.D.C. course or a six-week A.D.C. course at the A.T.F. Canine Training Center in Front Royal, Virginia.

A U.S. Marshal, commenting on the irony inherent in the partnership with P.B.B., said, "Our agency benefits greatly from your program. We think it is really a great story that prisoners we may have arrested or transported raise the pups that we use to fight crime and keep the public safe."

A novice A.D.C. handler relayed the story of his new partnership with a P.B.B. dog (the name has been changed to protect the team's privacy): "In August 2009 I came to Front Royal to enter the A.D.C. Program. Although I had no preconceived ideas about the program, I had seen the A.T.F. canines work in the past. I was anxious to meet my new partner and at the end of the first week I got to meet Darcy. What a great partner. I could not believe that she was a 17-month-old Labrador. I had seen young Labradors in



An E.D.C.'s sensitive sense of smell can penetrate elaborate packaging

the past. Darcy was so calm and affectionate. Over the next five weeks we went from strangers to partners. She is a very confident dog and it is easy to trust her because of her confidence.

I returned home on September 19, and the next day the A.T.F. called and I had to respond out of town to a murder where the

house was set on fire. On the way, I was thinking to myself that a murder was not the first call I wanted to take Darcy through. I will have to admit I was terrified when I arrived. My first fire with no trainers! Darcy did great.

I did not know much about Puppies Behind Bars when I arrived in Front Royal, but since getting Darcy I did a lot of research, and read and watched everything I could find. What a great organization. What a great service that is provided not only to the law enforcement

side, but to the service side as well. I do not believe that Darcy would be the dog she is today without the outstanding training she received from P.B.B. Not only does she have a great nose, but she has a great demeanor and strives to please every day. Darcy and I will have plenty of work to do and I know that with her training we will be up to the task. Thank you, Puppies Behind Bars, for all you do."

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TO SERVE AND CONNECT

ON NOVEMBER 16, PUPPIES BEHIND BARS honored three Iraq War veterans and their P.B.B.-raised service dogs at a graduation ceremony that stood out first and foremost because of its venue: the Mid-Orange Correctional Facility in Warwick, N.Y. Through P.B.B.'s Dog Tags initiative, the three veterans received dogs specifically trained to help them cope with post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.) and traumatic brain injury (T.B.I.). Puppies Behind Bars donates its dogs to veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, specializing in those with P.T.S.D. and T.B.I., which are

ing them give commands that the dogs executed flawlessly, brought home to the raisers just how much they have, indeed, contributed to society via these remarkable animals. It was also humbling, gratifying, and extraordinarily meaningful to witness the transformation in the veterans—in just two short weeks—as they worked with their new service dogs.

The two-week team training of the veterans was led by P.B.B. founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga and assistant instructor Nora Moran, a former inmate puppy raiser who joined P.B.B.'s staff in 2008 after being

supermarket check-out line will do him no harm. A service dog that walks right by overflowing trash in a street-side garbage can, without paying it any mind, is telling the soldier, "There's nothing to be afraid of. That is not an Improvised Explosive Device (I.E.D.), disguised as trash. It's nothing. It's okay. Trust me."

Engaging the inmate puppy raisers in much of the hands-on work with the veterans was important to Stoga, who has watched for 13 years as dogs bring out the best in the most emotionally fragile inmates, who often blossom as puppy raisers. "There are so many parallels between the wounded warriors who are prisoners in their own homes and the inmates who are prisoners in prison. I am still amazed when I hear soldiers say, 'I can tell my service dog things I can't tell anyone else ... I can tell him what I saw or did in war, and he doesn't care ... I know that he loves me completely, without judging,' because this is exactly what we've been hearing from our puppy raisers for years."

In addition to the hands-on work, the training included discussions of public access rights and lectures by the puppy raisers on a broad variety of topics meant to fortify the veterans' knowledge of dogs and set them up for success as they embark upon a new life as part of a service-dog team. Topics ranged from exercise and grooming to understanding dogs' body language.

The other half of the two-week training consisted of socialization trips led by Stoga and Moran, designed to give the veterans experience and confidence working with their service dogs in public. Using proper service-dog handling techniques at the airport or cinema, knowing how to keep their dogs safe while getting in and out of cars in a crowded parking lot, and being able to eat a meal in a restaurant with their dogs lying quietly at their feet the entire time, all are necessary not only for the veterans' abilities to resume normal lives, but also in order for them to pass the Public Access Test, which is a requirement for becoming a certified service-dog team.

