Award-Winning Program

In October 2010, the Puppies for Parole program received the 2010 Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity in the Innovation category. This is a team award recognizing service excellence, efficiency, innovation, technology, process improvement and employee development in Missouri state government.

Funding the Program

The Puppies for Parole program does not receive any general revenue funding from the state to support its activities. Rather, supplies and support come from partnering organizations, donations from offender organizations, individual offenders and community members.

Donations

Community members may donate to the Puppies for Parole program by visiting our website at doc.mo.gov/DAI/P4P_Donations.php and by following the instructions provided. To donate with a check or money order, please mail it to:

Puppies for Parole
Susan Wood, Comptroller
Missouri Department of Corrections
2729 Plaza Dr.
PO Box 236
Jefferson City, MO 65102

All donations are used directly to benefit the Puppies for Parole program.

Missouri Department of Corrections

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor
George A. Lombardi, Director

For more information about Puppies for Parole visit **doc.mo.gov**

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Puppies For Parole

Rescuing dogs from a lifetime of pain ... releasing people to a lifetime of change.

About Puppies for Parole

Puppies for Parole is a unique program made possible through a partnership between the Missouri Department of Corrections, animal shelters and animal rescue groups. Selected offenders at participating institutions volunteer as dog trainers to teach basic obedience and socialization skills to the rescued canines, ultimately making them more adoptable. The program provides a valuable service to local communities while having a profound effect on the entire institutional population and staff. Once the dogs have successfully completed the program, they are placed for adoption.

Offender trainers are enrolled in an apprenticeship program through the U.S. Department of Labor. Through formal training, individualized study and on the job training, offenders earn a certificate in animal handling, which is recognized in all 50 states.

Puppies for Parole was established to prevent the euthanization of healthy animals. As an added benefit, the program makes prisons safer by cultivating compassion within the prison population.

– George A. Lombardi
Department of Corrections Director

Program benefits

The benefits of the Puppies for Parole program are three-fold. The program gives offenders the skills necessary to support successful rehabilitation and re-entry, which ultimately improves public safety. At the same time, this is an opportunity for the offenders to begin to repay Missouri communities and repair some of the debts caused by their crimes. The department has witnessed this program have a profound effect on offenders and staff, increasing the safety and security of the facility.

Benefits to the Community

- Reduces the number of dogs euthanized and living in animal shelters throughout the state
- Provides trained dogs to citizens with special needs

Benefits to the Offender Trainers

- Gain vocational skills and learn responsibility
- Provides an opportunity to repay their debts to the community and learn altruistic behavior

Benefits to the Correctional Institution

- Boosts staff and offender morale
- Provides an incentive for offenders to modify their behavior
- Enhances safe environments in prisons
- Promotes mental health in prisons
- Offers therapeutic treatment to offenders with mental or terminal illness

Since the beginning...

On Feb. 1, 2010, the department welcomed its first dogs into the program, and since then, Puppies for Parole has expanded to 19 institutions and has found homes for thousands of dogs.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has supported the expansion of this innovative program. In addition to training shelter dogs for household pets, the program has evolved into training canines as certified helper dogs. These dogs are being trained in the Advanced Puppies for Parole Program. To learn more about the Advanced Puppies for Parole Program or to learn more about adopting a certified helper dog, visit our website at doc.mo.gov.

Advanced P4P dogs have been trained for children and adults with special needs and as canine therapy dogs. The Advanced P4P program has trained dogs to be used in Missouri courts for children testifying in difficult cases. In addition, the program has trained dogs for placement in veterans' homes and skilled nursing facilities, and trained dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD.