



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:

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## Summit County Prosecutor's Office Receives Second Facility Dog

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, August 23, 2023) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh happily announced today that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has received a second facility dog to assist crime victims, witnesses, and their families. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is the first prosecutor's office in Ohio to have two facility dogs.

Adam VII is a two-year-old Black Labrador-Retriever mix, specially trained by Canine Companions. Adam joins Avery at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Avery just recently turned 12-years-old and will slowly ease into retirement after working at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for over ten years.

"I am so pleased to have another facility dog in my office to help crime victims and their families. I have seen the tremendous work Avery has done over the past ten years and look forward to watching Adam grow and help Summit County citizens," said Prosecutor Walsh. "When I first decided to get a facility dog for the Prosecutor's Office, many people questioned me and even pushed back on the idea of bringing a dog into court. But after seeing Avery at work, I can't imagine not having a facility dog to help crime victims, especially children."

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Adam, as well as Avery, was trained and provided by Canine Companions at no cost. All of Adam's food, grooming, and other supplies are being donated by Pet Supplies Plus. Adam's veterinary care will be provided free of charge by Stow Kent Animal Hospital.

Adam's primary job is to provide emotional support to children who are crime victims and witnesses, specifically children and adults with developmental disabilities. Because of the serious nature of the crimes we prosecute, the victims and witnesses who come to our office are typically severely traumatized. Avery calms these adults and children, helping to reduce the likelihood of them becoming traumatized again.

Adam will accompany victims and witnesses to meetings with prosecutors, and numerous court appearances, including suppression hearings, competency hearings, trials, and sentencing.

Avery also attends two specialty courts in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. One is our drug court, called The Turning Point Program. The other is our Valor Court, which handles cases involving veterans. Avery helps to relieve the stress of both participants and their family and friends. When participants graduate, Avery brings them a special treat. Adam will fulfill many of those same tasks.

People can follow Adam's journey as a Summit County Prosecutor's Office Facility Dog on social media.

For Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP>

For Instagram – @SCPOAdam

Avery is also on social media.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII>

Instagram - @averyscpo

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorSherriBevanWalsh>

Instagram - @prosecutorwalsh

X (Twitter) - @prosecutorwalsh

In 2013, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office was the first prosecutor's office in Ohio to get a facility dog. Since then, Avery has worked with 278 victims from 222 cases. Of the 278 victims, 215 were under 18-years-old. In nearly 50 cases, Avery has sat with a victim as they testified at trial. Avery has also attended over a dozen competency hearings.

### **About Canine Companions**

Canine Companions is leading the service dog industry so our clients and their dogs can live with greater independence. We provide service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings. Since our founding in 1975, our dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to our clients. Learn more at <https://canine.org>.

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**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 pet's care.

**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](http://www.PetSuppliesPlus.com).