



Prosecuting Attorney
County of Summit

NEWS

**For Immediate Release:
Monday, August 26, 2013**

CONTACT: April Wiesner

Phone: (330) 643-8386

wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Summit County Prosecutor Introduces Facility Dog

Avery II enhances victim services in Summit County

AKRON, OHIO – August 26, 2013 – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today introduced Avery II, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office facility dog. Avery is a specially trained two-year-old Labrador-Golden Retriever mix who helps crime victims and witnesses overcome their fears and stress that often result from participating in a criminal case.

“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 situation in front of a courtroom full of strangers. Even coming to our office to talk with a prosecutor can be scary,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Avery is specially trained to soothe victims so that they can clearly communicate what they’ve been through.”

Avery was trained and provided by [Canine Companions for Independence](#) (CCI) at no cost. All of his food, grooming and other supplies are being donated by Pet Supplies Plus. His veterinary care is provided free of charge by Stow Kent Animal Hospital.

“Pet Supplies Plus is delighted to meet all of Avery’s grooming needs and to partner with Eukanuba to provide his food supply,” said Dave Bolen, CEO of Pet Supplies Plus. “This is an excellent opportunity for us to be a part of our local neighborhood and support a very valuable service.”

“Stow Kent Animal Hospital wishes to thank Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office for allowing us to be participants in this exciting program,” said Dr. Thomas Albers, who started the practice with his wife Carmela. “Stow Kent Animal Hospital and Dr. Paroff are excited to begin this new endeavor and are honored to be chosen as the providers of Avery’s health care so that he may look forward to many years of providing emotional support to the citizens of Summit County.”

“I am encouraged by the community’s support for our new facility dog program, and I am grateful to Canine Companions for Independence, Stow Kent Animal Hospital and Pet Supplies Plus for partnering with us,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Avery will help many crime victims in Summit County.”

You can stay up-to-date and find pictures of Avery on his Facebook page:

www.Facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII.

About Canine Companions for Independence

Founded in 1975, Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Learn more at www.cci.org.

-more-



Prosecuting Attorney County of Summit

About Pet Supplies Plus

In 1988, Jack Berry and Harry Shallop came up with the novel idea of opening a supermarket-style pet food and supply store in Redford, Michigan. Nearly 25 years later, Pet Supplies Plus has over 250 neighborhood locations in 23 states, and continues to grow across the country. Learn more at www.PetSuppliesPlus.com.

About Stow Kent Animal Hospital

At Stow Kent Animal Hospital and Portage Animal Clinic, we know how much pets mean to our clients. Pets are a vital part of the family and they bring joy to our lives. When they hurt, we hurt with them. Since we first opened our doors in 1967, we have strived to provide quality veterinary care in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

We offer many services to meet the health care needs of dogs, cats and exotic pets. On top of preventative healthcare we also offer surgery, ultrasound, digital X-ray, endoscopy, diagnostic imaging, full hospitalization services and chemotherapy treatments. We understand the busy schedules and needs of our clients and offer convenient evening and weekend hours as well as extended payment options for your pets care.

-30-

Note: A fact sheet on Avery is available [here](#).