

# New Leash On Life USA<sup>®</sup>

## 2024 IMPACT REPORT

### SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2024:

**99** justice-impacted people served across **3** programs

**22** at-risk dogs rescued and adopted into forever homes

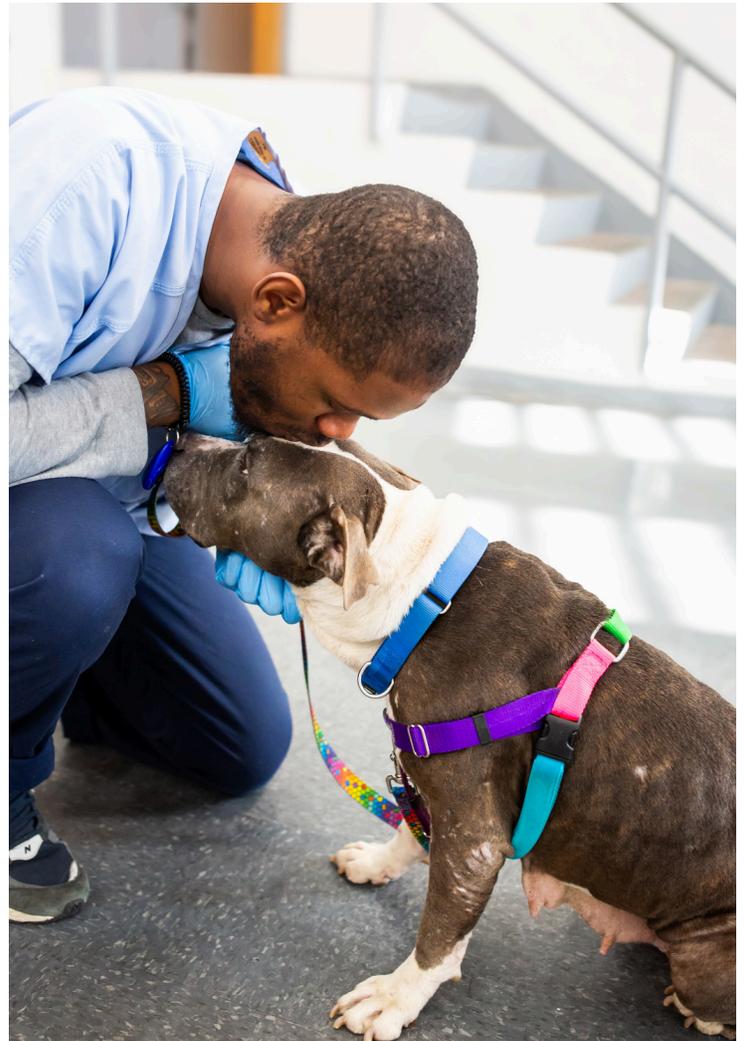
**75%** graduation rate

**23** records expunged

### OVERALL, OUR GRADUATES ACHIEVE LONG-TERM SUCCESS:

**74%** employment rate

**10%** 1-year recidivism rate



**“Having people in my ear that reminded me about my goals, cheering me on because I’m reaching my goals, made me feel like I was actually accomplishing something. I would come to New Leash, and they would help me get the things I needed. There was a lot of pressure on me, but because I went through what I did, I’m a lot stronger, and I can support those around me.”**

**- Prison Reentry Program graduate Amir**



## MEET TROY

When **Troy** joined the New Leash program, he saw an opportunity for a fresh start—but one challenge stood out: dogs. “I was scared of dogs, so working with them was something different for me.” Paired with Jupiter, a sick dog in need of love and care, Troy learned patience, a skill that transformed his mindset. A defining moment in prison proved his growth: “Our living quarters were robbed, but I didn’t want to take matters into my own hands. I was able to let it go.”

After his release, New Leash helped Troy secure a job, access resources to pay his outstanding gas bill, and land a paid internship, where he worked for over a year.

Today, Troy thrives as a health care provider, where he applies the same patience he showed Jupiter to his clients. Beyond work, he’s rebuilt his personal life. “I spend more time with my kids; I have become a family man.” Celebrating over a year of steady employment, Troy is proud to have stayed off the streets and has big dreams of opening a used car lot. His journey is a testament to resilience, growth, and the power of fresh starts

## HAPPINESS BREWED FOR BISCOTTI

Philadelphia police found **Biscotti** and his brother abandoned and sick, but still adorable and friendly. In the shelter, Biscotti was anxious due to illness, but New Leash knew he would thrive in our program. Despite treatment, Biscotti’s health declined, and he was rushed to the ER with infectious pneumonia. He spent the night in the veterinary hospital receiving intravenous antibiotics, fluids, and consistent oxygen therapy. Thankfully Biscotti responded well to treatment and after his release he greeted his handler with a sweet little burst of energy and climbed right into bed to cuddle.

Though he initially struggled with socialization, Biscotti found a loving home with a previous New Leash adopter. Now, he enjoys parks, breweries, and even overcame his fear of water to swim on a family trip to Michigan!



# POLISHED PIEROGI

**Pierogi** was found as a sick stray in Philadelphia and taken to the city shelter, where staff loved his goofy personality but worried about his anxiety and high energy. When New Leash rescued him for our Philadelphia Department of Prison's reentry program, we knew we were in for a challenge. To our surprise, Pierogi thrived, graduating with flying colors and even completing advanced training. However, his excitability and anxiety made it difficult to find him a home.

That's when SCI Chester stepped in. As our newest program site, SCI Chester's population includes incarcerated individuals with previous dog experience who were willing to take Pierogi and continue his training. Pierogi was paired with his perfect person. A seasoned dog trainer serving a life sentence, Mr. Mason gave Pierogi the 24/7 routine, guidance, exercise and love that Pierogi was craving. Within weeks, this excitable pup was a model citizen - so much so that the impressed prison administration adopted him so that he could stay permanently with this beloved handler. From goofy pup to role-model ambassador dog, Pierogi happily greets all the New Leash dogs as they arrive, demonstrating that with love and patience, any dog can have a fresh start.



## MEET JAY\*

When **Jay\*** started the New Leash Young Adult Reentry/Diversion program, he knew it offered him a chance to step into something immediately helpful, structured, and refreshing. "It was like a breath of fresh air," he says. "The workshops felt more like a classroom, and everyone was in the same boat, working toward the same goal." For him, that group setting became more than a schedule—it became a community. "We all started speaking to each other, talking to one another," he recalls. "It didn't feel forced. New Leash allowed us to—with structure—be us still." What stuck with him most? The shared humanity. "We were all really the same. Everyone wants the same balance—we're just going about it in our own ways." Jay says he completed the program more grounded. "How I viewed my conduct changed. I know how to conduct myself, I know what kind of situations to put myself in and what not to. I felt lighter." Today, Jay works as a package handler at a shipping warehouse, a job he's held since October 2020. He's focused on keeping his mind clear and avoiding chaos. "Stay thankful, stay faithful—that's it," he says.

\*Name changed to respect anonymity

# REASONS TO CELEBRATE



**Val** (pictured left), a graduate from our Valentine's class, found her forever home after 8 months of searching. Today she is a spoiled dog who wears raincoats when there is a slight drizzle.

**Graduates of our 36th session at the Philadelphia Department of Prisons** (pictured right) celebrate at their graduation ceremony after completing 3 months of intense programming.