Highlights of the week included a trip, on Veterans Day, to Ground Zero in Manhattan, followed by a private tour of the N.Y.P.D. bomb squad, whose forces



PHOTOGRAPH BY XAN RUBEY, DOGHOUSE STUDIOS

the signature injuries of these wars.

The graduation was also unusual because it capped a two-week "team training" for the veterans and their dogs, half of which was conducted in the prison by the inmate puppy raisers themselves. For the men in the prison who spent almost two years raising and training the pups, this team training and graduation enabled them to see, firsthand, the rewards of all their hard work, dedication, and love. Watching the wounded war heroes bond with their dogs, and watch-

ing them give commands that the dogs executed flawlessly, brought home to the raisers just how much they have, indeed, contributed to society via these remarkable animals. It was also humbling, gratifying, and extraordinarily meaningful to witness the transformation in the veterans—in just two short weeks—as they worked with their new service dogs. The two-week team training of the veterans was led by P.B.B. founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga and assistant instructor Nora Moran, a former inmate puppy raiser who joined P.B.B.'s staff in 2008 after being

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Actor Jon Huertas with local V.F.W. members at the August graduation

include P.B.B.-raised explosive detection canines. The veterans and their service dogs were also invited to the set of *Orange County Choppers* for a private tour.

The celebration in Warwick followed on the heels of two graduations in Berthoud, Colorado. TV actor Jon Huertas (who is also P.B.B.'s newest board member) and Congresswoman Betsy Markey were featured guests at the first ceremony, on August 29. Four veterans who'd completed their training under the guidance of P.B.B. instructors Janet Bayless and Michelle Penfold graduated in front of more than 80 guests and considerable local media. The event was a celebration of both the veterans and the townspeople, who offered their support in many ways. Two local Girl Scout troops and a color guard

from the V.F.W. preceded the veterans and their service dogs down the aisle of the auditorium where the ceremony was held, while lunch was donated by P.F. Chang's restaurant. The generous support of the entire community throughout the two weeks of training helped make the graduation a moving tribute to the courage of the four veterans who worked so hard to help their new dogs help them.

The town of Berthoud played host again on October 24, when Medal of Freedom recipient John Baca presented three more Dog Tags graduates with their service-dog certificates. Honored for his heroic conduct while his platoon was under attack in Vietnam, Baca has focused his energies since that war on efforts to build peaceful ties with the Vietnamese people

and on problems, such as homelessness, that plague many veterans. When asked to present the P.B.B. certificates to the Dog Tags graduates, Baca said, "It will be as great an honor as awarding the Purple Heart."

With these three graduations, P.B.B. has now paired 21 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with its service dogs. These vets represent 14 states—from Georgia to Washington—and all four branches of the armed services. What remained strikingly evident at the Colorado and New York graduations is that the work of P.B.B. continues to bring together disparate groups of people, with seemingly little in common, thanks to the power of dogs to heal, inspire, protect, and make the world a better place.

DONATION FORM

I would like to sponsor and name a puppy (minimum donation: \$3000.)

Please accept my donation for:

- 1 puppy's weekend visit to NYC (\$35) A sleeping crate for 1 puppy (\$85)
 Leashes and bowls for 1 puppy (\$50) Other amount

Please charge my credit card:

- Visa MasterCard AmEx

(Please list name as it appears on card. List billing address.)

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- Add my friend to your mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(Tax ID # 13-3969389) Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:
PUPPIES BEHIND BARS | 10 East 40th Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10016

CFC# 11902

Ways to give to Puppies Behind Bars

1. Donate via check or credit card

Make checks payable to Puppies Behind Bars and send to 10 East 40th Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10016. To make a credit-card donation call 212.680.9562 or go to <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support.asp>.

Monthly contribution

Donate on a regular basis by setting up a recurring contribution online via networkforgood.org.

Tribute gift

Send a card to a friend or loved one in honor of a special occasion—birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc.

Memorial gift

Send a card in memory of a loved one or a four-legged friend.

2. Sponsor and name a puppy

Sponsorship costs \$3,000, which entitles

you to name the pup. Once the dog enters prison, you receive an announcement card and quarterly updates, written by the inmate raiser and distributed by our New York office. These letters show the growth of both puppy and inmate as they work towards a goal of serving humanity.

