



# NEWSLETTER



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## A DOG FOR A DIFFERENT "PAWS"

Maria Perkins is looking towards the future



Silver State Service Dogs case manager, Maria Perkins, is getting a big head start on her journey to help others through family therapy with animal assisted therapy.

A 2020 graduate from University of Nevada Las Vegas, Perkins majored in psychology with a minor in human services. With this, she plans to try and help families by looking at things like their environment, who they interact with, and past traumas.

Perkins plans to integrate animal assisted therapy into her family therapy, helping to relax the patients and giving them someone else to talk to.



She is going to be gaining a new life companion and helper in one of SSSD's recent graduate Labradors, Grady. Perkins and Grady first met at training in 2020.

While she was not planning on getting started right away, she happened to be in the right place at the right time.

"I can now learn how to interact with an animal and others, who may be in distress."

With a trained dog in hand, Perkins can now look forward to her career.

"Getting Grady, I'm able to start looking at how to get the certifications needed to do animal assisted therapy or get him licensed as a therapy dog to take to de-stress events.

Perkins is preparing for Graduate school at UNLV with a major in couples family therapy or social work, heading towards a path of working in therapy with adolescents.

Grady joins a graduating class of two with fellow pup Griffin, who is being paired with his veteran. 🦷

## KEEP YOUR PUP SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN! 🎃

Halloween can be a stressful time for some of our furry friends, but here are some ways you can help keep yours safe!

**Keep your dog away from the sweets.** Many candies contain Xylitol, which can be harmful, as well as the infamous chocolate, which can be lethal. If your dogs gets ahold of any sweets, be sure to contact your local vet!

**Make sure to keep your companion away from the door if you will be handing out candy.** The constant stream of children dressed up and door bells ringing may be upsetting and stressful, so try to contain your pup in a quieter part of the house for the night to prevent run aways.

**If you plan on dressing up your pet, watch for their signals!** Make sure your pet is comfortable in the costume and it is not causing any extra stress. Trying on the costume prior to Halloween can also help get the pet comfortable being dressed up! 🦷

## CHECKOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!



**Growl-O-Ween:** Sunday, October 17th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2110 N. Rampart Blvd Suite 150, Las Vegas, NV 89128  
Dress up your pets and join Three Dog Bakery and Paw Partners Unleashed for a spooktacular event with tons of fun and activities throughout the day for pets and their families!



**Paws in the Park:** Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 2627 Nature Park Dr, North Las Vegas, NV 89084  
Join the City of North Las Vegas for a fun-filled day with a pawsome costume pawrade, contests, raffles, dog demonstrations, booths, and more!



**Veteran's Day:** Thursday, November 11th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 6120 N. Decatur Blvd. #130 Las Vegas, Nevada, 89130  
Join us for a special day at TSP Baking Company, as we celebrate Veteran's Day with a military owned bakery! From special cookies for SSSD to getting a photo with a dog, stop by to get your sweets and help SSSD in the process! 🦷