



2021 PROPOSAL
**ADDITION OF
NEW INDUSTRY**
Dog Daycare & Grooming

*Submitted by Stefany Bawek
Director, Pheasantland Industries*

About Pierre Pups

A new service of Pheasantland Industries, Pierre Pups would provide dog daycare and grooming services at its industry annex to be located near the South Dakota Women's Prison campus in Pierre.

A team of specially-selected inmate handlers will be responsible for providing the care and grooming of the enrolled dogs. Each care and grooming worker will undergo extensive hands-on instruction and complete coursework to achieve a high level of expertise.

If approved, Pierre Pups would become the tenth traditional industry shop overseen by Pheasantland Industries, and the first to be operated full-time at the Women's Prison since the Data Entry & Scan Bureau was closed at the end of FY 2017.



Proposed Services

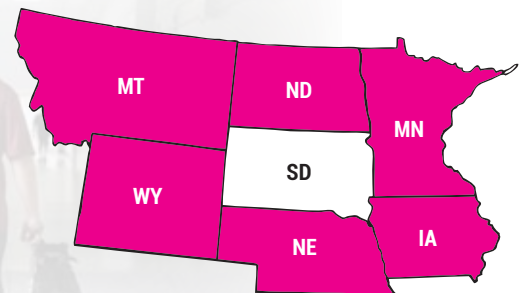
The **Pierre Pups** services will be available Monday thru Friday in Pierre to Pheasantland Industries customers on a first come, first served basis by appointment. Dogs live at home and will be dropped off at our care facility before being escorted by full-time staff where their care is turned over to an experienced team of inmate dog care and grooming workers.

Customers will provide all food, treats, and toys, as well as a leash and collar. Any associated veterinary care will be the responsibility of the owner/customer and restrictions may apply for dogs with medical issues or those requiring medication dispensed during the day.

All grooming will be subject to the owner's approval and individualized to meet a dog's immediate and/or long-term needs.

These prison systems have dog programs.

Some programs consist of public-private partnerships training shelter dogs or service animals, while others operate as part of a state's prison industry organization.



Logistics

Facilities. The state is in the midst of acquiring a building and property adjacent to the Women's Prison complex and could prove suitable to support a care and grooming facility. The former Sharpe building would be an optimal site as it is conveniently located for our customer base to access and utilize our services and be in close proximity to the Women's Prison to support a prospective workforce comprised of female minimum security/work release inmates.



Program Capacity. Our scalable plan calls for the gradual increase of enrolled dogs based on numerous factors including local demand for services, training of workers, and our available space.



Full-time Staff. Duties relating to the administrative supervision of the program and direct supervision of the inmate handlers will be assigned by the Director of Pheasantland Industries to a full-time Shop Foreman.



Inmate Handlers. Pheasantland Industries plans to hire and train a team of inmate dog care specialists comprised of up to twenty five (25) workers, one serving in the capacity of team leader. Full-time staff will establish selection criteria and training curriculum for all inmate workers. Those inmates considered for care and grooming positions will undergo a thorough screening process to ensure they possess the aptitude, character, and personality before undertaking the extensive training program.



Additional workers may be hired to work in a support capacity such as assisting with the check-in, drop-off and pick-up of enrolled dogs.



Financials. Since Pheasantland Industries is a self-supporting enterprise of the Department of Corrections, Pierre Pups will not receive taxpayer funding. This fiscal year, in spite of the effect of Covid-19 on our business operations, Pheasantland Industries is still expected to increase revenue over last year. This new industry is entirely service-based, thus it does not require us to finance extensive equipment or carry an inventory of raw materials. Primary expenses are inmate payroll and the addition of a full-time Shop Foreman position.



Governor Noem visited the Embroidery Shop during a tour of SDWP, August 2019.

More Opportunities for Female Inmates

Approving the addition of a new, full-time industry shop at the South Dakota Women's Prison would make a real and significant step in realizing Pheasantland's commitment toward expanding its female workforce and increased employment and vocational opportunities for female inmates at SDWP.

Program Benefits

Pierre Pups represents a new pathway to opportunity for our female inmate workforce and its benefits would be three-fold. It creates new jobs enabling inmates to gain valuable skills and work experience in an occupation that is in demand, which will further help support successful reentry. The program also promotes positive behavior by the inmate population, and serves to improve staff and inmate morale, which positively affects the safety and security of the institution.



Helping Inmates

A 2016 study from the University of Oregon found that Prison Animal Programs that bring inmates and dogs together consistently reported improvements to inmates' self-esteem, ability to empathize, and helping make positive behavioral changes. Positive behaviors identified include responsibility, overall conduct, and actions during incarceration.



Responses resulted in the following five behavioral and practical outcome findings.

FINDING 1 - Improved Responsibility

FINDING 2 - Improved Behavior

FINDING 3 - Improved Belief in Ability to Accomplish New Things

FINDING 4 - Changed Outlook on Life after Parole

FINDING 5 - Changed How Others Viewed Them

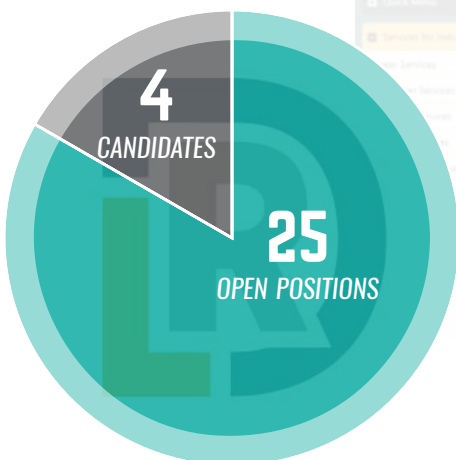
“I’ll take the higher road because I have a responsibility to something else.”

Comment from an Iowa inmate describing his dog's influence on his behavior in prison.

89% of inmates interviewed indicated that caring for and training dogs in prison was a big responsibility that helped them become more responsible in other areas of their lives.

South Dakota Labor Statistics

(Current as of June 2, 2020)



Job Market

There is a high demand for experienced workers with the skill set of our inmate handlers. According to the South Dakota Dept. of Labor & Regulation, there are currently **25 vacancies** in the state for Nonfarm Animal Caretakers, but only **4 potential candidates** for those positions.

In 2019, American consumers spent \$10.3 billion on pet services.

These services include obedience training, grooming, pet sitting, boarding, insurance, and other services not including veterinary care.



Employment of animal care and service workers is projected to **grow 22 percent** from 2016 to 2026.

Source: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation