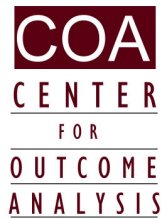


Canines in Corrections: A Qualitative Analysis



Center for Outcome Analysis

*Longitudinal Study of Outcomes and Costs of
New Leash On Life USA*

Outcomes Brief Report #2

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Abstract

We conducted a post-test only qualitative analysis of perceptions of well-being among participants in a recently initiated prison canine training program. The program was a 10 week “live-in” design, in which four dogs rescued from imminent euthanasia were placed with 8 inmates of the Philadelphia city jail’s Alternative Sentencing and Detention Unit for 10 weeks. The participating inmates were taught general animal care and specific training techniques. Each dog passed the Canine Good Citizenship test at the end of the 10 week program. Each participant inmate received a certificate of completion of the animal training curriculum. At the end of the 10 weeks, researchers interviewed participants about their motivations to participate in the program, hope for their future after their release, and perceptions of personal well-being. Two of the Correctional Officers most involved in the program were also interviewed. Interviews were transcribed and organized according to qualitative analytical procedures. This investigation yielded several themes regarding the value of the program and reasons for encouragement about the value of such programs.

Introduction & Literature Review

This report is the first in a series based on the Philadelphia Prison System's decision to pilot test, and then expand, a "Prison-Based Animal Program" (Furst, 2011). The name of the program is New Leash on Life USA, and it is based on saving dogs condemned to euthanasia, training / retraining the dogs to make them suitable for adoption into loving families, and training prisoners to become fully competent trainers. The unusual leadership of this program, and the support generated in correctional and philanthropic circles, has created a rare opportunity for high quality scientific evaluation of the processes and outcomes of such a program. This report is the first in this new body of work, and it begins with a qualitative analysis of the motivations, expectations, and experiences of the first six graduates and two of the involved Correctional Officers.

The modern history of programs of this sort can perhaps be traced back to 1975, where inmates were observed cooperating to protect and nurse an injured sparrow. The benefits of this first program were immediate (Ormerod, 2008). Other attempts to catalogue the various programs exist, largely focused on those in the US (Furst, 2006; Strimple, 2003).

Benefits to the dogs are evident: many of these dogs would otherwise be put down and their continued life can be considered an immediate benefit without reference. However, studies have shown us that dogs trained in these programs display decreased aggression (Haynes, 1991), and are better trained than those trained outside of the prison environment (Harkrader, Burke, Owen, 2004).

Benefits accrue for the humans involved in such programs as well. Prisoners displayed lower blood pressure (Katcher, Beck, Levine, 1989). The administrators and correctional officers in the prisons demonstrate lower blood pressure as well, along with

increased morale. (Harkrader et al., 2004). Past studies have also begun to document increases in various social skills, including increased sense of responsibility, higher self-esteem, and more highly developed compassion for other humans (Harkrader et al., 2004; Furst, 2006; Turner, 2007). These observations have received support from biochemical research (Hennessy, Morris, Linden, 2006). Moreover, there are more tangible vocational skills gained by the participants (Furst, 2006; Harkrader et al., 2004).

In addition, a few preliminary studies suggest that recidivism rates are lower among populations that have been exposed to these programs (Strimple, 2003; Turner, 2007). This is valuable to both the inmates on a personal level and society as a whole, by easing the financial burden and increasing the level of positive involvement. Prisons that have these programs demonstrate the latter effect on a personal level, and tend to see the inmates as “engaging in positive work and as serving the community” (Furst, 2006). Specific parts of society also benefit, as some programs produce ‘service’ animals for groups such as veterans and the disabled (Hershman, C. L., 2008; Fales, 2007; Smith, 2011).

Methods

Program Description

New Leash on Life USA (<http://newleashonlife-usa.org/>) was founded in 2010 primarily as a way to save dogs, particularly pit bulls, from destruction. By the time the first cohort of participants began training, New Leash was also aimed strongly at benefiting the participating men, by teaching them concrete skills that might heighten hope and self-esteem, and potentially to be useful post-release. According to the information on the group’s website:

New Leash on Life USA is a new generation prison dog-training program that saves the lives of shelter dogs by training and socializing them to enhance their adoptability while helping inmates learn to train and care for dogs.

