M E M O R A N D U M

**TO: RANDY POE, SUPERINTENDENT**

**BONNIE RICKERT, CHAIRPERSON**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**FROM: KATHLEEN G. REUTMAN**

**DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2018**

**RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE BOONE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS AND COMMON SCENTS CANINE CENTER, INC.**

The Boone County Alternative Programs has started the “Every Dog Everywhere Initiative”. The mission statement if: Boone County students helping to give dogs a second chance through professional dog training and care. The Alternative Center for Education (ACE) has acquired a rescue dog, also named Ace, who they anticipate will make a good therapy dog for students. A previous MOU for training was dissolved due to unforeseen circumstances.

With over 30 years in the business of behavior modification, **Common Scents** understands the advantages and disadvantages of both positive and negative reinforcement training, and have developed a training philosophy which incorporates elements of both.  Based on the principle of establishing authority (benevolent leadership) rather than dominance (intimidation), they first build a positive foundation for desirable behavior through a system of positive rewards.  Next, they demonstrate how to maintain desirable behavior, while at the same time preventing the dog from becoming dependent on the reward.   Success is achieved by first demanding a specific level of performance for a reward ("raising the bar"), and then advancing to reinforcement on a random basis, where the expectation of a reward is ever present, even though the reward may not be.

​**I have attached a signed copy of the Memorandum of understanding for your reference**.

***I recommend the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Common Scents Canine Center Inc., as presented***