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# Prison Dog-Training Programs: An Annotated Bibliography [1987-2000]

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**Bustad, L. K. (1987). Animals in prisons. *Anthrozoös*, 1(1), 57-8.**

No abstract available.

**Haynes, M. (1991). Pet therapy: Program lifts spirits, reduces violence in institution's mental health unit. *Corrections Today*, 53(5), 120-122.**

Based on experience with pets in treating depression among the elderly and in providing therapy to chronically ill children and adults, the JHCC brought two puppies to the mental health unit. It was only after the puppies became an established part of the treatment program that staff observed decreased aggression among the inmates. To confirm this perception, the staff examined security and clinical logs to determine if the empirical evidence showed a significant decline in aggressive incidents after the puppies arrived. There were 68 incidents of aggression in the 4 months before pet therapy, with 12 of them involving physical altercations. In the 4 months after the puppies' arrival, there were 39 incidents of aggression, with 6 involving physical altercations. Controlling for other variables, the study concluded that the pet therapy has had a significant impact on inmate mental states, particularly aggressive tendencies. A plan to expand pet therapy is under consideration.

**Hines, L. (1998). Overview of animals in correctional facilities. In *Delta Society* (Ed.), *Animals in institutions*, 111-112. ISBN: N/A.**

No summary available.

**Katcher, A., Beck, A. M., & Levine, D. M. (1989). Evaluation of a pet program in prison—the PAL project at Lorton. *Anthrozoös*, 2(3), 175-180. [PDF](#)**

We studied a program that permitted a selected number of prisoners to keep pets. We observed the physiological and behavioral effects of this contact and retrospectively examined the effect of pet possession on the frequency and severity of disciplinary offenses. The presence of a pet did not affect the rise in blood pressure associated with talking to the experimenters. However, blood pressure during interaction with the pet was always lower than blood pressure during conversation with the experimenters. Pet ownership had a small effect on the number but not the severity of disciplinary offenses. We concluded that this pet program provided valuable recreation for prisoners but had only small and inconsistent effects on antisocial behavior as defined by the prison staff.

**Lai, J. (1998). Pet facilitated therapy in correctional institutions. *Correctional Services of Canada by Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Women*. [HTML](#)**

James Harris of the Montclair Veterinary Clinical Hospital in Oakland, California, defines the human-animal bond as "that physical, emotional, intellectual, and philosophical relationship that occurs between a person or family unit and an animal." With few exceptions, animals exude unconditional love for their owners and vice versa. This literature review relies primarily on American sources, since most of the prison programs were initially developed in the United States. The types of animals used and the format of the program vary widely in correctional institutions. Animals used in the various PFT programs include mice, guinea pigs, birds, fish, horses, cats and dogs, farm animals, wild animals, domestic animals, and exotic animals, although dogs are the most common. The literature review suggests that the benefits of PFT do not only affect the inmates, but also the animals, staff, and citizens in the community who receive the trained animals. Inmate behavior and self-esteem improves as a result of being involved in PFT programs. The programs teach discipline, cooperation, and respect for others. Depending on the nature of the program, inmates may also acquire employable skills. Animals benefit from the program, since they are often saved from certain death and given a second chance. Staff benefits from changed inmate behavior that reduces management problems. Citizens in the community benefit when PFT programs involve inmates in training animals to be used in therapeutic programs in the community. Guidelines for implementing a PFT in a correctional institution are provided. Appended overview of PFT programs in correctional institutions and materials for use in PFT programs.

**Moneymaker, J. M., & Strimple, E. O. (1991). Animals and inmates: A sharing companionship behind bars. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 16(3-4), 133-152. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J076v16n03\\_09](https://doi.org/10.1300/J076v16n03_09)**

PAL is an organization dedicated to bringing people and pets together - giving both a new lease on life. The program at the District of Columbia Department of Corrections Lorton facility has implemented a unique opportunity for individuals who have committed heinous crimes to perhaps redeem themselves or at least to show a different side of themselves. The opportunity to show love and compassion to an animal may have lasting effects on what was heretofore a hardened criminal. The introduction of animals to this particular institution was a very unusual one since no program of its kind had ever been allowed. Since its inception, the program has given the residents an opportunity to learn a vocational trade while improving their quality of life by showing compassion and understanding to another living being.

**Walsh, P. G., & Mertin, P. G. (1994). The training of pets as therapy dogs in a women's prison: A pilot study. *Anthrozoös*, 7(2), 124-128. <https://doi.org/10.2752/089279394787002014>**

A Pets as Therapy [PAT] program was initiated in a women's prison to train companion dogs for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The effect on the trainers was studied using an established depression scale and a self-esteem inventory. Results showed significant group changes in both these areas.