# ARAGON

### SERVICE DOGS



## Paragon Press October 2024 Edition

☐ Happy October, Paragon Family!

As summer waves goodbye and the leaves paint a vibrant picture of fall, we're here with a newsletter bursting with exciting stories, updates, and celebrations. So, grab your favorite cozy blanket, sip on some apple cider, and let's dive into this month's adventures!

#### **Celebrating Success: Graduation Day!**



Leah and Cosmo with their graduation certificate.

Roxanne, Jack, and Camo celebrating!

This past month, we had the immense joy of celebrating the graduation of two remarkable dogs, Camo and Cosmo! □

Camo graduated alongside his person, Roxanne, as a certified Hearing Service Dog Team. After two weeks of intense Team Training, they formed a strong, unbreakable bond and left as a dynamic duo. Together, they headed back to Canada to start their new life as partners in every sense of the word.

Cosmo, our second graduate, is stepping into a special role as a Facility Dog in Paragon's Animal-Assisted Counseling program. Not only that, but Cosmo will

also be serving as Paragon's official Ambassador! We are thrilled about this new member of the Paragon Team.

We were delighted to host over 60 volunteers, board members, staff, and friends for this unforgettable day! Guests enjoyed a scenic tour of our training facility and shared in the heartfelt reunion of the dogs and their puppy raisers. The highlight? Our moving "Passing of the Leash" ceremony, which symbolizes each dog's journey from puppy raiser to handler. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

"The freedom that Camo brings to my life is simply amazing!" - Roxanne

Check out the photos from this magical day below!

#### ☐ Team Training Triumphs!







Roxanne, Jack, and Camo rocking public access!

Roxanne, Jack, and Camo mastered the mall!

Roxanne and Camo practicing under.
Roxanne and Camo (below)

In the spirit of teamwork, we've been busy with our new service dog team, Camo and Roxanne! Over the last two weeks, they dove deep into training — focusing on dog body language, public interaction, and maintaining training consistency at home. Together with their trainer Jack, they braved outings to restaurants and stores, mastering their skills with style!

Their hard work paid off as they both passed their public access and sound tests with flying colors! We're incredibly proud of their achievements and can't wait to see what the future holds for them.









Roxanne and Camo: incredible partners!

Roxanne and Camo taking a well deserved break!

Leah and Cosmo: an unstoppable team!

#### 

As we celebrate our graduates, we're excited to welcome two new furry faces to advanced training: Dandy Shandy and Doc! Both are diving into their training during the week, learning essential skills like alerting to knocks, timers, and smoke alarms. On the weekends they return to their puppy raisers so they can continue strengthening their home living skills as well as have some down time from the intensity of Advance Training. Watching our dogs grow and absorb new skills is a joy—we can't wait to share their journey with you!

#### Dog Diaries: A Day in the Life of Doc







Doc waiting for some tasks and treats!

Doc practicing for the slopes!

Doc buddying up to some Halloween pals!

#### Hey there,

I'm Doc, and I've just started my advanced training! It's a whole new world, filled with grass, treats, and learning experiences. Last week, I even got to show off my

walking skills at Walmart, where I impressed everyone by staying focused on my trainer while other dogs walked by. Training is hard work, but it's also a lot of fun!

Stay tuned for more of my adventures!

#### ☐ Spotlight on Facility Dogs!



Facility Dog Brizo: a therapy master!

Facility Dog Curly: school dog extraordinaire.

Facility Dog Sporty Spice: an emotions expert!

As part of our mission, we're dedicated to placing facility dogs in therapeutic settings. These incredible canines help clients engage more deeply with their

feelings and foster understanding. During graduation, we had the privilege of hearing from Cindy Wander, a therapist who shared how her facility dog Brizo, who she received from Paragon about three years ago, has positively impacted her practice.

To learn more about our Facility Dog program visit our website @https://paragonservicedogs.org/programs/service-dog-training/facility-dogs.html

Click Here for More Facility Dog Information

#### Join the Paragon Team!

Graduations like this wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers. If you're looking to make a difference, we'd love to have you join our team! Reach out to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities. Together, we can continue to change lives — one paw at a time.

Thank you for being part of the Paragon journey! We're excited to share this season with you and can't wait for what's next. Here's to more tail-wagging successes and heartwarming moments!

With gratitude, The Paragon Team □♥

Check out our photo gallery from graduation and team training on our website!



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