With New Leash on Life USA, dogs live in the cells with their inmate trainers 24/7, making New Leash dogs highly desirable for adoption and ensuring the long-term success for both humans and dogs.

New Leash on Life USA provides:

- *Weekly sessions with professional trainers, animal behaviorists and veterinary technicians.*
- *Job readiness and life skills courses to improve successful reentry and employability for inmates upon parole.*
- *Scholarships for paroled inmates for additional training and education in the animal care field.*

The program has been privately funded via donations from local philanthropic donations. The Philadelphia Prison System, including its Commissioner, has been strongly supportive from the beginning – a factor that the program’s founders believe to have been crucial during early implementation.

The training agenda includes:

- Two hours classroom learning twice a week about dogs including health, care, and training,
- Two to three hours of hands on work with the dogs with an expert trainer
- Weekly classes in life skills for post release adaptation, provided by a private nonprofit agency with experience in prison education
- Canine Good Citizen testing at the end of the 10 weeks, which serves as the criterion for both dog adoptability and participant receipt of certificate.

Participants

Participants were six males in the custody of the Alternative and Special Detentions (ASD) division of the Philadelphia Prison System and two Corrections Officers working on the same unit. The ASD unit was designed for low risk inmates, men who were judged likely to behave well and take educational and rehabilitative programs seriously.

The six inmates in this study were members of the New Leash on Life (NLOL) Program which in turn made them eligible to participate in this study. Inclusion criteria for inmates were therefore identical to the eligibility criteria for the New Leash on Life Program. Corrections Officers were a self selected sample of ASD staff that volunteered to be part of the study. Inmate participants comprised six of the eight initial members of the NLOL program.

Of the eight initial members of NLOL five of the six graduating members of the program were included in addition to both non-graduating members. Two of the eight original participants committed an infraction that resulting in isolation, and thus could not complete the program with their own class.¹ The sixth graduating member elected not to participate in the study.

Materials

Materials included a simple instrument with six guiding qualitative assessment questions. The questions follow:

- Why do you want to be (or why were you) involved?
- What do you think you'll get (or what did you get) out of it?
- Do you think you will (or did) establish a connection with your dog?
- Do you think it will (or did) succeed and why?
- Do you think this program will be (was) good for anyone – participants, dogs, guards, managers, society?
- What do you think this will mean for you when you get out?

Procedures

Both inmate and Corrections Officers were interviewed near the completion of the NLOL program. Instrument questions were read by interviewers with follow up probing utilized as deemed appropriate. Interviews were recorded and then transcribed by a

¹ One of the two did join in a later class, and is expected to complete the program.

research team member. Interviews were reviewed and summarized by research staff and findings were reported on.

Analyses

Interview transcripts were read and reviewed by the research team. Responses were condensed and re-categorized into four major sections: joining, gains, effect on relationships, and the future. Each interview was scanned for responses that fit the nature of these categories and a quotation file was synthesized.

Results

After collecting data, transcribing, and reviewing the various accounts of the participants' experience with the program, our preliminary analysis identified four major recurring themes. The program's impact is discussed in sections that reflect these themes. The sections follow a soft chronological order through the participants (1) becoming motivated to join the program, (2) gaining valuable skills during the training process, (3) developing new relationships through their time with the dogs, and (4) looking to the future.

Motivations for Joining

When questioned at the beginning of their involvement with the program, participants had a wide range of reasons for participating in the NLOL curriculum. The only recurring motivation for participants joining the program were variations of "Because I like dogs" (How many?) and "it sounded like a cool thing to try" (How many?). However, the most interesting responses were the unorthodox ones. A few of the participants, it turned out, did not even want to be in the program.

