

2021 PROPOSAL

Addition of New Industry

Dog Daycare & Obedience Training



A New Leash on Life.

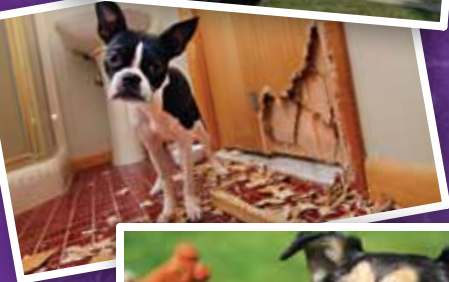
*Submitted by Stefany Bawek
Director, Pheasantland Industries*

About Pawsitive Prep

A new service of Pheasantland Industries, Pawsitive Prep would provide dog daycare and obedience training at its main campus on the grounds of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

A team of specially-selected inmate handlers will be responsible for providing the care and training of the enrolled dogs. Prior to interacting with the dogs, each handler will undergo extensive hands-on instruction and complete coursework to achieve a high level of expertise.

Each dog will be paired with a handler for general obedience training and specialized, individual instruction to correct any specific negative behavior identified by owners.



Proposed Services

Pawsitive Prep services will be available Monday thru Friday in Sioux Falls to Pheasantland Industries customers on a first come, first served basis by appointment. Dogs live at home and will be dropped off at the PI Main Office before being escorted by full-time staff onto the penitentiary grounds where their care is turned over to an experienced team of inmate trainers.

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 training will be subject to the owner's approval and individualized to meet a dog's immediate and/or long-term needs. Our dogs not only gain behavioral instruction but socialization skills as well, and will be provided the opportunity to develop additional skills such as:

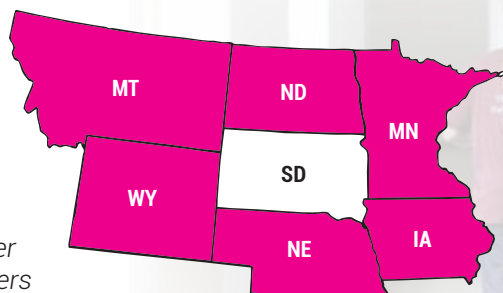
- Basic obedience and manners
- Negative behavior correction
- House training
- Confidence, social attitude
- Tricks

Service Expansion. Though not an initial service, **dog grooming** could be a possibility in the future depending on its demand and feasibility.

We would also like to erect a second set of kennels at the PI Main Office to facilitate the easy drop-off and pickup of dogs.

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. A set of kennels, installed inside PI Building 2, will house the dogs during the lunchtime meal and count period while in the care of their inmate handlers. Pawsitive Prep will utilize available space in the building for kennels as well as indoor training space to accommodate the program during cold and inclement weather. The primary outdoor training area will be the grassy areas near the school building and the West Hall/Captain's Row courtyard.



Program Capacity. Our initial plan calls for the gradual increase of enrolled dogs to a ceiling of five (5) dogs, with the ratio of dogs to inmate handlers set at 2:1, necessitating employment of three (3) inmate handlers.



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 handlers comprised of three (3) handlers, one serving in the capacity of lead handler. Full-time staff will establish selection criteria and training curriculum for all inmate handlers. Inmates considered for dog handler positions will undergo a thorough screening process to ensure they possess the aptitude, character, and personality traits before undertaking the extensive training program.



Additional workers may be hired to work in a support capacity such as exercising, watering, or walking the dogs during one-on-one training by inmate handlers.

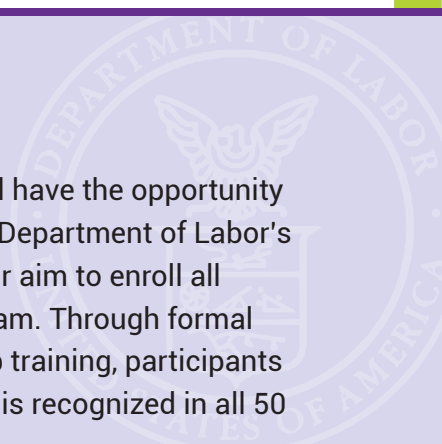


Financials. Since Pheasantland Industries is a self-supporting enterprise of the Department of Corrections, Pawsitive Prep will not receive taxpayer funding. This fiscal year, in spite of the effect of Covid-19 on our business operations, Pheasantland Industries is still expected to increase revenue over last year. This new industry is entirely service-based, thus it does not require us to finance equipment or carry an inventory of raw materials. Its primary expense is inmate payroll.



Animal Handler Apprenticeship Program

Inmate workers involved in the program will have the opportunity to be trained and certified through the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Program. If adopted, it is our aim to enroll all Pawsitive Prep inmate trainers in the program. Through formal training, individualized study and on the job training, participants earn a certificate in animal handling, which is recognized in all 50 states.



Program Benefits

Pawsitive Prep represents a new pathway to opportunity for our 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

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.

“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.

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