

Puppies Behind Bars

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katherine Bang
Photo Research Editor, Vanity Fair

Brian Fischer
Commissioner, New York State Department of Correctional Services

Lori S. Gevalt

Glenn S. Goord (Chairman)
Former Commissioner, New York State Department of Correctional Services

Sebastian Junger
Journalist, author, and filmmaker

Joan LaCaille
In memoriam

Daniel Lobitz
Partner, Robert A. M. Stern Architects

Joaquin Martinez
Restaurateur

Cynthia Mas

Bonnie McCausland

Elise O'Shaughnessy
Contributing Editor, Vanity Fair

Christine D. Rogers
Partner, Arnold & Porter (Retired)

Cathy L. Saypol
President, Cathy Saypol Public Relations, Inc.

Gloria Gilbert Stoga
President/Founder, Puppies Behind Bars

Wiley C. Thompson
Colonel, United States Army

ADVISORY BOARD

Matthew P. CuvIELLO
Major, United States Army

Robert E. Denham
Partner, Munger, Tolles & Olson, L.P.

Albert R. Dowden
President and Chief Executive Officer (Ret.), Volvo North America Corporation

Henry A. Kissinger
Chairman, Kissinger Associates, Inc.

Nancy Kissinger

William J. McDonough

Libby Pataki
Former First Lady, State of New York

Alan J. Stoga
President, Zemi Communications



PHOTOS BY PEGGY VANCE

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE SERVICE DOGS FOR WOUNDED WAR VETERANS AND EXPLOSIVE-DETECTION CANINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Spring 2013

THE LOVE OF SGT. ZOE

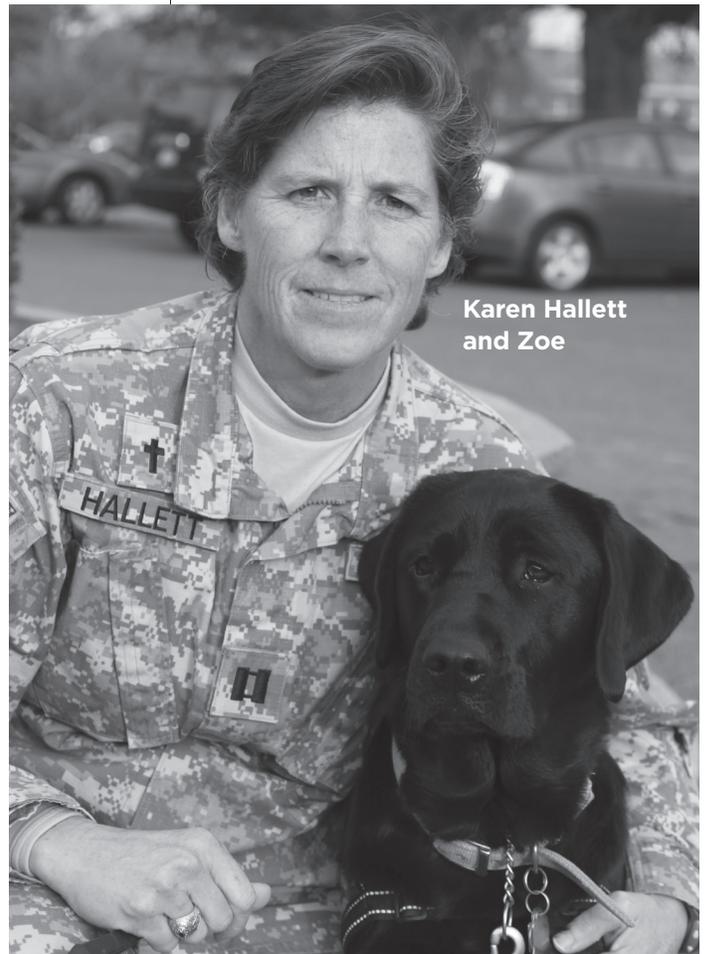
It's not hard to guess how a young American serving in Afghanistan feels when he or she sets eyes on a small black Lab. But when Puppies Behind Bars talks to Army chaplain Karen Hallett about "Sergeant Zoe"—who was raised by inmates in the P.B.B. program at Bedford Hills prison, officially commissioned by the military, and deployed to Bagram Air Base with Hallett last spring—the impact of a dog in a far-off war comes vividly and powerfully home.

