Cumberland woman trains guide dogs

By Adam Michael

November 18, 2020

Everywhere Anna Gallon goes, a pair of eyes belonging to an eager, obedient Labrador Retriever follows her. That’s a great feeling. But one day in the not too distant future she will need to say goodbye to her favorite friend, the nearly 4-month-old Neptune. Those admiring eyes will be following a new master without the gift of sight.

For six years, Gallon has volunteered for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a New York-based nonprofit organization that helps responsible dog owners to raise young pups in preparation for people with vision loss.

“They give me so much joy, but they can really help change a person’s life,” said Gallon. “That’s the beauty. That’s the really why I like doing it.”

Gallon’s Cumberland Township home has been the temporary home for Neptune, a not yet 4-month-old Labrador Retriever, waiting for a treatment from Guiding Eyes for the Blind to volunteer Anna Gallon for training. Gallon will spend 13 to 16 months with Neptune, helping him to learn commands and to become sociable. Then she’ll return to the New York-based national organization for professional training so he can eventually assist people with vision loss.

“With every puppy I see, I always think, ‘How do I make sure I’m the one that’s going to make them successful?’” Gallon said. “I try to look at them and see how they’re going to react to different situations and think about that.”

Neptune and the other guide dogs, trainers told Gallon, “are more compassionate,” Gallon said. “Some dogs are more assertive. Some are more for the younger people, others are more gentle, more quiet.”

Gallon said Neptune is unique in his temperament.

“He was too much of a frat boy for my liking,” Gallon said. “A little too distracted by other dogs, other things.”

Gallon was able to work with Neptune without much distraction. “They’re so well-behaved,” Gallon said.

Gallon said Neptune is quickly learning commands, and he’s starting to body language to know when it’s time to eat and when it’s time to go to the bathroom.

Early in his training, Neptune has learned to learn to do tricks, and Gallon said he’s learning to do tricks comfortably for long periods of time. He also walks comfortably on a long leash, keeping an eye on Gallon with every step.

To build his sense of delayed gratification, Gallon will begin to drop treats on the ground that Neptune may not see until given the proper command. Eventually, she should be able to place a treat in letter formations that spell out his name without so much as a beg or a whine.

Gallon said that in normal times, Gallon and Neptune will live with unpaid volunteers, learning to obey commands and remain focused on their task while tasked by distractions.

While they are supposed to expose to lots of different voices, experiences and socialization. Doing so hasn’t been so easy during a pandemic, when people are reluctant to come close.

Neptune will spend six to 12 hours per day and plays a big role in his retirement. “It’s satisfying to see them go from a small, little pup to a big, strong dog,” Gallon said.

COVID-19 pandemic, the sessions were moved online. “If I could have Neptune in my lap, I’d do it in a heartbeat,” Gallon said.

Neptune goes on three 20-minute walks per day and plays outside with other dogs in a fenced-in yard. After his Gettysburg stay, Neptune will spend six to 12 months working with a professional instructor. Part of the intense training includes a personality evaluation to help place the dog with the appropriate owner.

A McSherrystown business recently donated customized face gaiters to the human officers. “It’s a welcome surprise,” McSherrystown Police Chief Michael Woods said Wednesday.

“Taxes are lowered, and spending is lowered. We’re virtually healthy,” Chief Woods said.

Merry Christmas

The decision provides tax relief of 20 percent to property owners. The assessment will be reduced 20 percent in a single year. Taxes are lowered, and spending is lowered. We’re virtually healthy, Chief Woods said.

McSherrystown police welcome gift of gaiters

McSherrystown Police K-9 Ori sports his special customized bandana provided by Treadbands, which also donated face gaiters to the human officers.

A McSherrystown business recently donated customized face gaiters for all officers of the borough’s police department. It was the first donation for K-9 number Ori.

“McSherrystown Police Chief Michael Woods and Wednesday.

The gaiters, which provide a nonmedical barrier for officers’ faces, “are breathable and cool, and can be washed often.” Woods said.

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McSherrystown police welcome gift of gaiters

McSherrystown Police Chief Michael Woods wears a custom-made bandana provided by a business in the borough, Treadbands.

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**Train**

*Lowers (Continued from Page A1)*

Instead, he opted to join the Correctional State Police. There, his strong will helped ease difficult situations, he said. Like other officers he got the hard cases, a photograph was taken of him wearing his badge, sitting behind handcuffed criminal, Gallon said.

Gallon said the state police have provided him with more training and knowledge, such as the tools of the trade used by the parole board. He also learned how to handle complaints, he said.

The Correctional State Police is a state agency that provides training and employment opportunities for those who have served time in prison. It is a separate agency from the Department of Corrections, which is responsible for the administration of state prisons.

Gallon said he is grateful for the opportunities he has been given by the state police and that he will continue to work hard to serve the state.

*Hanover eagle cam (Continued from Page A1)*

A new look for '06, streamed action from a bald eagle nest near Lebanon State Park in Hanover, Pa., is under way.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission announced in September that Hanover and Conewago counties are participating in a project to stream the eagle cam.

The project is a collaboration between the Game Commission, the Hanover and Conewago county authorities, and Hanover Eagle Cam, a joint venture created by the Game Commission.

Hanover Eagle Cam, which is owned by the Game Commission, will manage all aspects of the project, including the streaming service.

The project is being funded by a grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Game Commission is providing technical support and advice to Hanover Eagle Cam.

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