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**TRAINING:**

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this (dog training), I saw it has an opportunity to help me in my evolution.”

Beginning this month, Millard and 17 other inmates were grouped in sets of three, where one person was designated the primary dog handler, one as the secondary handler and the third as a dog sitter.

Each day, the primary handlers go to the kennels constructed at TRCI at 8 a.m. to pick up their animals, and then spend the rest of the day either in training or classes with dog trainer Tracy Hill from 4 Paws DogWorks in Tri-Cities. The dogs are with their handlers essentially from sun up, to sun down.

Through their training, inmates teach their dogs basic commands, such as sit, stay, lay down and shake. The dogs are also taught basic manners — not to jump up on people, how to approach people they don't know and other appropriate interactions with the general public, as well as socialization with other animals and humans.

As his dog's primary handler, Millard said, in the morning, he collects his dog while the secondary handler cleans the kennel and gets it food and water. He then spends the day working with the animal and observes its basic behavior. Sometimes, that task is more difficult than anticipated.

Millard said that recently he was on the phone with his cousin, who lives in Hermiston, and his dog, Duke, a brown lab and Chesapeake Bay-mix, got into the game cabinet near the phone and grabbed a box of chess pieces. Millard said he commanded the dog to put the box down, which Duke did, spilling the pieces all over the floor.

“He is like having an unruly 8-year-old,” Millard said. “It's like three kids rolled into one.”

Millard and the other inmates, however, said that by working with the dogs, they are learning more about themselves. For one, Millard said he finds himself getting emotional when Duke does something right or particularly cute.

“It's weird, the older I get, I find myself getting more emotional,” he said.

In other instances, Millard said the dog has required him to interact with other inmates more, something that he shied away from in the past. He said he has also learned that he has room to grow with his patience limits.

“I find I still don't have a lot of patience,” he said.

Millard said he sees a lot of himself in his dog, which, in turn, helps remind him of the path he is taking to self recovery.

“I was an unruly child and kind of misunderstood, just like he is,” he said. “Working with him, I've actually learned a lot more about myself than the dog.”

For other inmates, such as Phil Florek, who has always owned a dog outside of prison, training dogs with different temperaments has been extra rewarding. Florek said his dog, Zoe, a border collie-Australian shepherd mix, came to him and his fellow handlers with anxiety issues after she had been seized during a methamphetamine raid.

“She didn't want to go near people, but me and the other handlers have worked hard with her, and we've gotten her to the point where she likes people,” he said. “I've never worked with a dog like her before.”

Florek said the training program has become his favorite activity in prison.

“For myself, I've personally been in more of an upbeat

mood,” he said. “Learning all these different responsibilities, it has been great. It's different than being told what to do all the time. I've enjoyed it.”

In the month that inmate Robert Peck has been working with his dog, Trixie, he has taught her how to follow commands using only hand signals. The process, he said, actually only took three days. He said he has been working with her since to refine those qualities.

“She's so smart,” he said. “This has been such a great experience.”

Inmate Jack Poole is training the smallest of the dogs selected for the program, a miniature pincher named Coco. Because he is a different size, Poole said the dog has been a little bit more dif-

ficult to train. He said Coco now knows to sit but is still learning other commands, such as how to stay.

“It's pretty bullheaded,” he said.

The experience, however, has changed his outlook on owning smaller dogs.

“I grew up with big dogs,” he said. “Now, I love small dogs.”

Inmate Cory Lewis gave up his higher-paying job working in the laundry department to work with the dogs. He said he does not regret taking a pay cut to participate.

Before, Lewis said he made about \$155 a month in the laundry department, but now makes \$65 to \$70.

“I don't miss it,” he said. “The most stressful day here is better than the best day there.”

Lewis said the opportunity to interact with an animal that provides unconditional love has been an experience beyond what he can describe. He said, even though he is the dog's primary handler, he has seen changes in his fellow inmates who aren't interacting with a dog all day.

