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Prison program pairs dogs with offenders

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AIRWAY HEIGHTS, Wash. - A prison program hopes to help rehabilitate offenders by giving them the opportunity to train dogs that will be adopted through local animal shelters.

The Airway Heights Correction Center runs the program called Positive Paws.

The facility usually partners with local organizations and this time they've partnered with the Spokane Humane Society. This is the first time the Humane Society has worked with the correction center.

Wednesday morning, the humane society brought eight dogs to the prison. Offenders will now be responsible for the well being of those pets. It's a program that benefits not only the dogs and their future owners, but the offenders as well.

From <https://www.kxly.com/news/top-stories/prison-program-pairs-dogs-with-offenders/769983414>

"They are tending for something other than themselves. They get to live with the dog, they get to take care of the dog. They learn responsibility, they learn routine, and so it's a win-win situation all the way around," said Paul Duenich, the correction unit supervisor for the prison.

The dogs will soon be available for adoption and interested pet owners can even meet the pets and follow their training process.

If you decide one of these dogs will be joining your household, you can visit them as many times as you want until graduation. The pets and the offenders who train them will attend a graduation ceremony ten weeks from now.