

GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE ADOPTS ONE OF SEVEN PUPPIES RESCUED IN DRUMORE TOWNSHIP

Golden retriever takes up residence in Laurel View memory support household

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Dec. 1, 2010 — Memory may fail, but no one who has loved an animal ever forgets the joy that a wagging tail can bring to a household. That's how one of seven puppies abandoned in Drumore Township came to call Garden Spot Village "home."

Jan Mills, director of special services at the retirement community, was on her way into work when the staff of the community's Laurel View memory support unit called. They had seen the article about the puppies in the morning paper and had already called Beth Willis, who found the dogs and agreed to hold one for them.

"All they needed was a green light from me, and I said, "Absolutely!" said Mills.

Mills didn't hesitate, because she knew she had support from management. Laurel View, which serves about 23 individuals with dementia from various causes, had a dog previously. That dog has since gone to live with a staff member, and the residents had been without a dog for several months.

"At Garden Spot Village, management is willing to do things for the benefit of the residents. Having a dog gives an extra dimension," she said. "This is normal living. People have pets."

Mills said that Laurel View residents have reacted very positively to the six-month-old golden retriever puppy. The many dog lovers are excited to have him, and they have named him "Buddy."

"One man who has been dealing with some personal losses recently is now smiling," Mills said.

The fact that the staff is committed to having a dog is important. Team members on each shift volunteer to take care of the dog. Weather permitting, Buddy can play in an enclosed courtyard or go for walks, once he is trained to a collar and leash.

"He's still feeling pretty shy, but he'll learn he has a nice life here," Mills said.

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Carrie Hornbaker (left) and Barbara Ulsh welcome Buddy to the Laurel View memory support household at Garden Spot Village. One of seven puppies rescued this week in Drumore Township, buddy will provide companionship for residents who suffer from dementia.