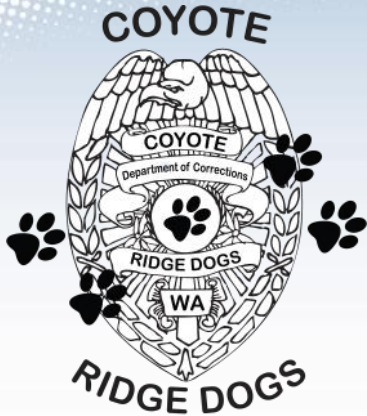


# RIDGE dog review



**June 2012**

**Volume 2, Issue 4**

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## PROGRAM NEWS | Ridge Dog Beginnings

For new Ridge Review readers we thought it might be good to give a recap of how the Ridge Dogs program came to be...In late 2009 Coyote Ridge Correctional Facility staff contacted the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter in Pasco, WA in hopes that the shelter could assist with the implementation of a prison dog training program. The prison's goal was to assist the shelter by taking dogs sanctioned to death row who, with guidance from a dog trainer, would be taught

appropriate behavior by offender handlers. The objective of the program, similar to others around the nation, was to increase the adoptability of hard to

they needed a professional dog trainer on their team prison and shelter staff chose Krystal Ellingson of Speak Dog.

The Ridge Dogs Program was operational within just a few months and has continued to expand. This program has become a true win - win; dogs lives are spared and each gains useful training to help them in their new homes



Photo courtesy Rob DiPiazza, Artistic Portraits

place dogs while teaching offenders valuable dog training and behavior modification skills.

Knowing at the outset that

and participating inmates learn training techniques based on positive reinforcement

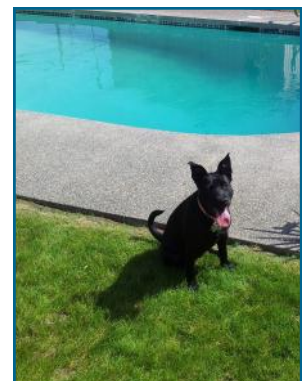
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## ADOPTION | Success Stories

Recently adopted Ridge Dog **Tina** is adjusting well to her new home! Her people love her and so does the other dog in the house.

Our trainer, Mrs. Ellingson, has already done an in-home session and Tina will soon be enrolled in puppy class! We expect Tina to be the smartest puppy in class due in

large part to all the hard work put in by her CRCC handlers. Tina will, however, still benefit from the off leash play time and socialization offered in the class, and her owners will learn more about how she was trained and the best ways to handle her. What a lucky girl to have such a nice family (and a pool to boot!)! *continued on page 3*



## RIDGE REVIEW



## NEW DOGS | To the Ridge

**Marge** - She is a 2 year old, 56 lb. spayed female, Pit-bull Lab mix. Marge is also Tina's Mother (see page 1). She is very laid back and is doing great in training.

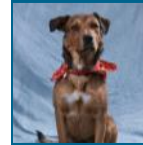


**Abel**—He is a 4 year old, 5 lb. neutered albino male, Chihuahua. Abel is at least partially, if not mostly, blind. Although this



changes our training approach a little he is still doing really well. He pays close attention to those speaking around him and really listens for cues.

**Georgie** - He is a 2 year old, 57 lb. neutered male, brown and black Shepherd mix. He is a sweet dog and is doing fantastic in his training!



**Apollo** - A 2 year old, 44 lb. neutered male, brindle colored Pit-bull mix Apollo is really sweet. He is also lucky since he has been pre-adopted!



**Betty** - Betty is a good natured female, Chihuahua mix She 5 years old. This little sweetie has been adopted! Yay Betty!



Dog photos courtesy Rob DiPiazza, Artistic Portraits

*“Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole.”*  
*- Roger Caras*

## IN THE NEWS | Rescues & Runways Event

On Monday, August 6th Maurices clothing store will be hosting a fashion show, with a twist! Women modeling the clothes and accessories will be joined by adoptable dogs from the Ridge Dogs program! The show will bring awareness to the program and hopefully spur adoptions and donations!

This free event will be hosted at [Bookwalter Winery](#). People are encouraged to bring pet supplies and monetary donation to benefit both the Ridge Dogs program and A2Z Sheltering Services.

Can't make it to the show but still want to contribute? Stop in and drop off a pet

product or monetary donation and Maurices will reward you with a 20% off one item coupon!

Also, silent auction items are now being accepted with proceeds being added to the donation fund! For more info call Maurices at 628-9417.



## MRS. E'S CORNER | New Program Support

**By Krystal Ellingson**  
I am proud to announce another milestone in the CRCC Ridge Dogs Program! Recently, while wrapping up a training session with a client, the topic turned to the Ridge Dogs program. The client had a lot of questions and I learned that their church was looking for a good cause where they could make a difference.

