

Facility: Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre  
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## Ruff justice for Houdini hound



### ANTHONY GOUGH

MEET Iya, the Houdini hound turned prison pooch whose escape-artist ways led to a spell in the slammer.

The canine crim with a penchant for jail-break spent three weeks in Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre through its partnership with the RSPCA, and with some help from her fellow inmates came out a changed dog.

RSPCA behaviour and enrichment trainer Kevin Gregor said Iya was surrendered in July but was sent to the clink after they found walls were no match for her.

"She warmed up quickly to us, (but) then she started her escape artist thing," he said. "We've got eight-foot fencing around our kennels...but she can pull herself up on to that and walk foot-over-foot like a tight-rope along the top and jump in with the other dogs and make friends."

After a stint as a

jailbird in one of the RSPCA's empty aviaries, Iya was sent to the big house in Wacol, where she spent three weeks being trained by inmates through a prison foster program.

"We thought that would be perfect, because if she could escape out of there she might give people a few ideas... (but) we didn't hear any reports," Mr Gregor said.

"The guys there did an awesome job with her.

"By the time she came back she could sit, stay, lie down, a whole selection of different things, and she was a lot calmer."

Mr Gregor said the program had made a "huge difference" to Iya and other dogs, and the organisation regularly returned to give prisoners brush-ups on their training techniques.

"What happens with the program is we've found it's been really great for the dogs and immensely successful for the prisoners too," he said.

Iya is now looking for a new home, and while she's a lot calmer since her prison term, Mr Gregor said she was ideally an inside dog as her escape-artist tendencies had not gone completely.

An Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre spokesman said the partnership was therapeutic for the prisoners.

"It's a good program for our prisoners, it teaches them how to nurture animals and gives them a feeling of looking after something," he said.

"If you have a look at some of the prisoners that have been involved, it has changed their whole outlook."