

Five Puppies Graduate Puppies Behind Bars Program, New Group Moves In

This Fall marked both the end of one Puppies Behind Bars class and commenced a new one. In August five Veterans from around the country received service training dogs following a graduation ceremony at Otisville Correctional Facility. The graduation was well attended as DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci was joined by members of his Executive Staff, other Superintendents from nearby facilities, and volunteers.

A few weeks later, on September 9th, Otisville received their newest trainees. Five eight week old puppies arrived at the facility to start the process all over again.

After inmates complete the training process with the puppies the veterans arrive at the facility for several weeks of learning alongside the inmates on how to execute proper commands. The program achieves several goals including building confidence through socialization, learning commands, obedience work, and being able to go into public places. Training was conducted between puppy raisers, veterans, and the Director of Puppies Behind Bars, Ms. Gloria Gilbert Stoga.

