**Celeste Walsen, DVM**

Celeste Walsen, the Executive Director of the Courthouse Dog Foundation, assisted in the creation of the Courthouse Dogs Foundation in 2008. Celeste has raised four puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind and Canine Companions for Independence. One of those puppies was Jeeter’s sister Junie, who also became a service dog. Celeste also served on the Board of Directors for the non-profit organization Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue.

Celeste graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Psychology and obtained her degree in veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Celeste facilitates the scientific research in this field between the assistance dog organizations, the academic community, the courthouse facility dog handlers and the Courthouse Dogs Foundation.

Celeste provides expert advice on best practices for the successful incorporation of a facility dog into office, child advocacy center and courthouse settings.

In May, 2014, Courthouse Dogs Foundation received the [2014 Victims’ Rights Partnership Award](https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/26167-2014-victims-rights-partnership-award-courthouse) from the National Crime Victim Law Institute for collaborative work in advancing the rights of crime victims.

In August 2017, the Foundation received the Paul Chapman Award for the Improvement of Justice for Legal Reform and Child Protection. <https://justiceawards.com/recipients/>