

ShelterME Program at Bolduc Correctional Facility



Rescued horse Lincoln in his new ShelterME home.

ShelterMe is a collaborative effort between Maine departments of Corrections and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF), Animal Welfare Program; Joseph Ponte is Corrections commissioner, and Walter Whitcomb is ACF commissioner;

Inmates care for and work with horses that are difficult to place in adoption;

This is the first program of its kind in Maine, involving prisoners and horses.

Currently two horses are living at the center, and two prisoners are caring for them;

First horse, named Bradley, arrived on July 24, 2012; second horse, Lincoln, arrived on Sept. 11, 2012;

Maximum number of horses that could be cared for is 4-6, with 3-4 prisoner-caretakers;

Prisoner caretakers are paid \$150 stipend out of the prisoners' account – no taxpayer funding is used;

Hay is grown and provided by the prison;

ACF Animal Welfare Program covers veterinary costs and cost of special feed for the horses; costs to shelter a horse run about \$3,360 a year;

Barn and yard area for ShelterMe horses was renovated and is maintained by prisoner caretakers.

Continues



State Senator Bill Diamond, Commissioner Ponte, and Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Walter Whitcomb speak with reporters at the ShelterME Open House on November 15, 2012.



Rescued horse Bradley speak with the press at the ShelterME Open House on November 15, 2012.



Refurbished barn at the Bolduc Correctional Facility for the ShelterME program.



Continues



Lincoln was rescued from a bad situation and taken to the Bolduc Correctional Facility as part of a new program called ShelterMe.

About the Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren, Maine

Facility was built in the early 1930s as a farm barracks for the Maine State Prison. Known then as the “Prison Farm,” it grew to be one of the largest dairy and beef farms in Maine. It closed in 1970, and the center became a vocational training center for prisoners.

Through a public referendum, Bolduc was transformed and renovated starting in 1990 into the current Bolduc Correctional Facility; Ben Beal is the facility director;

122 male prisoners; population capacity, 222; custody level of prisoners is minimum/community (less than three years remaining on sentence); 65 staff members.

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