

Puppies for PAROLE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Puppies for Parole is the result of DOC's partnerships with animal shelters and animal advocate groups throughout the state. Selected offenders volunteer as dog trainers to rescue dogs in the program, teaching basic obedience and socialization skills to the canines, ultimately making them more adoptable. Once the dogs have successfully completed the program they are placed up for adoption.

FACTS

- 🐾 To date, 108 dogs have joined the program
- 🐾 63 dogs have successfully been adopted
- 🐾 The majority of Puppies for Parole dogs are adopted by Department of Corrections Staff
- 🐾 149 offenders have been selected for the program to learn the trade of training dogs



PROGRAM FUNDING

Puppies for Parole uses no general revenue. Supplies and support come from our partnering organizations. Donations from offender organizations also support the program. Soon, community members will be able to contribute. As of July 1st the department is approved to receive private donations. DOC staff are in the process of establishing a not-for-profit group for this purpose.



OFFENDER BENEFITS

- 🐾 Offender trainers gain vocational skills and learn responsibility
- 🐾 Opportunity for offenders to repay the community

INSTITUTIONAL BENEFITS

- 🐾 Presence of the dogs boosts staff morale and offender morale
- 🐾 Program is an incentive for offenders to modify their behavior
- 🐾 Puppies for Parole dogs also used in the hospice units and in work with offenders battling mental illness. The dogs have had a profound and therapeutic effect on their treatment.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- 🐾 Opportunity for the DOC to provide a service to the community
- 🐾 Reduce the number of homeless canines euthanized in Missouri each year. In 2009, more than 46,000 homeless canines were euthanized in the Show-Me State.

For more information, please visit our web site at <http://doc.mo.gov/division/dai/puppies.php>

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