



Ruthie

“EVERYBODY LOVES RUTHIE. EVEN RUTHIE LOVES RUTHIE.”

~ CALIFORNIA MEN’S COLONY NEW LIFE K-9 TRAINER/ INMATE

# WHY A FACILITY DOG

Pets in detention centers enhance empathy, emotional intelligence, communication, patience, self-control, and trust.

Teach youth responsibility, teamwork, and caring for something other than themselves.

Increase autonomy, self-care, and self-care

Help create a calm environment for youth who have experienced trauma



# FINDING RUTHIE – THE JOURNEY

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Presented the idea to county counsel

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Brought test dogs into facility for the day

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Established a relationship with director of animal services

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Covid hit

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Restorative partners staff member with lived experience began bringing a dog from new life k-9 into the juvenile hall to visit

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Connected with new life k-9

# RUTHIE'S BACKGROUND

## NEW LIFE K-9

### RUTHIE'S GRADUATION

- CHOSEN BY NEW LIFE TRAINERS AFTER A SERIES OF TEST
- RAISED IN THE CALIFORNIA MEN'S COLONY AND TRAINED BY INMATES
- TRAINED TO BE A SERVICE ANIMAL FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS
- IT WAS DETERMINED SHE NEEDED A NEW CAREER, AS SHE WAS DISTRACTED BY KIDS AND WAS TOO SOCIAL.



## QUOTES

“OVER THE LAST YEAR, I HAVE NOTICED HOW IMPORTANT RUTHIE IS TO THE YOUTH ON CVA AND TO STAFF. I HAVE OBSERVED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INTERACTIONS WITH RUTHIE BETWEEN STAFF AND THE YOUTH. I FEEL RUTHIE IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT TO THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR YOUTH THAT COME INTO OUR CUSTODY. HAVING RUTHIE HERE AT THE HALL, GIVES STAFF AND THE YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RELIEVE STRESS AND AT THE SAME TIME RUTHIE LOVES THE ATTENTION SHE RECEIVES FROM ALL OF US. RUTHIE IS DEFINITELY AN EXCELLENT EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR ALL OF US HERE AT THE JSC.”

# QUOTES

- “HAVING RUTHIE MAKES IT FEEL MORE LIKE HOME.”
- “I LOVE RUTHIE.”
- “RUTHIE PROVIDES COMFORT AND SUPPORT TO YOUTH WHEN THEY PREFER NOT TO TALK TO PEOPLE.”



**QUOTE**  
**FROM**  
**YOUTH**

RUTHIE IS A VITAL PART OF THE CVA PROGRAM. HER CALM ENERGY ALWAYS BRINGS US COMFORT DURING CHALLENGING TIMES. SHE HAS HER OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITY THAT WE ALL HAVE ENJOYED. RUTHIE IS CVA



ALWAYS A SMILE



QUESTIONS