“Honestly, I didn’t want to join. They came around with papers saying ‘do you want to sign up for the New Leash on Life program?’ I said yeah, so I signed it, but then they said you’ve got to move to D-block, and I was on B-block, but I didn’t want to move over there so I didn’t want to participate in the program, and Martin the guard told me ‘you ain’t got no choice, now you in a hole.’ ”

This quote is drawn from the inmate who was later unanimously described by NLOL staff as the most successful member of the group. This participant was initially so uncooperative that there was serious discussion about removing him from the program. It turns out that not only would removing him from the program have been a grave mistake but his early frustration seems crystal clear in hindsight. This

One of the great concerns in the early stages of the NLOL implementation was a spreading rumor that participants would be paroled upon graduation from the program. It is unclear exactly how this story was birthed, but it presented a potential danger in that the NLOL program had no authority whatsoever over this aspect of inmate life. There was concern that members of the group would expect this benefit and would become confrontational if graduation prompted release did not become a reality.

“Cause it’ll help me go home, yeah, and I was scared of the dogs so I thought this would be a good program. I thought it would be a good program to help me get over the fear of dogs.”

This hurdle became a reality when after graduation members of the program were not all immediately released.

Personal Benefits

In response to the questions about what they thought they'd get out of the program, the most common answers involved Training, Responsibility, Patience, and the Chance to Save Dogs

“I didn't really have expectations, all I want to do is save a dogs life, give him another chance”

Another comment illustrated responsibility:

“So it just helped me prioritize, like I might not want to deal with him that day, but I got to deal with it, that's how I be with my son. Yeah, like he got to rely on me, he can't just get up and do what he want when he want to do it. That's how it is with your kid. So it just helped me just get my priorities together, and my responsibilities.”

And another reflected a new sense of developing identity and purpose:

“Well being in the streets I lost exactly who I was and started people pleasing, and then everybody, and trying to be the best at everything that I forgot who I was. By having Cash with me for these past three months took me back. ”

Even the men who committed an infraction that got them removed from New Leash continued to feel caring, responsible, and affectionate toward their assigned dogs:

“I think it did [succeed] and then again it didn't because it did for some and it didn't for some, it's crazy because there were eight of us and now there's what six of us but they brought my celly [cellmate] back even though they kicked him out of the program already but he's still willing to help because that's how much he love Paris you feel what I'm saying?”

The Corrections Officers commented, at times, on their observation of rather remarkable changes among the participants:

“I saw a big change in some of the inmates. A lot of the inmates that had that ‘I don’t care’ attitude started to appreciate a few things a little more. I saw them caring about something other than themselves, and having to take care of something other than themselves...they were being a little more productive, sociable, and a lot calmer.

Effects on Relationships and the Environment

The presence of the dogs appeared to have an effect on the prison environment as a whole. Participants described interactions between inmates and correction officers as being less tense.

“When it all started off there was a lot of, a little, a little tension on and off... but after a while everybody, I don’t want to say everybody take a liking to each other but everybody understands each other now, and there hasn’t been any crashing heads in like over a month. And everybody’s just been uh, and everybody helped each other out, and the next dog and we all pulled through...”

As evidenced by this participant’s quote, the inmates were able to bond with both their dogs and each other once there was less tension. This participant observed a change in the way the inmates understood each other. A few participants reported that the experience of working with others was a change for them. Teamwork was a theme that emerged throughout the group’s responses to many of the questions.

“Yeah it was different cause I ain’t never been to work with nobody else so it was like a team thing, it was something new.”

This program gave participants the opportunity to learn social skills through training the dogs. Another participant shared his reaction to witnessing his peers interact with the dogs:

“I saw them caring about something other than themselves, and having to take care of something other than themselves.”

The implication behind this quotation is that these men tended to take care of number one, and spent little time or energy on others, human or animal. Many were surprised by the connection they formed with their dogs. One participant mentioned that even the correction officers and other inmates who were not in the program got attached to the dogs.

“The dogs not only helped the individuals that trained them get through their time, but a lot of the people that’s living in the area, and on other blocks...Four dogs, the whole jail.”

The interviews revealed a trend toward group bonding and mutual assistance to “do good time and get out.” There were comments about teamwork that were surprising to the men themselves.

