

Jail Time Offers Graduating Greyhounds a Second Chance at Life

Arizona Prison Program Helps Rescued Greyhounds Find Loving Homes After Racing

PHOENIX, AZ--(November 4, 2009) -- Four retired racing greyhounds will be adjusting to life on the outside when they graduate from the Second Chance at Life program this coming Friday, November 6. The nine week program held at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona bonds imprisoned inmates with their canine companions and helps retired racing greyhounds find loving adoptive homes.

"Retired greyhounds and prison inmates share more than just a training experience, they share a unique understanding of life behind bars. For racing greyhounds, it's all they've ever known," said Dan King, Director of the Second Chance at Life AZ Program. "With the help of inmates, the dogs learn to interact with people for the very first time. Even the most basic dog behaviors are foreign to them. Socializing the dogs provides them with adoption opportunities...it truly is a second chance at life for these special dogs."

Over 100 inmates applied to work with the retired greyhounds during the nine week Second Chance program. After careful screening, two inmates (handlers) were assigned to each dog. Handlers and their dogs shared a cell and spent virtually 24 hrs a day living and learning together. Handlers attended weekly training sessions with canine behaviorist Brad Jaffe, owner of Phoenix based Team Canine, to teach the dogs to sit, stay, come-on-command, lie down and heel. Each of the greyhounds had to undergo socialization training to ensure a successful transition into their adoption homes.

The experience left a powerful mark on all program participants as each prepared the other for life outside of prison walls. Inmates who participated were learning to become dog trainers and will one day exit the program with vocational skills. The graduating greyhounds will leave with social skills necessary for life in their new family settings.

Working with the dogs had a palpable effect on prison life - it gave inmates a higher purpose, taught them patience, team work and personal responsibility. But more importantly what prisoners received from their fostered four legged friends was the healing effect of unconditional love. Even the most hardened inmates couldnt resist the loving licks and wagging tails of these retired racers.

"The best part of having the dogs here...? It's simple," said Dave Parker, prison inmate and Second Chance at Life participant. " It's the dogs themselves...just having them around makes routine prison life so much better."

To find out more about the Second Chance at Life program or enquire about adopting a rescued greyhound please visit our website: www.fastdogs.org or contact Dan King at 480.227.8795.

About Second Chance at Life

Second Chance at Life is a program to place retired greyhounds in prisons, where they are

trained by inmates. It is a chance for the dogs to help bring hope to humans, while they are fostered and trained for life after the track. SCAL works closely with our Arizona based partners: Racing Home Greyhound Adoption and Brad and T.J Jaffe of Team Canine, who provide dog and inmate training. Our goal is to facilitate 16 dogs per 10 week program in both Eloy based correctional facilities. This means placing up to 80 dogs per year into forever homes, while healing the spirits and providing vocational training for up to 30 inmates looking for unconditional love. For more information about Second Chance at Life visit www.fastdogs.org.or contact Dan King @ 480.227.8795

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