“There are walls up with everybody in here, but there are no walls for dogs,” he said.

At the end of the six-week training period, the inmates will place their dogs up for adoption. For that process, Dawn Wagner, east side business services manager at TRCI, said

TRCI will host a meet-and-greet event from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 16, where the public can meet the dogs, enjoy refreshments and fill out the initial paperwork if they are interested in adopting.

Then, the institution will host an adoption event from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 23. During that event, people interested in adopting a dog can adopt a dog for \$150. If more than one person is interested in adopting a particular dog, names will be put into a hat, and one name will be selected. Six dogs from this training session will be up for adoption.

“We are excited,” Wagner said. “Then, as soon as we get those adopted out, we're getting the next six dogs to be trained.”

Peck said his mother will attend the event in hopes of adopting his dog for him for when he gets out of TRCI in two years. He said he was sent to TRCI for burglary but has been trying to better himself in prison. He said he has prayed many times to God to help him get through his time without any major issues. Then, last month, he was selected for the dog-training program, which he said had to have been a decision from his Creator.

“If things go right, she'll come in and adopt her,” he said of his mother. “I've built such a connection to her. Hopefully everything works out.”



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Two Rivers Correctional Institution inmate Peter Millard feeds a treat to Duke, the dog he is training, a chocolate lab and Chesapeake Bay-mix, Tuesday morning in the visiting room of the institution.

**CRIMES:**

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“You can apply it to residential areas. You can also apply it to businesses,” she said. “... CPTED can cover anything. What's awesome about CPTED is it can be anywhere from the ground up, working with architects and engineers, which is what some of my co-facilitators do, or it can be at an established complex, where somebody is doing updates.”

Increasing the visibility of the property through lighting and window placement and open stairwells makes natural surveillance easier and the site less inviting for criminals, who are unable to hide, Sandoval said.

“We want to make that bad guy more visible,” she said. “... We just want to make that offender's behavior more easily noticeable.”

Having shelves, window advertisements or landscaping that prevent visibility reduce natural surveillance, she said. Shrubs should be no taller than three feet, she said, and tree branches should be no lower than seven feet to

provide visibility.

Sandoval said creating clear boundaries between adjacent properties and public areas through territorial reinforcement helps create a sense of ownership. She said landscaping and other features separating sidewalks from properties can help deter people from entering certain areas. In parks, she said, when people know the boundaries and feel ownership for the area, they are more likely to watch for undesired behavior.

“Everything is here to put things at a higher risk for those bad guys,” she said. “If you can attach the people who use or live on that property and have a sense of ownership, you'll see a higher incidence of people watching

out for each other and owning that property, and that leads a little bit closer to crime free.”

Using signs to mark main business entrances and address numbers on front and back entrances can help guide people to where they should go, and Sandoval recommended peep holes in rear doors.

She said people can control access to their properties by using natural features, such as shrubs, fences, gates and doors. Placing cashiers near the front door helps control business access, she said, and also provides surveillance.

Maintenance is also another often-overlooked crime-prevention technique, Sandoval said.

“I know it's really self-explanatory, but it's amazing how people don't understand the importance of it,” she said. “When there's a clean property, and it looks like somebody cares for it and takes care of it, more people will start taking care of that and help protect it, too. The other thing you're doing is it's going to make the bad guys stand out too, because, if they're throwing litter or if they're vandal-

izing, and more people are surveilling that, they're going to notice.”

Sandoval said FBI statistics show that doors were unlocked in 30 percent of house burglaries, and 22 percent occurred through a rear door. She said ensuring doors are locked deters opportunistic criminals.

“In our area, probably a majority of the criminals that are committing either thefts, car break-ins, stolen

cars, they're mostly opportunists,” she said. “... We have a high percentage of stolen vehicles, I think it was over 40 percent, (when) those vehicles were either unlocked or unlocked and had keys in them, and there were a few cases when they were running.”

Sandoval said people should focus on preventing crimes and can contact her about property assessments at 541-667-5112.

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