

Avery's Interview Room

We converted an office into a special interview room for those who need Avery's support during meetings in our office. Avery's interview room has comfortable furnishings, soft lighting, whimsical decorations and toys for children.



"Avery has helped me very much! He knows how I'm feeling and he will come right up to me and cuddle with me when I ask. Or he will 'visit' and put his head on my lap. He is so relaxed and it calms me down so much."

~ teenaged victim



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Facility Dog Program



Meet Avery

ABOUT OUR FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office places a strong emphasis on victim services. The crimes we prosecute are some of the worst imaginable, and the victims have long and tough roads to recovery.

Although we work hard to protect victims, the criminal justice system can cause what is known as "secondary victimization" to people who have already been traumatized. Children and people with disabilities can be especially fearful of talking about a traumatic event in front of a courtroom full of strangers.

The Facility Dog Program seeks to put victims and witnesses at ease so they can confidently and accurately testify.

Our Labrador-Golden Retriever, Avery II, is specially trained to sense and respond to the emotional needs of humans. When a victim is upset or stressed, Avery shows that person affection. His unconditional love and relaxed personality provide comfort to everyone he meets.

Avery visits with victims and witnesses who are particularly distressed while meeting with the prosecutor and victim advocate in our office. Additionally, Avery can accompany children to court and sit with them while they testify.

It is the goal of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office to ensure justice for every crime victim. We believe our Facility Dog Program greatly enhances our Victim Services Division.



MEET AVERY!

Date of birth: August 1, 2011

Weight: 69 lbs.

Breed: Labrador-Golden Retriever

Hobbies: Chasing his tennis ball, chewing his squeaky porcupine, playing with his buddy Bogey.

Commands: Avery knows approximately 40 commands, including "visit," "lap," "shake" and "push."

Training: For the first 15 months of his life, Avery lived with a puppy raiser who was tasked with teaching Avery basic commands and how to behave in public as an assistance dog. Avery was then returned to a training organization to undergo two weeks of testing and screening. The next six months were spent learning specialized commands, role-playing in various work environments and undergoing further screening for placement. Finally, Avery's primary and back-up handlers trained with Avery for one week at Canine Companions for Independence.

Handler: Melanie Hart

Backup Handler: Jean Johnson

Job Description: Avery sits with victims of traumatic felony-level crimes to put them at ease while meeting with the prosecutor(s) who will handle the case. Victims who are either children or disabled can have Avery accompany them to court. Avery helps to ensure that the criminal justice system does not further traumatize victims and witnesses.



OUR SPONSORS

Canine Companions for Independence

www.cci.org



CANINE COMPANIONS

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a non-profit provider of assistance dogs and is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

CCI trains dogs in four assistance categories: service dogs, skilled companions, hearing dogs and facility dogs. CCI provides assistance dogs at no charge.

Pet Supplies Plus

www.PetSuppliesPlus.com

PET SUPPLIES PLUS Besides selling food, toys and bedding,

Pet Supplies Plus offers grooming, self-service pet wash stations and adoption at social events. There are more than 250 locations in 23 states. Pet Supplies Plus is donating Eukanuba dog food, grooming and other non-medical items to help us care for Avery.

Stow Kent Animal Hospital

www.WeTreatPets.com



Stow Kent Animal Hospital has provided quality care in a warm and friendly atmosphere to area families since 1967. They offer a wide range of services at two locations with

convenient evening and weekend hours. Douglas Paroff, who provides health care for Avery, is a graduate of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and has been an associate veterinarian with Stow Kent Animal Hospital for 15 plus years.