“It just, it brings, the atmosphere is a lot different with the dogs in the jail, cause people are a lot more at ease, then all tense and you know.”

“Yeah it was different cause I ain’t never been to work with nobody else so it was like a team thing, it was something new we grew a bond, I mean like everybody just really like clicked with each other.”

“...pretty much everybody in the program was kinda close, we grew a bond, I mean like everybody just really like clicked with each other.”

“When it all started off there was a lot of, a little, a little tension on and off. More so like attitude and to talking too much and what you say is annoying, and take time for me to give all the time, but after a while everybody, I don’t want to say everybody take a liking to each other but everybody understands each other now, and *there hasn’t been any crashing heads in like over a month*. And everybody’s just been uh, and everybody helped each other out, and the next dog and we all pulled through, everybody.”

“Yeah it did. The CO’s got attached to the dogs also the inmates that weren’t involved in the program got attached to the dogs and stuff.”

And this expression of improved attitude:

“[The program] helped me, like, be more calmer, cause I knew I had stuff to work for”

One participant expressed a surprised “Yes” to the question “Did you think you established a connection with your dog?”

“Yes I did. No, I wasn’t expecting it, it kind of surprised me. Once I got him, and then once they took him that one day, that’s when I knew that I was attached.”

Hope About The Future

Another theme that emerged throughout the discussion was the future. The inmates discussed a more positive future that they attributed to their participation in the program. Many participants referenced a future career in dog training.

“[The program] helped me, like, be more calmer, cause I knew I had stuff to work for.”

When further probed, participants described the job and self-regulatory skills that they expected to use in the future.

“Responsibility, patience, a lot of patience. It’s just, I don’t know, and I like to train the dogs, like I liked, yeah I can see me doing that like as a job.”

This quote demonstrates how this program fostered a sense of job-readiness within the participants. Another participant described how he planned to use this training to his advantage:

“Yeah, it’ll help me in the long run. Say I go to the SPCA...I’ll be like I’ve got experience with dogs and I show them the paper that I graduate even if

it's from jail, I show them that and they won't say nothing. I show them that paper, you never know and they, they hire me."

This participant felt confident that they would be able to get a job in the field of dog training after he was released. Having a sense that there will be job opportunities once they are released from jail can motivate the participants to seek them out. It gives them hope for a better future, rather than just returning them to the same situation they were in before they were incarcerated. Another participant went into detail about their view on dog training. He describes the skills he acquired as a trade.

"I was taught how to groom a dog, and cut their nails, how to brush their teeth a certain way you know, and basically just the whole training process. At first it was a little complicated but as you go along with it, yeah it gets easier. Yeah, basically like a trade."

And this insight from another:

"Yeah, it'll help me in the long run. Say I go to the SPCA...I'll be like I've got experience with dogs and I show them the paper that I graduate even if it's from jail, I show them that and they won't say nothing. I show them that paper, you never know and they, they hire me.

Even the correction officers who were interviewed described a better future for the inmates and the dogs.

"All the dogs passed. And we turned these guys into trainers, whether they know it or not, you know."

Discussion

The qualitative interviews with the first class of New Leash participants were highly informative. The participants were universally positive about the program. Their comments to our structured interview questions tended to fall naturally into four themes:

- 1) Why they got involved and what they expected to get out of it.
- 2) Perceptions of what they actually got out of it.
- 3) Effects on relationships and the environment in the jail.
- 4) Hopes about how this might help them in their post-release re-entry life.

The interviews very strongly supported the inference that the program was valued and valuable. The participants were very glad to have had the chance to have a dog partner and to learn how to train an animal without force or punishment. They hoped their participation would help them get out sooner and stay out when they did leave.

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Appendix: Outcome Evaluation Instruments

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FOR
OUTCOME
ANALYSIS

Informed Consent Form: New Leash on Life Outcome Studies

TITLE OF THE PROJECT:

New Leash on Life (NLOL): *Outcome evaluation of a dog training program for inmates*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this evaluation is to find out about the New Leash on Life prison dog training program. The goal is to learn how inmates and staff feel about the program and how it works for them.