For "the chaplain with the dog," as Hallett became known, every walk down the main (and only) street at Bagram was a chance to engage more deeply with the soldiers she was there to help. Describing a typical response to Zoe, Hallett recalls their first encounter with one officer: "He spotted Zoe. I knew he was going to ask if he could pet her—he had that 'Oh boy, a dog!' look on his face. I told him he could. In one motion, he dropped to his knees, grabbed her, and did a pet-hug-wrestle move with her. She responded by nibbling his chin, which prompted more pet-hug-wrestling. When he was finished, he stood up, shook my hand, and said, 'Thanks, chaplain, that was f--ing AWESOME!!!!' We ran into him every week or so. He'd see Zoe coming, and he'd run over to get his share of love."

First and foremost, Hallett explains, an Army chaplain's job is to protect and provide for the soldiers' First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion, conducting services for the chaplain's faith group and

coordinating services for other faiths. Much like civilian ministers, they have three areas of focus: nurturing the living, caring for the wounded, and honoring the dead. All of which, it turns out, are helped by having a dog. And not just any dog. As Hallett notes, Zoe was specifically trained by P.B.B. to attend to her handler and others during times of stress, including grief and anxiety.

Continued on page 2



Karen Hallett and Zoe

PHOTO BY PEGGY VANCE

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Chaplain Karen Hallett remembers one of Zoe's most precious gifts:

"I received an email late on Christmas Eve from another chaplain: His commander had heard that a chaplain on Bagram had a dog, and he asked if I could come over to see him. So I arranged to come over early on Christmas morning. The commander wanted to take a picture with Zoe in front of the unit's Christmas tree. Apparently, his family had to put their 10-year-old black Lab to sleep in November, just after he deployed.

"His six-year-old daughter had written a letter to Santa Claus, asking him to bring a stuffed black dog to her daddy who was helping with the war, so he wouldn't be lonely on Christmas. The commander emailed his wife the picture of him and Zoe. She printed it and hung it on the tree. When their daughter woke up on Christmas morning in the States, she saw the picture on the tree with a note from her daddy: 'Santa asked God to bring me a black dog like you asked, and God sent Zoe to visit me.' Cool, huh?"

With Zoe at her side, the chaplain found herself giving out as many as ten of her business cards a week, as soldiers stopped to pet the dog. "Zoe opened the door for me to have many informal conversations with service members," she says, recalling a husband and wife, both first lieutenants, who called her for marital counseling because "as dog-owners themselves," they thought they would be comfortable talking to her.

Then there was the sergeant, returning to Afghanistan after emergency leave for his mother's death, who ran into Hallett and Zoe in the PAX terminal. He got comfort from the dog, and was moved to pray with the chaplain. Another soldier, who had lost a good friend to suicide, was finally able to grieve when Zoe was sitting on his lap. From the hospital nurse who'd just lost a patient to the platoon leader mourning a fallen comrade at one of the all-too-frequent memorial services, Hallett watched soldier after soldier find solace and release in the steadfast black Lab.

That Piece of Home

"Zoe gave a sense of God's unconditional love to soldiers facing prolonged deployment and combat. She was especially important to the soldiers of Joint Task Force Empire, who provided route-clearance operations throughout Afghanistan," the chaplain says. About half of U.S. military families own pets, according to one Army medical survey, and the vast majority consider their pets a part of the family. "Zoe brought that piece of home to soldiers," Hallett adds.

Hallett describes a typical day for Zoe as "a mirror image of my day. If we were staying on

Bagram, the day began around six with a run (until it got really cold—screw that!). By eight a.m., we were at the headquarters for meetings and general office work. Zoe was allowed to roam freely through our

two-story headquarters. She helped herself to everyone's offices. She would check on me every hour or so, sticking her head in my door to make sure I hadn't left her.

"Every now and then I would see her romp past my door as she chased her ball down the hallway. She attended church services and Bible studies with me. Our days ended between nine and ten most nights, and were broken up by walks and trips to the hospital to visit the wounded and staff."

Chaplain and dog also criss-crossed Afghanistan over their nine-month tour: "If we were traveling, our day would begin around three a.m. We'd get to the PAX terminal by four, and wait for our flight, which could take anywhere from two to ten hours. Some travel was very easy, but most locations required more than a day to reach, and several modes of transport. But the flight crews and people who worked in the terminals were always very glad to see Zoe. I carried her food in my backpack and always had her roll-up bed with me. We spent many nights



