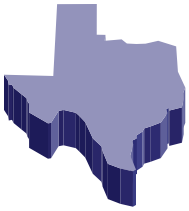


# Making an IMPACT



INMATES PROVIDING ANIMAL CARE AND TRAINING

A Transitions For Life publication

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## Carswell IMPACT Program Goes Live!

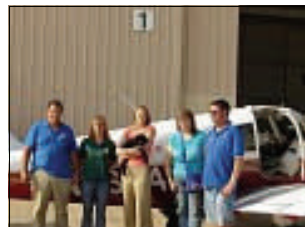


Texas IMPACT puppies have their first meal under the watchful eyes of their new IMPACT raisers.

Texas now has its very own version of Cell Dogs, the popular Animal Planet program about guide dogs raised in a prison facility. On May 11th, 2007, four 9-week old puppies were delivered to their inmate raisers at FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, where they will spend the next year being socialized, trained in basic obedience and exposed to a wide variety of

public and daily living situations.

Eight inmates were selected during a rigorous screening process. Patience and consistency were important criteria - and a love of dogs was at the top of the list! The inmates spent two months receiving specialized instruction from IMPACT Coordinator, Karen Babcock. So they were ready and eager for their puppies to arrive.



Angel Flight pilot, Robert Maier, safely delivers his furry cargo

Puppies Challenger, Brooks, Honor and Walker were flown in by Angel Flight, a non-profit organization that provides transportation to families in need of specialized medical facilities. The puppies were accompanied on the trip by SEGDI staff, Chuck Helms and Melinda Shaver.

The entire minimum security Camp was abuzz with the news of the pending puppy arrival. The inmate raisers had spent weeks preparing and puppy-proofing their dorm-like rooms. The reception was complete with dog-bone-shaped cookies and decorated kennels.

After three years of dedicated effort, the Texas IMPACT is a reality!

## It All Starts at Southeastern Guide Dogs

Our puppies were born at the Southeastern Guide Dogs puppy kennels in Palmetto, Florida. Only the best make it into the SEGDI breeding program. Mom, Baxter, was raised (and lives with) SEGDI Board Chairman, Ann Margaret Perkins. Ann Margaret was very excited to hear

that Baxter's first litter is kicking off our program.

The puppies begin socialization and testing at an early age. Health and mental well-being are critical for guide dog puppies. Volunteer puppy huggers come in daily to make sure our puppies know they are loved!



Socialization and exposure to new experiences begins early at the Southeastern puppy kennels.

### IMPACT Facts

- 1ST IMPACT PROGRAM WAS IMPLEMENTED IN GAINSVILLE, FLORIDA IN 1991
- CARSWELL IS THE 9TH IMPACT PROGRAM FOR SOUTHEASTERN
- THE CARSWELL IMPACT PROGRAM HAS BEEN UNDER DEVELOPMENT SINCE FEBRUARY 2004.
- THE CARSWELL PROGRAM IS 100% FUNDED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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# Making an IMPACT

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## Brooks



Brooks' raiser team:  
Daisy and Kathy

Brooks' is being raised by Daisy Maggard, along with her backup, Kathy O'Connor. Brooks will spend two weekends a month in a home environment with his weekend puppy raiser, Stacy Rimmer.

was an extremely funny moment for us."

"Let us tell you that Brooks is a curious little fellow. When we walk Brooks he must check everything out. Last night when we took him for his last walk, it was dark. Brooks could see our silhouettes on the ground. He would just pounce on the ground at what we thought was nothing. Bouncing and chasing. Then we figured out that Brooks was chasing our shadows. It

## Challenger



Challenger's raiser team:  
Kershena and Andrea

Challenger is being raised by Kershena Fleskes and her backup, Andrea Stevens. Challenger's weekend puppy raiser is Dr. Allison.

"Challenger has already proved his name. He is not only challenging, but adventurous too. This puppy loves to explore and play with his brothers. He is a bundle of joy and love. He makes this program well worth all the effort."

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## Honor

Honor is raised by Stefanie Roberson and her backup Michelle Dodd. Honor's weekend puppy raiser is Jennifer Pratt.

"Honor is a very inquisitive little puppy. He loves to explore everything that blows in the wind. His favorite thing is to carry the leaves in his mouth and romp around with them as if they were alive!

Honor is a very happy and a very special puppy. One day he will make a great companion for someone in the future."



Honor's raiser team:  
Stefanie and Michelle

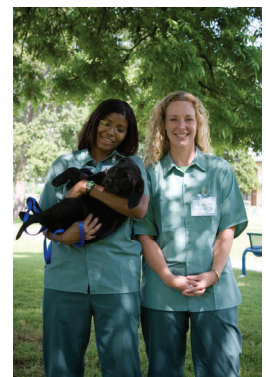
## Walker

Walker is being raised by Francine Holland and backup Eryn Pressley-Vevers. Walker's weekend puppy raiser is Janet Mills.

"Let us tell you about Walker, the toy thief. From day one Walker has taken all the toys from the other puppies and put them in his crate.

Once he has them all he lays there and guards them all and does not let any of the others play with them. If the other puppies get a toy he leaves the one he's playing with to retrieve it from them and takes it back to his original toy. Walker can never have enough toys to play

with. He is a true "toy hound"."



Walker's raiser team:  
Francine and Eryn

## Making an IMPACT—Texas Style

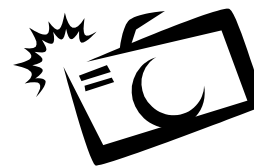
### INMATES PROVIDING ANIMAL CARE AND TRAINING



Southeastern Guide Dogs' mission is to offer free of charge, a unique opportunity to achieve independent travel with safety and dignity to blind men and women, through the use of professionally and humanely trained guide dogs. Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. operates as a not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

For more information on Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc, go to [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org). For information on the Texas IMPACT program, contact Teresa Pool at 972.208.0577 or email at [Teresa@TransitionsForLife.com](mailto:Teresa@TransitionsForLife.com).

IMPACT photos on the web!  
[www.public.fotki.com/photodon/impact](http://www.public.fotki.com/photodon/impact)



## IMPACT Champions Corner



They're here! The FMC Carswell and SEGDI IMPACT teams together on P-day.

It truly takes a village to put together a program like this. People and organizations came together in amazing ways to make this program happen. BIG thanks to you all. There is only space here to begin showcasing our IMPACT champions.

The IMPACT team: my right, and left, hands for getting all the I's dotted and T's crossed during the journey. Thanks for making my dream a reality!

- Suzanne Branch
- Leslie Cechan
- Meg Roerick
- Sara Street

The Carswell team: our "red tape" specialists, for all their tireless work on the prison side and selecting the perfect raisers. Thanks for never giving up!

- Melanie Pedersen
- Robert Honshtein

The IMPACT Coordinator, Karen Babcock: the life blood of IMPACT, for embracing the dream and making it her own. Your life will never be the same, chick!

Angel Flight: for transporting our puppies and their support staff from SEGDI's Florida headquarters to their temporary home in Texas.

Our company donors:

- IBM, for a grant enabling us to purchase all of the equipment needed to get us started.
- Natural First, for feeding our puppies during the entire program.
- VCA Fort Worth Animal Medical Center, for donating veterinary care.
- Lupine, The Kong Company, Nylabone and PetSmart, for donating supplies and toys.

The SEGDI North Texas puppy raisers: for *everything!*  
More to come in future issues!