You have been selected by the Alternative and Special Detention (ASD) social work department because you are: 1) in the ASD Unit at the Philadelphia Jail system, 18 years or older; can speak and understand English, have no history of animal abuse, are not being discharged in the next few months, and are a participant in the New Leash on Life dog program; 2) If you are a Philadelphia Prison system employee, you are being asked to be in this study because you are either an officer with the Alternative and Special Detention Unit, or an administrator of this unit. If you are not your own guardian, or have a primary diagnosis of Mental Retardation, or organic brain syndrome, you cannot participate in this study.

INVESTIGATOR

Principal Investigator: James Conroy, Ph.D., Center for Outcome Analysis, Inc., 426 B Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083.

The interview you are being asked to do is part of a program evaluation (research) project.

If you have any questions about this research you can call Dr. Conroy at 610 668 9001. If you have any problems during the study you can ask Dr. Conroy any time.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURES

If you decide to be in this study, you will be one of about 12 inmates or 6 ASD staff in this study.

By consenting to participate, you agree to do four 15 minute interviews, two early in the project, and two at the end. We will also ask to interview you between 3 and 6 months after your release. The interviews will be done face to face. Parts of the interviews will be audio recorded. If you choose to participate you will be asked to speak freely about the NLOL program and yourself.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

This study seeks to learn about your opinions and experiences with the New Leash on Life dog program. By participating you may think more deeply about how this program has affected you and/or your environment.

You might not benefit from being in this study. Other people in the future may benefit from what the researchers learn from the study.

Your participation in the program will not affect your sentence or services.

RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

One risk to taking part in this study is that you may be asked questions that you may feel are personal. You do not have to answer a question if you do not want to.

If during the interview you tell us that you feel unsafe, threatened, or suicidal, we will report that to people who can help.

Second, there is always a risk of loss of confidentiality when personal data are collected. However, the study team will take steps to make sure that this will not happen, by keeping your information in locked cabinets and by not using your name and other information that can identify you on the audiotapes or transcribed interviews. Instead of your name, we will put a coded number on your completed taped interviews. This helps to protect your confidentiality. We will also store anything that has your name on it in a separate file away from your interview tape and transcript. If we write a journal article or present the results of this study at a conference, no one will be able to tell that you were in this study from the information presented.

ALTERNATIVES

The other choice is to not be in the study. You need to know that any services you receive from the ASD including your ability to be a participant in the NLOL prison/jail dog program will not be affected if you choose not to participate in this study. For jail employees, you need to know that your decision with regard to participation in this study will not affect your employment nor will your decision be shared with your supervisors.

PAYMENT

There is no guarantee of payment for taking part in this outcome study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your personal information will not be shared with anyone working for the prison.

All information, recordings, and records relating to your participation will be kept in a locked file and destroyed after three years. Only the researchers, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health Institutional Review Boards, and the US Food and Drug Administration will be able to look at these records. If the results of this study are published, no names or identifying information will be used.

Any information about child abuse or intent to harm self or others will be reported to authorities, as required by law.

REASONS YOU MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE STUDY WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT

If health conditions occur that would make staying in the study possibly dangerous to you, or other conditions occur that would damage your health, the researchers may take you out of this study.

NEW FINDINGS

If any new information develops that may affect your willingness to stay in the study, you will be told about it.

INJURY

If you are injured as a result of this study, the researchers will immediately refer you to the appropriate care. You will not be reimbursed for care or receive other payment. The Center for Outcomes Analysis is not

responsible for any of your bills, including any routine care under this program. If you believe that you have suffered injury or illness in the course of this research, you should notify Dr. Conroy at 610 668 9001 with the help of Social Services.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

You may refuse to be in this study. You voluntarily consent to be in this study with the understanding that all the possible effects of this study are known. If you do not wish to be recorded during interviews the recording device will be turned off whenever you want.

You may leave this study at any time.

