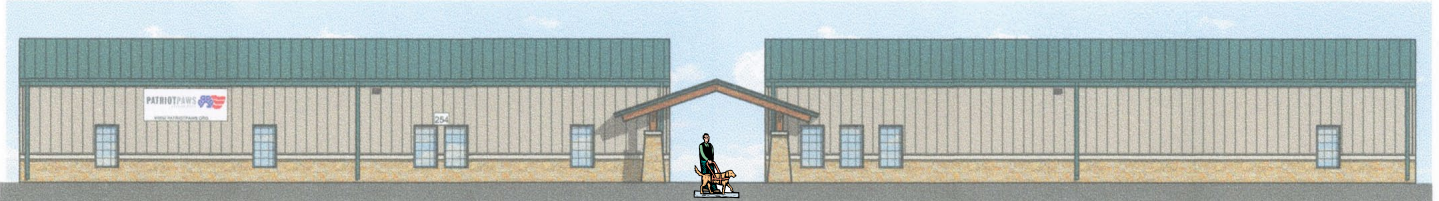
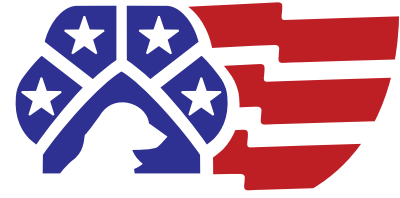


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



EXTERIOR ELEVATION - EAST - EXISTING BUILDING

When Lori Stevens founded Patriot PAWS back in 2006, her dream was to one day have a facility where she could have everything that she needed to train service dogs for disabled veterans without having to just “make do”. Space has always been an issue, from the humble beginning in a tiny 450 sq. ft. storefront, doubling that to 900 sq. ft. and doubling that once again to 1800 sq. ft., to moving to the present location of 4800 sq. ft. in 2010 which seemed at the time like a long-term solution. But the organization quickly began to outgrow that as well, and with inadequate space to train and house the dogs and not enough room for the growing number of staff and volunteers to work, a dilemma arose...move again, or stay and expand? After carefully considering the fiscal feasibility of both options, the decision was made to stay at the present location. Patriot PAWS purchased the warehouse structure that houses the organization as well as the identical warehouse next door, once again doubling space to 9600 sq. ft. The additional purchase of a 2-acre tract of land behind the structures will allow for future expansion as well as provide a garden spot which will utilize the existing trees and fish pond as a peaceful area for veterans to go with their dogs to bond during training or to use as a calm retreat any time they feel the need to just get away.

Renovations on the neighboring warehouse have already begun. When complete, it will house the new Veterans Training Center with ample space for training and a small lounge area where veterans can rest or socialize with other veterans or just have a quiet moment alone.

Initial infrastructure projects include paving the driveways and parking areas, establishing a fire lane and making drainage improvements.

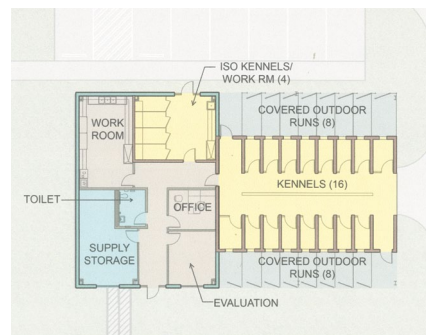
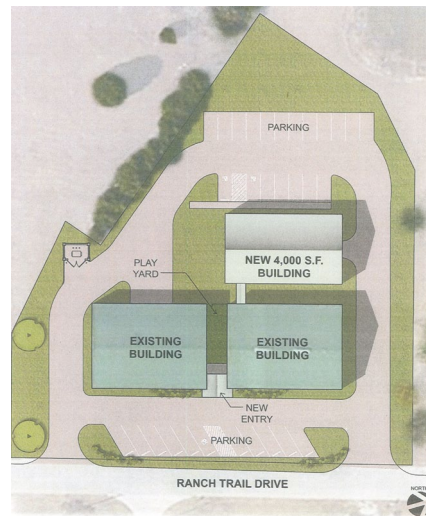
Ground will be broken later this year on a freestanding 3200

sq. ft. kennel facility featuring 16 indoor-outdoor runs, a 7-kennel isolation section with a separate ventilation system and a sprinkler system throughout. This is perhaps the most crucial component of the Patriot PAWS expansion. According to Founder/Executive Director Lori Stevens, “We have come a long way, but kennels are key to our growth. With over 130 veterans on our waiting list, we are going to need to increase the amount of dogs.”