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
444 ENGINEER COMPANY
FOB GARDEZ, AFGHANISTAN
APO, AE 09339

28 November 2012

USFOR-A-JFTE-178-444-CDR

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Sergeant Zoe

1. November 3, 2012 is a day that I will never forget for the rest of my life. It started no different than any other day with a routine re-supply mission to FOB Herrera on the agenda. An IED took three of my brothers, friends, and comrades! The things I felt that day I will never be able to fully describe with words! The days following this horrible event were filled with tears and a feeling of emptiness experienced by all 444th soldiers. Chaplain Hallett came to our company with words of compassion and promise of better days to come, none of which unfortunately had the impact on me that her special friend did. Sergeant Zoe, a small black Labrador retriever who was specially trained to help soldiers cope with PTSD. I can only speak for myself; however the dog instantly took the pain of losing my three brothers away. Zoe came right to me and would not leave my side. At this time it had been two days since I had gotten any sleep. I was lying on a cot in our platoon room when Zoe jumped up with me. She laid between my legs with her head on my lap. Zoe and I locked eyes for a brief moment and then we both fell asleep. I woke 3hrs later to Zoe still there sleeping with me! I wish that I could describe the impact that this dog named Zoe had on me the few days I got to spend with her. This was at a time I personally needed her most. Zoe truly helped me grieve and accept what had happened. It was a blessing that we were able to have her with us in our time of need. I am a firm believer in the program of using animals to help soldiers through difficult times.


JORDAN A. TERPSTRA
SGT, EN
USAR



Left, Hallett and Zoe get ready to hit the road. Their mission (center and right): some healing R&R for the troops.

sharing that bed on the floor of a terminal.” Hallett had been in Afghanistan on her first deployment just six months earlier, and so she knew she would be able to care for a dog there. She also knew that the right dog would really help her ministry: “There were two therapy dogs for some 80,000 soldiers—definitely not enough.” The last piece of the puzzle, after P.B.B. had trained and paired her with Zoe, was to make sure that the dog would be able to deal with what lay ahead.

Her Awesome Dog Thing

Before the 411th Engineer Brigade left the U.S., Zoe trained alongside the soldiers, which gave her exposure to harsh conditions, weapons fire, and military vehicles, and Hallett took her on a cross-country commercial airline trip to see how she coped with long flights. “She rolled with it all. She was a perfectly trained dog from the moment I received her,” the chaplain says. In Afghanistan, Zoe continued to shine.

“Nothing phased our girl,” Hallett reports. “In the summer, down south, the temperature would reach 125. This made the gravel very hot,

so we took precautions with booties or Musher’s Secret [paw wax]. I put a swamp-cooler vest on her—which she hated because she thought it made her look fat. The vest, soaked in water, kept her cool, and reflected the sun away from that black coat. She was a trooper. It didn’t matter if it was hot or cold, or raining, or windy, she just did her awesome dog thing.”

The chaplain is full of praise for P.B.B.’s inmate puppy-raisers, for their devotion and attention to detail: “Zoe’s ability to focus, to stay on task, and to quickly adapt to her surroundings is because of the work that they do. I pray that each of them shares in the sense of pride that I have in her. I cannot thank P.B.B. enough for allowing me to have Zoe. Our soldiers loved her, and she made a huge difference.”

Hallett believes that the military has barely scratched the surface in using dogs with and among troops that are actively serving. “There is a great need for dogs in the Wounded Warrior Transition Units, and many other units,” she says.

Next stop for Zoe is Fort Bliss, where Hallett will be the mobilization chaplain, training the chaplain teams heading into the Afghanistan theater: “Everyone is already excited about having Zoe in Texas—oh, and having the chaplain,” she jokes. No question that both

she and the dog will welcome a less grueling post.

Tasked to Honor the Dead

“The year was tough for Zoe,” Hallett says. “She got plenty of exercise, but not much play. We had a combat stress dog, Butch, who lived near us on Bagram, and a fenced area where they could safely chase each other when we could arrange the time. Since both teams traveled, it was tough to sync playtime. I went through a couple of RC monster trucks—Zoe loved to chase these down. The only problem was that she was a little rough on them when she caught them. She thought that running away from me with the truck in her mouth was part of playtime.”

Though most of Hallett’s stories concern the soldiers in her care, and the wonderful dog helping her serve them, she obviously gave more than 100 percent during her second Afghanistan tour. Asked about the Bronze Star she just received, an honor rarely awarded a chaplain, Hallett first nods to her “incredibly supportive” command and commander. “I have always been allowed to do ministry ‘my way’—that is, as God has wired me to do it. This year it included an out-of-the-box solution like bringing Zoe with me.”