If you drop out of this study there will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. Dropping out of the study will not affect your care or employment at the Alternative and Special Detention Unit. If you leave the New Leash on Life program you may continue with the study.

If you have any questions about research participant's rights you can contact the Research Participant Coordinator, Philadelphia Department of Public Health Institutional Review Board, at 215-685-7630 with the help of Social Services.

Consent Signature Page

I have had adequate time to read this form and I understand its contents. I have been given a copy for my personal records which will be stored by the warden.

I agree to be in this research study.

Signature of Subject: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____AM/PM

Signature of Investigator or Designee (circle one)

Date: _____ Time: _____AM/PM

Qualitative Interview of New Leash on Life Participants

These questions are to be asked as open-ended questions and recorded.

- 1. Why do you want to be (or why were you) involved?**
- 2. What do you think you'll get (or what did you get) out of it?**
- 3. Do you think you will (or did) establish a connection with your dog?**
- 4. Do you think it will (or did) succeed and why?**
- 5. Do you think this program will be (was) good for anyone – participants, dogs, guards, managers, society?**
- 6. What do you think this will mean for you when you get out?**

Prison Quality of Life Scale (PQOLS)²

New Leash on Life Outcome Analysis

Instructions - Give this page to participants

The survey is made up of a bunch of statements about your life here. We'll ask you to say **how true** each one is for you right now.

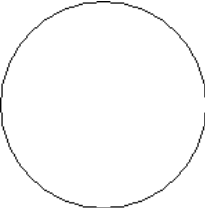
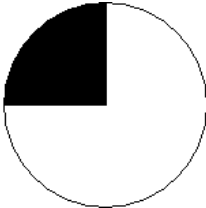
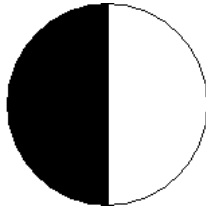
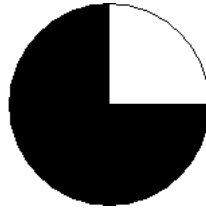

The survey takes around 20 minutes.

The survey gives you a chance to talk about your experiences in this prison. The consent form already told you that you don't have to do this, and you can stop at any time. Nothing bad will happen if you refuse to do this survey.

The surveys will be stored securely. Access to the data will be restricted to the project team members. The findings will be used to figure out how well this program is doing, and in research reports. No names will ever be used.

The numbers go from 1 which means "Never True" to 5 which means "Always True."

Example: The sun comes up in the morning. *Is that true or not true?*

				
1 Never True	2 Sometimes True	3 Half the Time	4 Usually True	5 Always True

² The items in this survey were derived by the Center for Outcome Analysis directly from items used in the following questionnaires: the Cambridge University Prisons Research Centre "Measuring the Quality of Prison Life Questionnaire," the Multidimensional Anger Inventory (MAI), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the K10 Anxiety and Depression Test, and the Meaning in Life Questionnaire

1=Never True 2=Sometimes True 3=True About Half the Time 4=Usually True 5=Always True	1-5
A. Institutional Structure and Administration	
1) You get help from staff here when you need it.	
2) Overall, you are treated fairly by staff here.	
3) You are encouraged to work towards goals here.	
B. Relationships with Staff	
4) Relationships between staff and prisoners here are good.	
5) You trust the staff here.	
6) Staff here understand you.	
7) You relax around staff here.	
C. Relationships with Inmates	
8) You laugh with other inmates here.	
9) You relax around other inmates here.	
10) You try to get even when you're angry with someone.	
11) Here, you have to be careful of inmates around you.	
D. Dignity and Respect	
12) You keep your dignity in here. (<i>Have been able to keep dignity</i>)	
13) Staff treat you with respect here.	
14) You have something to be proud of. (<i>...about your life in here</i>)	
E. Autonomy	
15) You can earn trust from the staff here if you want to.	
16) You have control over your day-to-day life here. (<i>You can make decisions about what you do every day without people telling you what to do</i>)	
17) You can act natural here.	
F. Anger / Stress	
18) It is stressful to be here.	
19) It is painful to be here.	
20) You think about suicide here.	
21) Something makes you angry almost every day.	
22) You get so angry, you feel like you might lose control.	
23) When you get angry, you stay angry for hours.	
G. Security	
24) Prisoners feel safe from each other in here.	
25) Prisoners feel safe from staff here.	
H. Clothes and Grooming	
26) You can keep clean and decent here if you want to.	
I. Sleep and Waking	
27) You sleep well at night.	
J. Living Conditions	
28) Your living conditions are good here.	
K. Privacy	
29) There is privacy here.	
L. Hope	