Chairman of the Board Dr. William Perkins reflects, “The growth of Patriot PAWS over the past 9 years has been phenomenal! We’ve seen growth from providing service dogs to only 2 disabled veterans in 2006 to now serving up to 20 mobility and post-traumatic stress disabled veterans in 2015. Without the support of the tireless volunteers and generous donations from so many, we could not have served the military community as we have. The future of Patriot PAWS is limitless, and I couldn’t be more proud and grateful for the help and generosity of our supporters.”

A Capital Campaign was launched earlier this year, and thanks to a very generous grant from a longtime PAWS friend and supporter, the halfway mark has been passed. Anyone wishing to donate specifically to the Capital Campaign Fund should designate “CCF” on their donation.

Patriot PAWS is in a race against time. There are 22 veteran suicides every day in the United States and a more than 2-year average wait for our applicants. The more dogs that Patriot PAWS can train and place with disabled veterans, the more lives will be changed for the better or even saved, but it will take all of us working together to make the difference. Together, we can put a leash in the hand of every disabled veteran and give back to those who have given so much for all of us.





LETTER FROM LORI

I'm often asked why I write personal thank-you notes to donors in addition to the ones that our volunteers send out for us. It's because I take each donation personally.

I was taught that when someone gives you something or does something for you, you say thank you. So when someone sends us their hard-earned money because they trust us to use it to ultimately help disabled veterans, I consider that they're sending it as a vote of confidence in me as the Founder. From our first tiny storefront office to our currently-expanding training center, it has only been with the generosity and support of the public that we have been able to come this far, and it will only be with that same generosity and support that we can continue to grow and help as many disabled veterans as possible.

So to anyone whom I may have missed in my note writing, **THANK YOU**, because we couldn't have done it without you!



SPOTLIGHT ON TERRI STRINGER

In January 2015, Patriot PAWS hired Terri Stringer for the newly-created position of Assistant Executive Director. Terri had worked for Petco for 25 years, most recently as a Retail Operations Training Manager, and had been on the PAWS Board of Directors since 2006 where she served as Secretary, so she was the perfect candidate to step up to the task of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. Terri has also taught dog training, been a temperament evaluator and had therapy dogs, so her knowledge of dogs and commitment to the PAWS mission are truly an asset to the organization.

According to Terri, "I've heard people talk about having a 'work family', but at Patriot PAWS, we truly are a family. I think the common thread that makes us all so close is the passion we have to help others. That also flows into how we relate to one another. Patriot PAWS is a dream come true for me."

WELCOME TERRI!



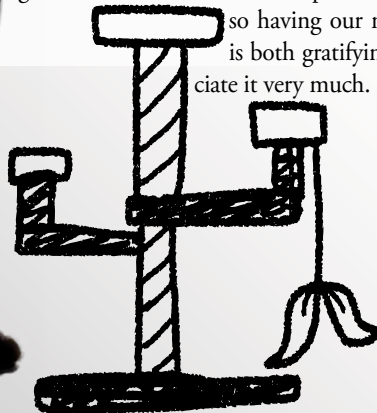
ELI'S CORNER

Big changes are underway at Patriot PAWS. When completed, our current expansion project will give us much-needed additional training space as well as a brand-new kennel facility for the dogs. But wait, there's more! My apprentice, Leo, and I have not been forgotten. Included in the plans are feline-friendly amenities such as perches, access tunnels and cat trees, all for our use and benefit.

