

Delightful Dogs!

Warm fuzzies from prisoner-dog trainers



A professional cuddler

I'm not going to sit one of the dayrooms among people who lead risky lives or just plain don't care whether they get (or give) COVID. I don't want to get sick, so I spend a lot of time in my room, or in places with the dog away from as many others as possible. In this we dog handlers are fortunate as we have areas behind the unit, the old visiting yard, and an unused greenhouse where only we can go. It is an indescribable joy to be away from all the yelling, blasting music, and Romper Room-like behavior of far too many of my peers. When it is too cold outdoors, or one of the other units' dog programs is using the greenhouse, the highlight of my day becomes a nap with Pippin. She is a professional cuddler, wiggling as close as possible, all the while ensuring her belly is up for a good rub until she's asleep and snoring loud enough to rattle the walls.

Wanted for theft: Bubbles

Two of our guys made burritos because it is irradiated guppies and cathead day in the chow hall. Mr. R stepped out to heat his wraps while Mr. G was at the table with their dog. Someone said, "Where's Bubbles?" which always gives handlers' hearts a flutter, when we can't immediately account for our fur babies' whereabouts. They found her in Mr. R's room chowing down for all she was worth on his 5 remaining burritos! When G yelled she grabbed another and raced from the room trying to swallow it as she dodged people. What makes this funny is she rarely eats her Kibble, apple, or bits of hot dog that she is given, but for some reason whatever was in G's cook-up appealed to her appetite and she consumed more in two minutes than she'll eat in three days.

Welcome to Hell

**A hell erected and maintained by human-governments,
and blessed by black robed judges.**

**A hell that allows you to see your loved ones, but not to
touch them.**

**A hell situated in America's boondocks, hundreds of miles
away from most families.**

**A white, rural hell, where most of the captives are black
and urban.**

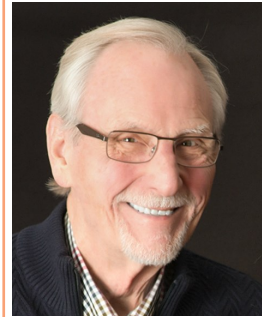
It is an American way of death.

— Mumia Abu-Jamal, All Things Censored

From the desk of Doug:

HFP Framework Outstanding!

The word "infrastructure" has a long history, but people didn't really start using it very much until about the 1980s. I don't think I had ever heard of the word before that...and



then it became almost overused. It most often refers to our highways, bridges, dams, canals, power lines, etc.

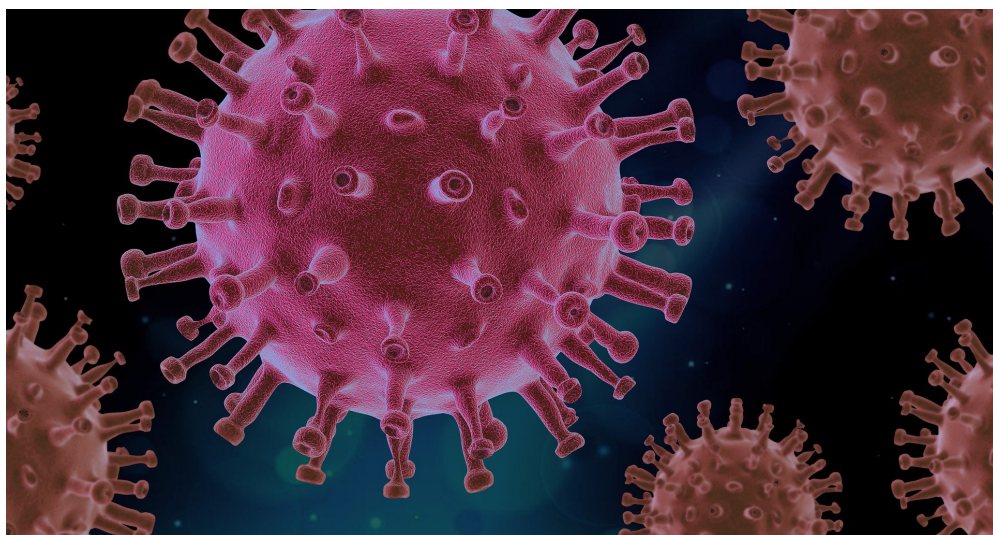
I was thinking of that word, using it incorrectly, after several recent meetings. I attended our annual Board of Directors meeting. Shortly after that I attended one of our board committee meetings. Shortly after that I attended one of our weekly staff meetings. And I was so impressed...impressed with all of the structure that we now have, and the people who make this operation run so smoothly.

Mr. Roget, however, informed me that I was using the wrong word...I was really thinking about the word "framework."

Well, regardless of the semantics, this month I want to offer high praise to every person who serves on our staff, our board, our committees, our bevy of volunteers, and our panel of advisory experts.

Each of you is a cog among the many gears in this well-oiled machine now running so smoothly, and I join thousands of Michigan prisoners in thanking you!

***"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."* — Andrew Carnegie**



COVID Comments

Punishment for getting sick

From Mr. J at Muskegon Correctional Facility

Over the past four to five weeks, this prison has seen a resurgence of COVID infections. I tested positive for the second time on January 18. Like the last time, I didn't experience many symptoms. Not many guys here had symptoms either, although there were some who were clearly sick, but most did not test positive. Those of us who did went to the hole, where we stayed until there was no more room, and then we were moved to the gym where about 60-70 men lived for two weeks before we were allowed to rejoin the population. Many guys here are older, have health concerns, and are considered at risk to this virus. The solution of isolating us in the hole with no power or fresh air, or in a gym with two sinks and two toilets to share between everyone is worse than the virus itself. Not to mention, communication with loved ones was ripped away suddenly, precisely when support is needed. It was the equivalent of punishment for getting sick.

Food worries

Mr. C from Richard A. Handlon CF, Ionia

On 12/27/21 they started testing all prisoner workers here before they went to work outside the cell block. On 1/12/22 they asked for volunteers to work in food service because so many food service workers had tested positive and were quarantined. On 2/1/22 they stopped testing prisoner workers because they feared that if they continued to be tested there would not be enough uninfected prisoners to run food service. So now you go to eat and take the chance that your food was cooked/served by someone with COVID. We have 2 cellblocks where COVID-positive men are quarantined, and last night they moved more positives here from the Bel-lamy Creek prison across the street. That seems to suggest that they ran out of places to put them.

Encouragement from an HFP Donor

Hi Doug,

You, Matt, and your team sure had a good year in 2021, yet so much to do. I just continue to be impressed with how you all keep on, keeping on. Congrats on the great year and for all the prisoners and their families, thanks so much for your major contribution to help these people, in so many ways, just survive.

You'll want to miss this!

HFP Humanity for Prisoners
Action with Compassion

Unball

2022

Every April you have the opportunity to say "no" to another fundraiser

Watch for an invitation
Watch for further information

The popular HFP Unball—plan now to not attend next month!



You'll want to hear this!

HFP Podcasts coming soon

HFP President Matt Tjapkes has started production of a podcast series called "Voices of Humanity." Matt and his father Doug, both veteran broadcasters, will tell the HFP story, with the help of numerous guests. The show will answer such questions as what is HFP, when did it start, how did it start, what does it do, who does it help, and what can I do to help? More information coming online at humanityforprisoners.org/podcasts.