

Moderator:
Jason Adams

Featured Hosts:
Flerida Alarcón
Yesica Cioli
Marcie Davis



Considering a Facility Dog for Your Victim Service Program?

June 29, 2022

Note: This session will be recorded and posted on the Expert Q&A Past Sessions page when available.

Poll

Where are you located?



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Please type your answer in the Chat!

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Featured Hosts



Florida Alarcón



Yesica Cioli



Marcie Davis

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Courthouse Facility Dogs

- Courthouse Facility Dogs work alongside a professional in a service capacity to assist other people.
- Facility dogs should graduate from a nonprofit assistance dog program accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI).
- Each dog receives about 2 years of training.



Photos courtesy of San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office

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Courthouse Facility Dogs (continued)



Photo courtesy of Assistance Dogs of the West

Facility dogs do not have public access under the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act because they do not assist a person with a disability. They must pass the same public access test that certifies service, hearing, and guide dogs; however, many state laws provide access to volunteer handlers with a qualified agency.

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Courthouse Facility Dogs (continued)

Courthouse Facility Dogs assist crime victims, witnesses, and others during the investigation and prosecution of crimes and other legal proceedings. They also work in drug and mental health courts.



Photos courtesy of Assistance Dogs of the West

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Q&A

Do you have any advice on how to convey to leadership the value of having a facility dog within your agency?

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Q&A (continued)

What are some considerations for securing a facility dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Are there barriers that prevent a chief judge/courthouse from bringing dogs into the facility?

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Q&A (continued)

Do you recommend getting approval from the State Legislature to have a bill in place that allows dogs in the courtroom?

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Q&A (continued)

Do you know of other local government agencies that have facility dogs?

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Q&A (continued)

Has a program like this ever been established in a hospital setting?

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Q&A (continued)

For a forensic interview, what is the youngest age of a child for whom you would use a facility dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Where can I find stats on the benefits of having a service dog in the office?

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Q&A (continued)

Are there any grant opportunities to assist in purchasing a facility dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Should a facility dog be insured?

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Q&A (continued)

How well do District Attorneys take to having dogs around?

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Q&A (continued)

How do you handle staff and clients who don't like dogs or are afraid of them?

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Q&A (continued)

How do you manage allergies?

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Q&A (continued)

Do benefits to staff mirror benefits to clients?

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Q&A (continued)

Do you have a Memorandum of Understanding between your office and the handler/dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Do you have to have a victim advocate on staff to get a dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Where does the dog go at the end of the day?

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Q&A (continued)

What requirements are needed for communal facilities?

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Q&A (continued)

What happens when a handler leaves an agency where their dog is the facility dog?

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Q&A (continued)

Are there preferred breeds?

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Q&A (continued)

Can it be a personal family dog?

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Q&A (continued)

How does the handler balance their role as both an advocate and handler?

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Q&A (continued)

What levels of dog handling experience or other qualifications should be considered for a handler?

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Q&A (continued)

What types of training do staff need?

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Q&A (continued)

If you could recommend two books on dog behavior, what would they be?

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Q&A (continued)

Can courthouse facility dogs be used in crisis response situations?

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Q&A (continued)

Is there a professional association or group where handlers can talk with each other and learn from each other?

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Resources

[Assistance Dogs International](#)

[Assistance Dogs of the West](#)

[Canine Companions for Independence](#)

[Courthouse Dogs Foundation](#)

[Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities \(ECAD\)](#)

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Resources (continued)

[Facility Dogs at Children's Advocacy Centers and in Legal Proceedings Best Practices](#)

[Paws With A Cause](#)

Bones Would Rain from the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs,
Suzanne Clothier

*Transforming Trauma: Resilience and Healing Through Our Connections
with Animals,* Edited by Philip Tedeschi and Molly Anne Jenkins

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Next Month

Topic: Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program

Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Featured Hosts: Herman Millholland and Steve Siegel

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Thank You!

Download a certificate of attendance for today's session via the link posted in the Chat.

If your question was not addressed in this session, you can send your question to our hosts or request additional information by email:

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