30) Your life is worthwhile.	
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M. Recent Emotions	
Over the past 30 days you have been feeling...	1-5
31) ...so nervous that nothing could calm you down? (<i>really nervous, shaky</i>)	
32) ...hopeless? (<i>no hope of having a good life</i>)	
33) ...so restless you could not sit still? (<i>really jittery</i>)	
34) ...depressed?	
35) ...so sad that nothing could cheer you up?	
36) ...worthless?	
37) ...hopeful about the future?	
38) ...proud of what you're doing? (<i>with your whole life</i>)	

About You

This information will be kept secret.

- 1) How old are you? _____ years
- 2) How long have you been in this prison? _____ months
- 3) How long is your sentence? _____ to _____ months
- 4) How many times before this have you been imprisoned? _____
- 5) How old were you the first time arrested? _____
- 6) How old were you the first time you were imprisoned? _____

7) What do you tell people your race is? (Select all that apply)

Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White
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8) What's your marital status? Married Divorced Separated Never Married

9) How many children? _____ (0 if none)

10) How far did you go in school – what grade, college too _____
(10=10th grade, 12=high school grad, 16=college grad, and so on)

11) Can you think of any important question about your life that we should have asked but didn't?

12) Is there anything else you'd like to put on the record about the New Leash on Life program?

New Leash On Life USA

Qualitative Post-Graduate Follow-Up Interviews

Qualitative Interview of Former New Leash on Life Participants

These questions are to be asked as open-ended questions and recorded.

- 1. What is your memory about why you got involved with New Leash?**
- 2. What do you think you got out of it?**
- 3. Looking back, how do you feel about the connection you had with the dog you trained for New Leash? (*Probe strength, surprises, & separation.*)**
- 4. Do you think New Leash succeeded for you? (*Good, how good, any idea if it made it more likely that you'll stay out.*)**
- 5. Do you think New Leash was good for anyone – participants, dogs, guards, managers, society?**
- 6. Did your work in the New Leash program mean anything when you got out?**
- 7. What have you been doing since getting out? (*Probe for work history and specifically aim to get how many months out of the months since release gainfully employed.*)**
- 8. Tell me about where you lived when you got out, and where you've lived since then.**

Quantitative Post-Graduate Follow-Up Interviews

Ratings of Quality of Life Changes

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Ask the person to rate the qualities of his/her own life “BEFORE” and “NOW.” For people living at this setting, this means trying to remember what life was like before they moved here, versus right now.

Each quality item is approached as two “Either-Or” questions. For example, the first Either-Or question on the first item is “Would you say your health is good or bad?” (In between is implied, if the person says “neither” or “OK” or “neither” or any similar response. But answers like that have to be checked by probing with “Oh, so it’s in between, not really good or bad?”) Once the person answers, for example, “good,” the follow-up is a second Either-Or question: “Would you say good or very good?”

1	2	3	4	5	9
Very Bad	Bad	In Between	Good	Very Good	Don’t know, N/A

Before (Back at the Facility)	Now	
1B	1N	1 Health
2B	2N	2 Running my own life, making choices
3B	3N	3 Family relationships
4B	4N	4 Relationships with friends
5B	5N	5 Getting out and getting around
6B	6N	6 What I do all day
7B	7N	7 Food
8B	8N	8 Happiness
9B	9N	9 Comfort
10B	10N	10 Safety
11B	11N	11 Treatment by employers/bosses
12B	12N	12 Health care
13B	13N	13 Privacy
14B	14N	14 Overall quality of life