



Puppies
Behind
Bars

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Puppies Behind Bars trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for the disabled and explosive detection canines for law enforcement. The puppies live in prison with their puppy raisers from the age of eight weeks to eighteen months. As the puppies mature into well-loved, well-behaved dogs, their raisers learn what it means to contribute to society rather than take from it.



CFC # 11902

DOG TAGS:

Service Dogs for Those
Who've Served Us



Mary Dague
and Remy
New York City
November 17,
2008
Photo by:
Priscilla Rattazzi

DOG TAGS® is a Puppies Behind Bars® initiative, launched in 2006, which honors wounded OIF/OEF veterans. By pairing you with specially trained Labrador retriever service dogs, we can help you cope with the challenges of every day life.

Our dogs, raised in prison, are trained to perform over 80 service dog commands. Since we specialize in dogs for veterans with PTSD and TBI, we also teach our dogs special commands for wounded warriors with those conditions.

All our dogs can open and close doors, turn on and off lights, dial 911 on a phone, carry shopping bags, do the laundry, and bring items to you. In addition, we teach them to find your car in a crowded parking lot, how to look both ways before you enter a room, how to "watch my back," and how to stop people approaching, if they are making you nervous.

But much more than that, because our dogs are not raised in a kennel but instead are around people 24 hours a day/seven days a week, they develop an exceptional bond with humans. Having been raised in prison, they have an innate sense of bonding with people who are emotionally fragile.

Dog Tags® can only offer fifteen to twenty of these magnificent service dogs per year, but as a result of being a boutique service dog provider, we offer some of the best

service dogs available. We are unique in that we do not have families who raise the dogs for us and then return them for formal training; we raise, and train, our dogs exclusively by ourselves. We've known, cared for, and loved all our dogs since they were eight weeks old.

Puppies Behind Bars® pays all the costs associated with getting one of these special dogs. We will fly a wounded warrior (and family member, if you want), to one of our training facilities in Colorado or New York and pay for hotel, rental car, and living expenses for the two weeks that we train you to become a team with your new dog.

It is the least we can do for you, after all you have done for us.

HOW TO APPLY

1. To qualify for a Dog Tags® service dog, OIF/OEF veterans must be out of the hospital for at least eight months so you know if you are capable of incorporating a dog into your life. You must be able to provide a stable, safe environment for our dog; love, exercise and food. Most importantly, you must be willing to become more independent and to work with a highly-trained four-legged companion.
2. After completing our application, we will begin the process of interviewing you, speaking with your health care providers, and checking your references.
3. If you are accepted, you would come to New York or Colorado for two weeks of training with the dog we have chosen for you. Six weeks after this training is completed, we will do a home visit and we will see you annually thereafter, to recertify you and your dog as a working service dog team.

For additional information, please contact

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or visit our website at

www.puppiesbehindbars.com



Allen Hill and Frankie
Boulder, Colorado
February 4,
2009
Photo by:
Xan Rubey,
Doghouse
Studios