

10/29/19

Cat Handler Program, Clallam Bay

Working in the Cat Handler program at CBCC has been a very fulfilling experience. The cats brought to us from Center Valley Animal Reserve come from a variety of backgrounds; some are injured, some are emotionally damaged, but all of them require our love and attention.

Helping rehabilitate these wonderful creatures so that they can be adopted into loving, permanent homes is the most rewarding job I can imagine in CBCC. I've now cared for 15 cats — well, 5 cats and 10 kittens — and the knowledge that this work will result in the pairing of a cat with a loving owner gives me great satisfaction.

Thank you for the opportunity, and for the chance to have furry companions full of joy as my daily affection. I hope that the program is able to expand to other units at CBCC — everybody could use more cats!

Sebastian ~~Sebastian~~
~~Sebastian~~

I would like to thank you for what you do for these animals. I joined this program to help these animals get a second chance in life and getting the satisfaction knowing that I'm helping these animals get that second chance into loving homes.

Richard ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

What the cat program means to me is. I get to show a different side of myself that in this environment doesn't come out very often. I get to love and care for something other than just myself. It's so cool being in the cell with a cat. The way she wakes me up in the morning here is no better feeling than being able to play with a cat. So thank you for bringing this program to us and letting me participate in it.

Timothy

To: Center Valley Animal Rescue

This program has been a huge blessing for me. I have had a chance to help something other than myself, as I've selfishly done for 44 years of this lifetime of mine. It had been over 15 years since I had any interaction with a animal, other than a drug dog. Spending all of my time down in prison, inside of close custody or IMU. To be able to interact, play and help these cats find trust is a wonderful gift and chance at redemption. It is also teaching us inmate cat handlers how to be patient, awareness of our surroundings, how to care for another and what I believe to be the most important, for a lifer as myself is learning to trust and let a being get close to me. I've gained so much more gratitude for the little things I have behind these walls, with this opportunity given to me.

The environment that the cats bring from being in our pod at A-unit is completely different than anything most inmates have ever been a part of, especially close custody. These little animals bring peace and a sense of calmness to the pod. The most hardened gangster or inmate will sit on a stool hugging, smiling and giving kisses while talking in baby talk to these little fur balls. It is a wonderful sight to see and watching how excited a inmate gets when playing with a Kitten is amazing. It even warms up most of our staff. When they can notice how inmates change their attitude and demeanor after a couple of weeks living in the pod, you know it's just one more positive aspect of having the cats here. The Kitties bring joy to all both staff and inmates.

As a Buddhist practitioner I believe that these animals are reborn humans, dealing with previous bad karma. I now can help them move through this lifetime hearing past Buddha's names and seeing their images. As a Buddhist this is a true honor and blessing to have. When your able to actually make a difference, for literally the first time of a long life of crime and suffering on others, it makes you feel good. This time I'm now envolved with animals, I will not at all take for granted. Thank you for giving CBCC close custody this chance to help these beautiful cats, and ourselves heal together.

Xie! Xie! Paul

This program brings Joy to every one in prison who has contact with it. Not just the handlers, ~~but~~ But everyone. The cats bring people out of their shells. And for the cats who come in and need a little bit of work, It's been awesome watching them grow and find homes. Now that I'm a cat handler, it's changed me. Spending everyday with my cat Misty, who was feral when she came in, watching her change and slowly start to trust me, was a good reminder that positive change is never instant, and ~~with~~ with a good ~~and~~ environment and patience, anything can ~~be~~ progress positively.

Nicolas