Well, one thing lead to another, and within a week their participation was proposed and approved! This local church-school is going to adopt our Ridge Dog program!

The church will promote the program to their entire congregation and will be incorporating supporting the program into their activities. Even the children will get to

help by decorating bandanas with our program colors and baking dog cookies. In addition, we have received approval to have adoption events on their premises, and they will even go as far as raising funds to help support the program.

This support is coming at just the right time and will allow the program to continue saving at-risk dogs!



## INSIDE THE RIDGE | News from the Staff

**By Sgt. Jennifer Lynch**

The Ridge Dogs program recently expanded within the prison to include I-Unit on the MI3. Since the change things have been going really well.

Currently, we have 13 dogs in the program.

Also of note, I wanted to commend the handlers for their work with Abel. It has been very impressive to see them train a blind dog. What

a great job they are doing.

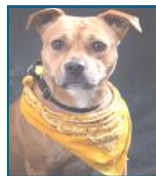


### Adoption | Success Stories Cont'd

**Missy** is another Ridge Dog that has been adopted. She is doing great and has even bonded with the family's other dog. Missy is extremely playful and loves

kids. The training she received at the Ridge has been priceless! She walks perfectly on a leash (unless she is at Petco where she is on overload!) Her family just adores her and are so thankful to the program for all

they've done. She has truly become a member of their family.



## STRAIGHT TALK | A Trainer's Perspective

By Mentor McCarrol

To have a balanced life living with a dog you need to have three key things; confidence, trust building, and a behavior modification.

### CONFIDENCE

Confidence building is important for both the dog and their human counterparts. Without confidence the dog will always be fearful of its surroundings, and will therefore be hard to train.

### BUILD TRUST

Trust building is also important because without it, the dog will not listen to you, or look up to you for protection. If the dog can't trust you to protect them from harm, then there cannot be a bond between you two.

### BEHAVIOR MOD

Behavior modification is also important in helping the dog overcome their fears and bad behaviors. Once they do this, they can live a healthy and long life.

So in conclusion, to live a balanced life with a dog, it is imperative that trust building, confidence building, and behavior modification be a big part of both the human's and dog's life.



Photo courtesy Rob DiPiazza, Artistic Portraits

*'If you pick-up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man'*  
- Mark Twain





## Our Purpose

*The Ridge Dogs program is a unique program that teaches inmates at the Coyote Ridge Correctional Facility, located in Connell, Washington, how to train dogs.*

*Through education and ongoing mentoring approved inmates learn minor behavior modification and basic training techniques used to train dogs that would otherwise be put to death at a local shelter.*

*This newsletter is dedicated to promoting program awareness and Ridge Dog adoption.*

## ADOPT A RIDGE DOG | Take me home



Princess is a 2 year old, spayed female, Black Labrador mix. She has completed the program and is ready to be adopted! The Handlers state she is one of the best dogs to ever participate in the program. She loves to go for walks, spends time on her bed comfortably, and loves socializing with people.



Coco is almost 2 years old, spayed female, Brindle Pit Bull/Labrador mix. Coco loves to retrieve tennis balls. She is energetic and would do really well in a home with an avid walker, runner or hiker. She would have an easy time trekking Badger Mountain and would greet other people with a friendly tail wag! She is ready to be adopted.



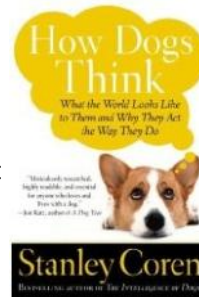
Kip is a 2.5 year old, neutered male, Shepherd mix. He is in a yellow bandana and just needs to refine some of his basics before he can go to a new home. You can pre-adopt him while he is working toward the training goals. Kip is a happy dog who prefers a quiet environment with close friends and family.

Photos courtesy Rob DiPiazza, Artistic Portraits

## RESOURCES | Training Aids & Tools

**How Dogs Think: What the World Looks Like to Them and Why They Act the Way They Do**  
by: Stanley Coren

Bestselling author, psychologist, and world-renowned expert on dog behavior and training Dr. Stanley Coren presents the most informative, in-depth, fascinating book



yet on dogs. Acclaimed for its solid scientific research and entertaining, eminently readable style, *How Dogs Think* gives you the insight that you need to understand the silly, quirky, and apparently irrational behaviors that dogs

demonstrate, as well as those stunning flashes of brilliance and creativity that they also can display.



### Program News | In the Beginnings Cont'd

methodology resulting in a reduction in violence within the prison units where dogs are present.

Since the program's inception the shelter has decreased

their euthanasia rate for dogs and Speak Dog has an opportunity to spread the word about the success of positive, humane dog training while also fulfilling their outreach mission of, "saving lives through education."

The program has received a great deal of support from people from all walks of life.

In closing, we at the prison, shelter and Speak Dog wish to say, "Thank You!"

