

 First Program Graduates

Maria & Lillie



Samantha L. & Star



Mica & Oreo



Samantha S. & Tazz



Shyla & J

 How You Can Help:

- Volunteer
- Provide Education and Training
- Donate: Money, Crates, Dog Beds, Leashes and Collars, and Kong® Toys
- PAWS T-Shirts - Designed by Youth are available for a small donation

*Tax deductible monetary donations should be made to the attention of the Brownwood Community Resource Council for the Benefit of TJJD Youth, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

 For More Information:

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<http://www.tjtd.texas.gov/programs/PAWS.aspx>

# PAWS

Pairing Achievement With Service



## Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex

*A Texas Juvenile Justice Department Facility*

<http://www.tjtd.texas.gov/programs/paws.aspx>

PAWS is a unique program that uses the natural relationship that comes from the bond between humans and animals living together and being responsible for each other.

PAWS



## Therapeutic Benefits:

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Facility is home to some of the state's most serious and chronic young female offenders. Most of these young women will be returning home to their communities after successfully completing TJJD's Treatment Program.

PAWS compliments the TJJD Treatment strategy because it teaches the youth empathy, compassion, responsibility, patience, accountability, and dependability. The relationships the youth form with their K9 companions help them develop skills that can be transferred to their relationships with others, thereby increasing their chances for success in the community.

Youth at TJJD have individualized case plans, with unique objectives. PAWS helps the youth achieve some of their objectives in creative ways ranging from youth researching their dog's breed to writing autobiographies or community re-entry success plans for their dogs.

The TJJD therapeutic approach involves connecting youth with positive social forces and assets, drawing on community resources to engage youth, and engaging youth in pro-social activities and opportunities. PAWS is a natural fit.

"It's been about the best thing of my whole life," said Samantha L., gently stroking the silky ears of Star, a blue tick coon hound. Perhaps, if Star could talk, she would have agreed.

- the *Brownwood Bulletin*, April 11, 2010  
Candace Cooksey Fulton, Reporter

"A dog's gonna love you no matter who you are or where you've been. The two things I've learned- Patience and unconditional love."

- Shyla, Program Graduate

It's an endeavor that for the girls (officials say) and the dogs (judging from their tail wags and good behavior) has been an "awesome" experience and "tremendous" success.

- the *Brownwood Bulletin*, April 11, 2010  
Candace Cooksey Fulton, Reporter

"This has had a phenomenal impact on the culture of the dormitories."

- Thomas Adamski, Director of Operations,  
Secure Facility



## Program Description:

The PAWS program pairs select TJJD youth with K9 partners for 12 weeks. The dogs come from the **Corinne T. Smith Animal Center**, learn basic commands and improved socialization skills. Youth learn responsibility and benefit from the companionship.

During the 9-12 week program, youth are responsible for their dogs at all times. They must groom, feed, and train them. The dogs live on the dorm with their human caretakers. Sometimes, depending on circumstances, dogs may have different handlers during the 9-12-week training program. Youth who demonstrate exceptional abilities and motivation as handlers may continue to be mentors to new youth entering the program.

Behavior Consultants, who consider breed characteristics, temperament, and reaction to distraction and other dogs, screen the dogs before they are accepted into the program. Youth who are interested must apply and participate in psychological screening.

Once the training program is completed, the TJJD facility and **Corinne T. Smith Animal Center** hold an adoption day. This is a chance for youth to help their K9 friends demonstrate their new skills and tricks and meet prospective new owners.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

★ Ag-Mart

★ Corinne T. Smith  
Animal Center

★ Dr. Joe Speck, DVM