3. In lieu of gifts

In lieu of Bar Mitzvah, wedding, or anniversary gifts, share your special occasion with your favorite charity. Please contact Liz Smith (212.680.9562) if you wish to donate funds from an event.

4. Purchase products at FetchDog.com

FetchDog donates to P.B.B. 6% of all sales that originate from our website. Click on the FetchDog banner, then go shopping for your pup.

5. Build awareness of P.B.B. online

Join P.B.B.'s Facebook Cause page (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/20433>).



Invite your online community of friends and family to keep up on P.B.B. news, and set up pledge goals. Facebook donations are distributed to us through a trusted third party, Network for Good.

6. Contribute with every purchase

Make every online shopping purchase benefit P.B.B. iGive is free and easy to use. Go to iGive.com to learn more.

7. Getting married?

Now you can support P.B.B. by registering with the I Do Foundation. From honeymoons and invitations to gifts and wedding favors, the I Do Foundation allows couples and their guests to make wedding-related purchases that generate donations for charity. The I Do Foundation's Charity Registry service also makes it easy for guests to make donations in lieu of gifts. All of these services are available free of cost at IDoFoundation.org.

8. Convert AMEX Membership Rewards into donations

Donate with your AMEX card or redeem Membership Rewards points to make a donation. 1,000 Membership Rewards points equal a \$10 donation. Go to americanexpress.com/give to support P.B.B.

PUPPIES' CORNER

How your child can help ...

1. Sweet support

Have a bake sale or set up a lemonade stand, and donate the proceeds to P.B.B.

2. Common Cents

Common Cents is an educational, nonprofit organization that specializes in creating and managing service-learning programs for young people. To find out how your child and his or her classmates can get involved, go to commoncents.org.

A PBB Story – From Playful Pup to Loyal Working Dog

Sponsor and name a puppy!

A puppy is sponsored and named and placed into the arms of her highly-skilled inmate raiser who is prepped with textbooks and supplies. Throughout the 18 months that she spends in prison she outgrows many collars and leashes and devours bags and bags of dog food. She and her inmate raiser attend weekly PBB-instructed classes where they learn to use her training toys. She leaves prison for routine veterinary check-ups and ventures out with specially trained volunteers on socialization outings that expose her to family life, restaurants, stores and nursing homes. Upon graduating, she earns her working dog certification and is ready to serve a disabled individual or law enforcement official.

Be part of a PBB story and support us!



LACAILLE'S LEGACY

Less than a year after the **Joan LaCaille Memorial Fund** was established, it has raised nearly \$30,000 to support Dog Tags, the P.B.B. initiative that donates service dogs free of charge to wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The fund honors P.B.B.'s dear friend, tireless champion, and founding board member, who died in January. In a fitting tribute, "Happy" and "Bertha," two puppies sponsored by LaCaille's friends to honor her 80th birthday in March 2008, recently completed their training and were paired with vets. Please help continue Joan's vision by supporting her fund.

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD

P.B.B.'s board of directors welcomes two new members and the return of an old one. **Kevin Donahue** is the C.E.O. of Quabaug Corporation, which includes Vibram Pet Products, famed in these circles for producing the "Chewy Shoe" sold by FetchDog to benefit the Dog Tags initiative. Quabaug provides most of the shoe soles used by the U.S. military. Actor **Jon Huertas** has appeared on many of the biggest crime shows on TV, and currently stars as N.Y.P.D. Detective Javier Esposito in the new hit

series *Castle*, which airs on ABC Mondays at 10 p.m. He served for eight years in the U.S. Air Force, and fought in the first Iraq war. **Elise O'Shaughnessy**, a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, is rejoining the board, where she was a founding member.

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

THE SAVING SEASON

As P.B.B. debated whether or not to hold its annual fall benefit, one board member put up a \$25,000 grant to be matched solely by other board members. The challenge was met, netting \$50,000—without the expense of cocktails, canapés, or venue. The only thing missing was the chance for P.B.B.'s staff, fans, and friends to get together, but plans are afoot for a spring 2010 party. Stay tuned ...

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Fans of the New York Yankees and the Philadelphia Phillies who attended Game One of the World Series at Yankee Stadium could agree on at least one thing: **Myrna**, an explosive detection canine raised in the P.B.B. program at the Federal Correctional Institute at Danbury, made it possible for everyone to enjoy the peak of the baseball season by performing a pre-game security sweep of the stands.



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