



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT  
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



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**For Immediate Release**

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**Courthouse Service/Facility Dog Honey Achieves Certification**



**WOODSTOCK, IL** — The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is proud to announce the successful certification of Honey, a 9-month-old Golden Retriever, as a service/therapy dog through the Masonic Association of Service and Therapy Dogs (MAST®). Honey's certification marks a significant step forward in enhancing the supportive environment of the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center.

Honey has completed a rigorous 12-week obedience class and field training provided by Jay Reed, MAST's Program Director and a retired Paramedic. In addition to his work with Honey at the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center, Jay has collaborated with local police departments, helping to develop their own therapy and service dog programs, including K-9 Officer Chance from Elgin Police Department and K-9 Officer Oakley from McHenry Police Department, and Louie from the McHenry County Department of Probation and Court Services.

"Congratulations to Honey, and Dan Wallis for all of the hard work and training that went into Honey's certification as a service/therapy dog. Honey has become a very special part of our 22nd Circuit Court family, and we're very fortunate to have her here" said Chief Judge Michael Feetterer.

**The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.**

Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center  
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Research highlights the substantial benefits of having a facility dog in courthouse settings, emphasizing their ability to alleviate stress and create a calming environment for all court attendees. Facility dogs like Honey are not just a soothing presence; they actively contribute to more effective judicial processes. Studies indicate that these animals can significantly reduce psychological distress such as anger, anxiety, depression, and overall stress, which are often exacerbated in the high-pressure environment of courtrooms and hallways of the Judicial Center. Notably, their presence can lower a person's heart rate and blood pressure. Case studies have demonstrated particularly profound impacts on vulnerable groups such as children and trauma victims, who may face difficulties in testifying. The calming effect of a service/therapy dog helps mitigate the emotional strain of court proceedings, making the legal process less daunting and more compassionate for those involved.

“Since her arrival, Honey has become an integral part of our courthouse family. We’ve witnessed countless moments where her presence has turned stress into smiles for everyone from children, adults, attorneys, judges and court employees. Honey doesn’t just roam the halls; she connects with people, offering a gentle nudge, a calm sit, or even a hug at just the right moment. It’s truly heartening to see her in action, particularly with children, it can be powerfully emotional.” said Dan Wallis, Trial Court Administrator for the 22nd Judicial Circuit and Honey’s primary handler. “I want to thank everyone who has helped make this project a success, including Jay Reed, Animal Hospital of Woodstock who donates veterinary care for Honey, and Pet Supply Plus in Crystal Lake who donates her food.”

For more information about the Honey and her role within the 22nd Judicial Circuit, please contact Court Administration at [courtadmin@22ndcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:courtadmin@22ndcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov) or if you would like you can follow Honey on Instagram, @honey22ndcircuit.

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