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pets and their people

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Earthpaw selects Inmate Dog Alliance Program of Idaho to receive inaugural Earthpaw Innovation Grant**

**Boise, ID (September 20, 2011)** – The Inmate Dog Alliance Program of Idaho (I.D.A.P.I.) has been selected as the inaugural winner of the Earthpaw Innovation Grant. Earthpaw strives to be a small but mighty contributor to the betterment of the lives of animals in Idaho by making strategic contributions ranging from \$2500-5000 to organizations pursuing creative solutions to animal welfare issues. Earthpaw will present a \$4000 check to I.D.A.P.I at their dog graduation ceremony on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

I.D.A.P.I. is a community partnership of the Idaho Humane Society, Idaho Correctional Center, and the Idaho State Correctional Institutions. This highly successful and beneficial program places dogs from the Idaho Humane Society temporarily in cell blocks of Idaho correctional facilities for intensive socialization and behavioral training by inmates. The program has a remarkable 100% adoption rate, resulting in hundreds of hard-to-place shelter dogs finding forever owners. Additionally, hundreds of inmates have benefited from learning new skills, patience and compassion while gaining a sense of accomplishment through dog training. The Earthpaw Innovation Grant will allow I.D.A.P.I. to increase its impact by more than 10%.

The importance of this program for all involved is best expressed through the words of one inmate trainer:

*“Labeled temperamental, undersocialized, unmannered and even abused, we are paired with dogs whose rap sheets read as true for us as they do for them. We can relate to having strayed or been abandoned and while our charge is to rehabilitate these so called “troubled dogs,” the truth is these furry angels give so much more to us than we could ever give to them. It is as if they come in disguise knowing there is no one else we would listen to, no other way we would let our guards down and open up to learn the lessons of love they have to share.”*

For more information about I.D.A.P.I., visit [www.idahohumanesociety.org](http://www.idahohumanesociety.org) or contact the Idaho Humane Society at 208- 342-3508.

For more information about Earthpaw and Earthpaw Innovation Grants, visit [www.earthpaw.com](http://www.earthpaw.com) or contact founder Angeli Weller at [angeliweller@earthpaw.com](mailto:angeliweller@earthpaw.com).