



Paragon Press September 2024

Welcome to Paragon!! We are beyond excited to announce that International Hearing Dog has officially rebranded as Paragon Service Dogs! While our name has changed, our unwavering commitment to raising, training, and placing exceptional hearing service dogs for the d/Deaf community remains at the heart of everything we do.

While many of you have already heard this news, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate our new chapter as Paragon Service Dogs. This transition also opens new opportunities for us to serve a broader spectrum of individuals. Not every dog in our program has the "right stuff" to become a hearing service dog, but they

still have incredible potential. Under our new identity, we'll work to find meaningful service careers for these Paragon dogs, allowing them to make a difference in other areas where they're needed most.

But that's not all — we have more amazing news! As part of our transition to Paragon Service Dogs, we've purchased our forever home! Nestled on a beautiful and peaceful five-acre property in Longmont, our new location is a dream come true. With plenty of space for our dogs to learn, play, and exercise, it also provides a warm and welcoming environment for our volunteers to gather and make a difference. Our new home offers everyone — dogs, clients, volunteers, staff, and the community — the healing touch of nature.

Our new address is: 14737 County Road 3 Longmont, CO And our website is: www.paragonservicedogs.org

We absolutely love our new home and can't wait to share it with all of you! If you'd like to set up a visit, please give us a call — we'd love to show you around and share with you the joy of our new beginning.

Thank you for being part of our journey!



The First Four Months as Paragon



It has been a busy and exciting Spring and Summer for us! We are delighted to share our first four months as Paragon Service Dogs:

- Our new forever home is everything we dreamed of and more. We have been very busy fitting up the property so it best meets the needs of our dogs, clients, volunteers and staff! With lush grass and plenty of room for our dogs to train, exercise, and play, the beauty and endless possibilities of this place fill us with joy every day.
- We've welcomed a new class of five puppies into our program! Four of these future superstars are being raised at the Wyoming Medium Correctional Facility, while one is thriving in our community-based puppy raiser program.
- Three of our amazing dogs have entered Advanced Training. We're eagerly anticipating team training for two of them with their d/Deaf partners in September, while another is on track for a November finish.
- We've celebrated the certification of our first two facility dogs! Curly is making a difference in a school social work program in California, and Sporty is partnering with a local MSW social worker, helping to spread the healing power of the human-animal bond.
- We have launched our new Owner-Trained programming and have two dog/owner teams already in training.
- Finally, we are well on our way to designing Paragon's Animal Assisted Mental Health Counseling Program, with an exciting launch planned for October 2024.
- Stay tuned... there's so much more to come!

Dog Diaries



Dear Diary,

Camo here. I've been working hard over the last few weeks. My trainer says that my sound alerts have been improving lately. I've been practicing every day. I've perfected timers, fire alarms, and a knock on the door. I even guide the human to where the sound is coming from. My favorite part is when I get to nudge people to get their attention. Working is truly the greatest time. They call me "best boy" and I love that name. I think it really fits me, don't you? I wonder how I became the "best boy". Looking back at my training I remember being with my Master Inmate Handler and I think that helped me. I was only a small puppy then when I learned how to sit, lay down, and so many more skills. Then, when I came to the Paragon facility I was set up to learn.

Recently, I got to attend a giant fair. There were many small kids and adults who wanted to pet me. I think they called it a Neurodiversity Fair. I loved getting all of the attention- so many pets that day. By remaining focused the whole time that's probably how I became the "best boy".

They say I am going to graduate soon. This means I'll go home with an individual soon as a Hearing Dog. I'll be helping them all the time. All very exciting. Well, wish me luck!

Camo





This month we were honored to celebrate the life of Ann Pruitt and her commitment to Paragon Service Dogs. Ann received her Hearing Service Dog, Curlie Sue, nearly 20 years ago and has been a supportive and enthusiastic friend to us ever since! Ann died this past Spring and blessed Paragon with a remarkably generous gift. We were honored to host Ann's family and friends and share memories and stories of Ann together. We had told Ann prior to her death that we would like to name something in her honor and she requested it be a dog play yard.

Consequently, on August 5th we held a Dedication to celebrate Ann's life, express our profound gratitude for her gift, and "cut the ribbon" for The Pruitt Puppy Playground. Ann has touched all of us at Paragon very deeply. Now, each day when our service pups in training are romping in the play yard, we will think of Ann and Curlie Sue and smile. Farewell dear friend. You will forever be in our hearts.

How can you help!

With our wonderful new location, we have expanded our volunteer opportunities! Connect with us and see if there is a good fit for you.



You can support our organization effortlessly by adding Paragon Service Dogs to

your King Soopers Community Rewards. It's a simple way to make a big impact without spending an extra dime! With each purchase you make, a portion goes towards supporting our mission. Join us in making a difference in the lives of those who rely on hearing dogs. Click the Link below or scan the QR code to learn more and give back with every purchase! <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewardsh> block.

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Location

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