Now, we're a couple of easy-going guys, and we really haven't minded roughing it all this time, but I must say that the idea of a little built-in comfort at the end of a hard day of dog training really sounds good. We're often told how important our role is in training the dogs, so having our needs factor into the grand plan is both gratifying and humbling, and we appreciate it very much. Onward and upward!

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli



TECHNICAL DRAWING		DATE	REV
NAME	ELI	2015	
AUTHOR	CCO	2015	
CREATED BY	THING 1	2015	
APPROVED	THING 2	2015	
SCALE	TINY	TITLE	CAT TREE
DWG NO.	1		

I AM A SERVICE DOG

Reflections of a Patriot PAWS Service Dog upon being placed

As far back as I can remember, there have been lots of people in my life. Some of them were at the training center, I lived with some of them in their homes, and I even lived with some of them who were in prison. All of them loved me and took care of me and taught me everything that I was supposed to learn, but I never knew why I had to learn to do all those things...until now, that is...because now, I have you.

You see, I am a service dog, and you are my person. All of those other people before you were mine for only a little while, but you, **you** are my forever person. You are why I have spent my whole life learning to do all those things, far more than any regular dog ever learns, but I was not meant to be a regular dog, I was meant to be a service dog.

And now, I am **your** service dog. I promise to help you in every way that I can and never leave your side. As long as there is breath in my body, I will serve you. I promise to take care of you and love you, and all that I ask is that you take care of me and love me in return.

I know that your life has been difficult, but now you have me, and I will do everything that I can to make your life better. Some things may still be difficult, but we will face them together. And whatever happens, we'll see it through, you and I. You are my purpose in life, and you are my destiny, and I couldn't be happier.

I am your service dog, and you are my person, and I can't wait to start our new life together.

—Teresa Prunty Bass, Volunteer, Patriot PAWS Service Dogs



Working to put a leash in the hand of every disabled veteran

YOUR DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



AARON AND CHIEF

When Patriot PAWS places a service dog with a disabled veteran, that's never the end of the story. Each veteran/dog team becomes a part of the PAWS family. Our trainers can always be counted on to answer questions, address concerns and assist the veteran in any way possible, and your donor dollars help to make this possible.

For example, Chief, Aaron Mixell's service dog, developed allergies, so Aaron, who lives in nearby Mesquite, brings Chief by three times a month for an allergy shot. It is only through the generosity of our supporters that we are able to go above and beyond for our veterans just as they have gone above and beyond for us.

HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR YEAR-END GIVING?

Patriot PAWS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization benefiting veterans nationwide who suffer from visible and invisible disabilities. A service dog is free to the veteran, but the cost to this non-profit can average up to \$34,000 for two years of training for one mobility service dog. This year-end, consider some alternative gift-giving that will help us put a leash in the hand of every disabled veteran, four paws at a time!

Mailing address: Patriot PAWS Service Dogs
254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall, TX 75032

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

- We accept all major credit cards on our website
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person
- Smartphone App—Download it from your phone's Internet browser at www.patriotpaws.givemodo.com

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone with a donation
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming a PAWS ambassador
- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser
- If you are a Federal employee, you may make donations using our CFC# 35710
- Every time you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Patriot PAWS at no cost to you.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please notify Patriot PAWS of any change in your contact information so we can stay in touch.

Email information to: office@patriotpaws.org
OR

Call us at: 972-772-3282

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Patriot PAWS is proud to offer yet another way of receiving your quarterly newsletter! We now offer an electronic version in email format. Send an email to the above address with "ENEWS" in the subject line to begin receiving this newsletter in email format quarterly. Be sure and let us know if you want us to stop mailing a printed copy to save postage at the same time.

We also continue to offer all issues dating from 2012 up to the latest quarter online. Type this link into your browser to find PDF copies which you can download and read or print at home to share:

<http://www.patriotpaws.org/newsletter-archive.html>

SCAN THIS QR CODE AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER. SHARE AND TWEET OFTEN!

MAILING ADDRESS:

254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall, TX 75032
972-772-3282
501(c)(3) since 2006