Hallett set new standards, as she and Zoe traveled more than 20,000 miles around Afghanistan, visiting subordinate chaplain teams every 45 days and seeing 75 percent of their 5,300 soldiers over the year. Chaplains are now systematically involved in moving soldiers home, providing comfort at layovers during emergency compassionate leave, and tracking the care of the wounded as they

Continued on back page

DONATION FORM

Please accept my donation for:

- Hotel room for one veteran during 16 days of “team training” (\$2,000)
- Routine veterinary care for one puppy for a year (\$250)
- One service-dog vest with patches (\$100)
- A new sleeping crate (\$85)
- Food for a puppy for one month (\$50)
- Hands-free lead for a service-dog trainer (\$30)
- New toys for one puppy (\$10)
- Other amount

- Please charge my credit card:
 - Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover
- (Please list name as it appears on card. List mailing address.)

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

- Add my friend to your mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

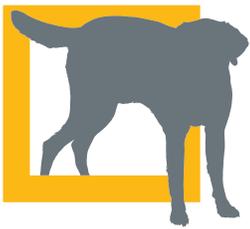
State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(Tax ID # 13-3969389). Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:
Puppies Behind Bars | 263 West 38th Street, 4th floor, New York, N.Y. 10018

CFC# 11902



Puppies Behind Bars

263 West 38 Street
4th floor
New York, NY 10018

recover in the U.S. “We literally worked round the clock,” she says.

Long hours, rough conditions, and physical danger are one kind of stress. The deeper toll comes from the body count in this costly war. “Tasked to honor the dead,” as Hallett puts it, a chaplain shoulders an enormous amount of loss. “We lead memorial ceremonies. We oversee and pray for our fallen heroes as they are loaded onto a plane for their

final journey home. And often we are with our soldiers in their final moments, knowing that the medics or doctors cannot save them, and providing comfort until God takes them home,” she says. At times, Hallett was the one needing comfort—from that faithful black Lab.

“Zoe performed her greatest work in this area,” Hallett reports. “Because when I finished this work, she was there ... for me.”

FREEMAN POWER

The **Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust** has made an extremely generous Dog Tags challenge grant, to help Puppies Behind Bars continue its work with Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. Your donations in support of P.B.B.’s Dog Tags program will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$55,000, through September 2013.



THE FISCHER FACTOR

New York Department of Corrections Commissioner **Brian Fischer**, who served with three governors, announced his retirement. It has been P.B.B.’s rare good fortune also to have Fischer on the board of directors for the past five years, and—more luck—he will remain a board member. This winter, after another “class” of wounded Iraq and Afghanistan vets graduated with their service dogs from P.B.B.’s Dog Tags training program, Fischer summed up the power of the ceremony, which was held at the Fishkill prison. “It provided a unique opportunity for inmates to connect on a very personal way with the soldiers to whom they are giving their dogs,” he wrote. “They do so out of love for the dogs and respect for the soldiers and

marines. For too many, love and respect was not often felt before this.”

THE THREE PERCENT

For the sixth year in a row, **Charity Navigator** has given P.B.B. a four-star rating—the highest certification of an organization’s good governance and fiscal responsibility. As Charity Navigator C.E.O. **Ken Berger** wrote in March, “Only 3% of the charities

we rate have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Puppies Behind Bars outperforms most other charities in America.”

TALENT ON BOARD

The P.B.B. board welcomed back **Katherine Bang**, *Vanity Fair*’s photo research editor, for another stint as a director, and voted in two new members—**Christine Rogers** and **Joaquin Martinez**, both longtime supporters. Rogers, a former partner at Arnold & Porter, set up P.B.B. as a non-profit and oversaw the law firm’s pro bono work on its behalf. Martinez, the owner of five Mexican restaurants on the Upper West Side, including Café Frida, has catered most of P.B.B.’s cocktail benefits, thrown a free

dinner for its staff each year, and hosted the five veterans in last summer’s Dog Tags training at a Café Frida feast.

EVENING STARS

At its annual benefit gala on December 3, the Animal Medical Center honored Gloria Gilbert Stoga with its prestigious Brooke Astor Award for her work with P.B.B. The admiration went both ways: “The A.M.C. has been our partner,” Gilbert Stoga told the audience. “We bring our dogs to them not just because of the love with which they treat all their patients, nor just their cutting-edge technology and procedures, but because a diagnosis from the A.M.C. is definitive.” Two P.B.B. graduates, **Oprah** and **Amos**, and the veterans they have been paired with, **Will Pagan** and **Rick Yarosh**, received special awards and a standing ovation from the deeply appreciative crowd.

COOPER & ANDERSON

Tune in to *Anderson Live*, on May 3, to see host **Anderson Cooper** meet his namesake, a yellow Lab, on national TV. The canine Anderson—now in P.B.B. training at Fishkill prison—was sponsored in honor of Cooper, and in gratitude for the award-winning journalist’s support of the Dog Tags program.