

January 29, 2007

Ms. Kristen E. Smith
Executive Director
Planet Dog Foundation
322 Fore Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Kristen:

In February 2005, when Puppies Behind Bars (PBB) set out to establish Paws & Reflect, our goal was to promote human interaction in the homebound elderly community by bringing our puppies on socialization visits to their homes. Two years later, this program has transcended even our wildest wishes, filling us with great pride and motivating us to do even more. Planet Dog Foundation was instrumental in allowing PBB to turn our dreams into reality and on behalf of all the staff, seniors, volunteers, puppies, and now inmates who are all deeply affected by this arm of Puppies Behind Bars, I thank you.

We have recently increased the number of seniors who receive visits twice monthly to thirteen which translates into 312 visits per year and hope to increase these numbers to fifteen and 360, respectively, by 2007 year end. One of our newest clients, Helen, is only 59 years old but has been suffering from Multiple Sclerosis for ten years. She has lost most muscular function in her limbs and has speech difficulty. She sits in a wheelchair, with her hands resting on an icepack to soothe the burning sensation that she constantly feels in her fingers. Fully cognizant and in dire need of companionship, Helen currently only interacts with her full-time caretaker who is dynamic and full of life but, only one person. Helen desperately wants a dog but the responsibility that comes along with a four legged friend is too much for her and her aide to handle. Paws & Reflect will be a perfect fit for Helen, who will begin to enjoy a new friendship with her PBB volunteer and the pups that will take part in the socialization visits. Helen, a woman who has lost all of her physical self, will experience companionship, pride in her ability to help socialize a working dog pup and she will have an event to look forward and reflect upon. We are thrilled to be able to offer her a new chapter in her life through Paws & Reflect.

Katie Losey, Director of Volunteers, has been the driving force behind the success of Paws & Reflect. She recruits PBB volunteers, works with elderly services organizations to find seniors interested in participating and coordinates training the volunteers, matching them with their senior partners and organizing weekend visits. Last year 30% of her time was dedicated to

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running Paws & Reflect and we expect even with increased client participation in 2007, her time should be allocated similarly due to a few changes she will put in place.

One challenge PBB has had to work through is that initially, in order to get the program off its feet, we recruited individuals even if they could not host a dog for the entire weekend and who were solely interested in taking the dog for a couple hour visit to the home of the senior. While we found five fantastic individuals, four of who are still with us two years later, their visits are only made possible by the participation of regular weekend sitters who agree to loan their dog for the senior visit. Initially, we did not foresee how much time would be involved in finding volunteers able to swap a dog for a few hours of their weekend time because of pre-scheduled weekend plans and logistical challenges due to Manhattan's geographic and transit constraints. To alleviate these scheduling dilemmas, we have decided that in the future, we will only recruit Paws & Reflect volunteers who can commit to taking the dog from the Manhattan Shuttle like any regular PBB volunteer and puppysit for the entire weekend. We will of course retain our initial Paws & Reflect volunteers for whom we will continue to find people willing to loan their PBB pup, but overall this will become a deviation from the norm. Katie will remain the sole staff member dedicated to Paws & Reflect and will continue to work to enhance the program and report regularly with PBB's President, Gloria.

As reported at mid-year, Puppies Behind Bars expanded the Paws & Reflect program to include visits at Bedford Hills and Fishkill Correctional Facilities, both of which house terminally ill inmates. The visits are carried out by inmate puppy raisers and their dogs twice weekly and the impact on the dogs, our puppy raisers, the terminally ill and the staff has been incredible. In a *Tell Tails* volunteer newsletter, Carl Rothe, PBB's senior instructor, writes, "It's not just the forlorn inmates in the RMU that are benefiting from the program. The puppy raisers are learning to communicate and work with others who are less fortunate than they. In this environment they are forced to look at and put the patient's needs and desires above their own. Additionally, they see results and progress of short term goals in their dog training. The puppies also benefit as the added socialization and exposure to, and working with, different types of people, helping to better prepare them for their future careers as working dogs."

True to PBB's credo that education is a key component of our work, Carl Rothe developed a course to teach inmates participating in the program how to react to, and interact with, the terminally ill; how to be good listeners; how to detect signs of stress in the people they are visiting as well as in their own dogs; and how to work with medical security staff. Puppy raisers involved in this program come back from their visits beaming with pride – in themselves as well as in their puppies. In the words of Wilfredo, a longtime puppy raiser for PBB, "I really do love going up there to the hospital to visit with the old guys. It makes me feel really good knowing that me and my dog put a smile on their faces."

It is clear that the impact of Paws & Reflect reaches many different populations on a variety of levels. Whether it's an elderly Manhattan resident, a terminally ill inmate, a volunteer or puppy raiser, Paws & Reflect creates common ground enabling people to engage with one another, take pride in their accomplishments and rise above their circumstances.

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Planet Dog Foundation's grant of \$2,500 accounted for 15% of our Paws & Reflect expenditures in 2006. We were able to secure the remaining financial needs from other foundations and individuals. In all, PBB was able to train potential volunteers, provide over 240 puppy socialization trips to seniors' homes, host a rooftop party to recognize the efforts of the seniors, provide holiday care packages for all homebound individuals, pay for the driver and gasoline to bring the puppies into Manhattan and develop the educational class for inmates interested in making visits to terminally ill patients living out their lives in prison. We expect our costs in 2007 to increase by \$2,100 due to a salary increase for the Director of Volunteers (an increase of \$1,800 over 2006) and inflated gasoline prices (an increase of \$300 over 2006). My hope is that Planet Dog Foundation will raise its funding to \$5,000 in 2007 to cover the increased costs of Paws & Reflect. We have already secured a grant from another foundation in the amount of \$8,500 to be used for this cause as well.

Gordon T., a 91 year old man who receives visits from PBB volunteer Claudia, summed up his experience with PBB by saying, *"Paws & Reflect gives me an interest that I wouldn't have otherwise and for a man this is very important. The wives are always doing things – chatting, belonging to an organization – but the men are inclined to sit back and wither away. This gives me something to get up and look forward to on Saturday. Not just on Saturday, but the whole week!"* I have enclosed copies of two typed letters and a card that Gordon sent to Katie Losey, our Director of Volunteers, that further demonstrate the impact of Paws & Reflect on Gordon and his genuine, and deeply touching appreciation for his visits. I have also included photographs of Gordon and Claudia at the PBB rooftop party recognizing the seniors' volunteer efforts.

Again, I thank you for your past support. Your financial backing, the voluminous supply of collars, toys and dog beds and your words of encouragement are very much valued and appreciated by every one of us. I have enclosed a current budget for Paws & Reflect and please call me at 212.680.9562 if you would like any further information.

Warm regards,

Annie Teillon
Director of Development

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS
PAWS & REFLECT Homebound Elderly Visitation Program
2007 Budget
30 visits per month / 360 visits per year

Shuttle Driver Salary*	\$936
Gas & Tolls*	\$2,067
Insurance on Vans	\$390
Director of Volunteer (30% of salary)	XXXX
Benefits	\$2,970
Supplies for Volunteers (including arts & crafts materials, dog food, toys)	\$650
Research, development and production of training materials	\$2,000
Senior Recognition Events (3 times per year)	\$1,000
Volunteer Training	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$28,513

* 6.5% of transportation costs for Manhattan Shuttle allocated to Paws & Reflect