



Corrections and Community Supervision

S.P.I.R.I.T. Training Program Graduates First Class at Groveland Correctional Facility

Six inmate handlers and two shelter dogs were recently presented with completion certificates from the Shelter Pups and Inmate Rehabilitation and Integration Training Program (S.P.I.R.I.T). Led by trainers Constance Dwyer and Sara Hamburger, inmate handlers and their dogs participated in a six-week training program to achieve Canine Good Citizen completion. The goal of the program is to provide training for the dogs that will make them more easily adopted, and matching them with the appropriate adoptive environment.

Partnered with the Hornell Humane Society, both dogs and inmates went through full time training while with dogs living with inmates in dorm units. Inmates were required to train, exercise, and spend valuable time with the dogs to help them assimilate into a lifestyle where both attention and care is given. By promoting the personal responsibility of dog ownership the program offers therapeutic benefits for both inmates and dogs. Both shelter pups, “Briggsy” and “Jack” completed the S.P.I.R.I.T. program and have both been successfully adopted to their new families. “Jack” was adopted by a veteran of the U.S. military.

