

Puppy Love

By Beth Ipsen, PIO
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Kentucky puppies named after Alaska State Troopers

BEHIND BARS – Puppies Trooper Anne, on left, and Trooper Aileen look expectantly from their kennel.

There is a litter of Alaska State Troopers in Kentucky that is in need of a good home. Inspired by the show on the National Geographic channel, the Humane Society of Nelson County in Bardstown, Ky. named six puppies after troopers, most of whom were featured on the show. Several of the junior volunteers with the Humane Society of Nelson County are fans of the show, according to Laura Higgason, the education coordinator and dog trainer for the Humane Society. After six tiny Blue Heeler mix puppies were anonymously dropped off at the shelter one night, the young volunteers wanted to name them after Alaska State Troopers. They promptly named the two males Trooper Dan Dahl and Trooper Howie Peterson. The Trooper Dan puppy is mostly brown and aptly named after the only brown shirt of the bunch. Otherwise, the puppies were randomly named without any consideration for their personality or likeness. Trooper Howie is almost all black.

Higgason contacted the AST Public Information Office for four names for the females left in the litter. Trooper Aileen has black around her eye that resembles a bruise, Trooper Amy is multi-colored and Trooper Anne and Trooper Honie are both mostly silver. Trooper Honie has a black smudge above her eye. Troopers Aileen Witrosky, Amy Bowen and Anne Sears are also featured on the show.

“Trooper Aileen is the bruiser,” Higgason said. “We put collars on the



PLAYTIME – Laura Higgason, the education coordinator and dog trainer for the Humane Society of Nelson County, gets mobbed by puppies named after Alaska State Troopers.



puppies yesterday. She was trying to chew everybody’s collar off. She was dragging Honie around by her collar.”

The dogs are kept at a shelter that is run by the non-profit humane society. The humane society is funded by donations and grants and relies heavily upon volunteers. Higgason is one of the few paid staff at the humane society. The shelter has 10 adoption kennels, three isolation kennels and six puppy pens for dogs. The trooper litter is separated between two pens with Howie, Anne and Amy in one and Aileen, Dan and Honie in the other. Higgason said Howie naps a lot and Amy and Anne spend most of their time wrestling and rolling over their napping pen mate.

“Anne just runs the show in her puppy pen,” Higgason said. “She’s the serious one.”

The 7-week-old puppies became available for adoption after they were sprayed and neutered on Dec. 30. It costs \$100 to adopt a puppy – money that covers the cost of spray or neuter surgery, first set of shots, worming and microchips. So far they’ve had their first set of puppy shots, two wormings, have microchips and a flea and tick treatment. They’ll receive future treatments as long as they’re still at the shelter. Higgason has also works with rescue transportation groups in the area to help get adopted animals with new own-



Trooper Aileen is a bit of a bruiser & very curious & not afraid of anything.

Trooper Amy is a little quieter than the others - but not afraid to mix it up & she also has no fear when it comes to new situations.

Trooper Anne is a very take-charge kinda girl & somewhat serious.

Trooper Dan is also very curious & usually the first to go in & investigate.

Trooper Honie is very sweet & inquisitive - she's always like 'hey, what are you doing' & 'I think I need to be in on this situation'

Trooper Howie is more laid back & really enjoys nap time.



ers in other states in case anyone in Alaska wants their very own Alaska State Trooper.

The puppies featured on the [Petfinder](http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?animal_type=Dog&shelter_id=KY33&sort-pet.Identifier) website at http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?animal_type=Dog&shelter_id=KY33&sort-pet.Identifier.

There's a photo of each puppy wearing a Santa cap and a profile.

Higgason said one person in Ohio has submitted an online application to adopt a trooper puppy. People who apply to adopt an animal from the Humane Society of Nelson County go through a bit of a background check to make sure a pet is most compatible with the family and lifestyle.

"I can't let the trooper puppies go to someone that might be a criminal," Higgason said.

