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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

July 7, 2011

WRDCC celebrates one year anniversary of Puppies for Parole

On July 6, 2011, Western Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center celebrated the one-year anniversary of their Puppies for Parole program. Volunteers from Friends of the Shelter, animal control and rescue staff, institutional staff, and the offender trainers came together to acknowledge the anniversary and success of the program. Friends of the Shelter organized the celebratory event.

The Puppies for Parole program is a cooperative effort between Western Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center and the St. Joseph Animal Shelter. The program is operated solely on donations and is sponsored by Friends of the Shelter. This program is designed to train offenders to teach socialization skills and provide nurturing to the dogs. The dogs live with the offenders during the training, which includes providing obedience and house-training skills, proper diet and health monitoring, and preparing the dogs for adoption. There are several benefits from this program, such as saving the dogs from euthanization, developing stronger community ties, and teaching offenders skills that will assist them in their rehabilitation. Since beginning the program on July 7, 2010, 68 dogs have successfully graduated the program and been adopted. In addition, there are currently 12 dogs in training in the program.

For adoption information or to make donations to Friends of the Shelter, please contact St. Joseph Animal Control and Rescue at (816) 271-4877. For more information about the Puppies for Parole program or to see dogs currently in the program you can go to <http://doc.mo.gov/> and click on the "Puppies for Parole" link.

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