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Felons give back by training puppies

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Convicted felons in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are training service dogs for wounded veterans who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, [The New York Times](#) reports.

The [Puppies Behind Bars](#) program has about 80 Labradors and golden retrievers at four male and three female prisons, the newspaper reported. Inmates teach the dogs 82 commands that can help individuals who are missing a limb or need wheelchairs, according to the newspaper.

"We have a responsibility to these men who fought so hard for our country," said Annette, 49, an inmate who declined to give her last name.

The program has raised 483 dogs since 1997, founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga told the newspaper. "This is my redemption," inmate Rosalie Cutting, who is serving time for murder, told the *Times*.

(This posting was written by USA TODAY's Lisa Tanger.)