



FACT SHEET

EQUINE & CANINE TRAINING

2019

TIMOTHY C. WARD COMMISSIONER

JAY SANDERS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER INMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Equine & Canine Training are vocational programs provided to state offenders. The equine program is provided to female offenders at Pulaski and Lee Arrendale State Prisons. Three canine training and rescue programs are provided to female and male offenders at Colwell Probation Detention Center, Burruss Correctional Training Center, Lee Arrendale State Prison and Augusta State Medical Prison. Offenders receive certificates through partnerships with the Technical College System.



EQUINE RESCUE PROGRAM

HISTORY

- Began in 2008
- GDC learned of the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) need for space for neglected and abused horses, and entered into an agreement with DOA to assist.
- Former Pulaski State Prison Warden, Tom Chapman, contacted DOA to offer space for these neglected and abused horses

OVERVIEW

- Partnership with DOA
- DOA confiscates neglected and abused horses and transports them to a GDC facility for care and treatment
- Horses are nursed back to health by offenders and sold at auction
- Healthy horses are trained and cared for by offenders
- All medical, feed and necessary equipment provided by DOA
- Local DOA staff provide on-site evaluation of impounded animals and provide care and handling instruction to the offenders
- Can accommodate up to 10 horses

PARTICIPANTS

- Must be high school graduate or hold a GED, read at a 12th grade level, complete the SAGE Occupational Assessment and match the skill sets identified to successfully complete the courses
- Offenders must be within 18-36 months of their tentative parole month (TPM) or max out

- Crime type is reviewed and may preclude participation in the program
- Receive Veterinary Assistant/Animal Healthcare credit certificate from Central Georgia Technical College

FACILITIES

Lee Arrendale State Prison, Alto, Georgia

- 7 stalls in a pole barn
- Enclosed hay barn
- Tack room
- 50-foot round pen
- 3, 5 acre pastures
- 3 corrals
- 1 paddock
- 1/2 mile riding trail

Pulaski State Prison, Hawkinsville, Georgia

- 3 run-in shelters
- 4 pens
- 50-foot round pen
- 2 stalls
- 1 mile (approx.) riding trail
- 1 barn
- Sea container to keep hay and tack supplies



VISION GUIDE DOG PROGRAM

HISTORY

- Began at Metro State Prison (SP) in August 2002 as a collaboration with Southeastern Guide Dog, Inc. in Florida and Middle Georgia Technical College
- Moved to Metro Transitional Center in 2011, when Metro SP closed
- Second program was started at Burruss Correctional Training Center in 2008



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OVERVIEW

- Partnership with the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. in New York
- Dogs to include Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Shepherds, Collies and Standard Poodles, are brought into a facility and trained for 12-16 months
- Dogs are returned to Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind to complete their final orientation and mobility training for 4-6 months
- Upon completion of training, the dog is matched with a visually impaired student
- Student and dog participate in a week of additional training at the Guide Dog School prior to returning to their home

PARTICIPANTS

- Must be high school graduate or hold a GED, read at the 12th grade level, complete SAGE Occupational Assessment and match the skill sets identified to successfully complete the courses
- Offenders must be within 18-36 months of their tentative parole month (TPM) or max out
- Crime type is also reviewed and may preclude participation in the program
- Offenders can earn two, 15-credit hour certificates and two On-the-Job Training (OJT) certificates through Central Georgia Technical College in:
 - Animal Healthcare Assistant
 - Computer Technology and Customer Service
 - Animal Caretaker OJT
 - Dog Groomer OJT
- Positive Disciplinary Record (DR) record: no assaultive DRs or participation in major institutional disruption within the last 12 months

FACILITIES

Burruss Correctional Training Center

- 12 to 15 dogs
- Dogs are housed and sleep in a kennel/classroom with an offender aide on duty
- At times, dogs sleep in dorms with their handler
- Handlers groom dogs daily, train, and provide structured playtime for dogs
- Class time for handlers always include their assigned dog
- Volunteer puppy raiser take puppies on the weekends to provide socialization opportunities
- Offenders interviewed by Instructor prior to being admitted into program

- Offenders take Veterinarian Assistant and Introduction to Computer classes through Central Georgia Technical College
- Offenders also able to receive On-the-job Training (OJT) credit for grooming classes



CANINE RESCUE PROGRAM

- Rescues and rehabilitates dogs which may otherwise be euthanized while providing a positive impact on the offenders within the facility. Saving detainees and dogs...one life at a time.

PARTICIPANTS

- Selection process includes:
 - Detainee essay
 - Background check
 - Assessed institutional history
 - Interview
- Training provided from various organizations
- Deatnees can earn certification in the following areas:
 - Pet first aid and CPR
 - On-the-job training for grooming
 - Georgia Best
 - Animal Caretaker

FACILITIES

- Foster/rescue dog and provide housing, basic training and socialization to prepare the dogs for adoption. The following facilities participate:
 - Lee Arrendale State Prison
 - Augusta State Medical Prison
 - Colwell Probation Detention Center
 - Metro Reentry Facility