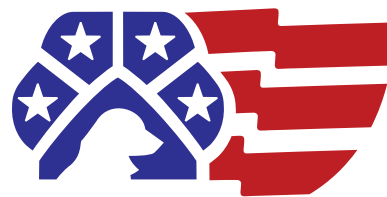


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



A SERVICE DOG'S JOURNEY



Patriot PAWS dogs are trained by positive reinforcement. Each new behavior is taught in such a way that it is a game to the dog, not work. Here is one dog's account of his journey to becoming a service dog:

I am a Patriot PAWS service dog, and my very special mission in life is to serve my disabled veteran. The happiest day in my life was the day that my veteran and I graduated and began our new life together, but the road getting to that day was a long one. My veteran had to wait for me to complete my training which began when I was just a puppy.

I really don't remember anything before Patriot PAWS because I was only about 8 weeks old when I was brought to the training center. At first, it was frightening and a little sad to be away from my mother and littermates, but there were so many nice people there that I quickly felt safe and loved. Some of them began teaching me fun games, and every time I would follow the rules correctly, it made them so happy that they would give me a tasty treat. Some of my first games were called "sit", "down", "stay" and "leave it". I also learned how to walk on a leash, sleep in a kennel, potty outside and look a person in the eye. There was even this cool cat there named Eli who played with me to teach me to tolerate his species.

I lived there until I was about 12 weeks old when I was taken to another place called prison where there were other, bigger dogs and a whole new group of people who taught me much more difficult games. Some of those games were scary to me because they involved exposing me to noises I had never heard before & things I had never seen before, but the person playing with me was very kind and taught me that a loud bang or a big hat wouldn't hurt me. And I learned how to play some really complicated games like how to tug open a door, how to bring someone a phone and how to go get help if someone needs it.

I lived at the prison until I was about 6 or 7 months old. Then I came back to the training center where they let me go home

with a really nice person called a puppy raiser. I lived with her in her home with her family and went everywhere she went...to work, shopping, to restaurants...everywhere humans go. I couldn't believe how big the world is! We even flew in a flight simulator so

I'd know what airplanes are like. There were lots of new things to get used to like doorbells and televisions and children (human puppies). My puppy raiser practiced all the games I knew with me, over and over again, just to make sure that I could play them correctly.

I lived with my puppy raiser for several months and then went back to the training center to be evaluated. The trainers determined which games I knew well and which ones needed more practice. I practiced those games every day for several more months staying both at the prison and with puppy raisers until finally, the trainers said I was "ready". But I had no idea for what.

Then one day, several other dogs and I were singled out to meet a new group of people called disabled veterans. Something was different about them, something that stirred an instinct deep inside me. Each disabled veteran was taught the rules of our games, and each dog got to play with each veteran every day for several days. I liked them all, but one of them was special to me in a way I can't explain. I didn't want to play with anyone but him because I felt that somehow, he needed me to play with him. It was then that I realized something wonderful...this was my forever person! Now it all made sense...I had learned to play all those games just so I could play them with him!

I say I have a very special mission in life because what could be more special than serving someone who served and sacrificed for us all? So on behalf of my veteran and all the other veteran/service dog teams, I would like to thank everyone at Patriot PAWS and all of their supporters for making happy endings like ours come true.





LETTER FROM LORI

People often ask us how our dogs get their names. In the early days, we'd just pick a name we liked or one that fit the dog's appearance or personality, but now, more than 60% of them are named through sponsorships. We have four levels: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Each has a different minimum donation amount and comes with different perks, but all grant the naming of a puppy. Some sponsorships are by corporations such as Hunting PLC which has sponsored five puppies, among them Hunter and Drillbit, but others are by individuals like the little boy named Sawyer who raised enough money to sponsor a puppy whom he named Sawyer Jr. As with any dog in our program, there is no guarantee that a sponsored puppy will succeed at becoming a service dog, but those who don't can fulfill their potential by becoming a PTS dog or a career-change dog and do other worthwhile work. From service dog to family pet and everything in between, no dog is ever a failure when he has a purpose to his life and someone to love, but isn't that true of all of us?

ELI'S CORNER

Our two-legged trainers teach our puppies to do all sorts of helpful things for our disabled veterans, and I teach them to tolerate and even like another species that they instinctively might feel aggression toward. There is much for them to learn, so all us trainers instill in them principles that apply to every aspect of their training. Always think **PAWS: Perseverance, Attitude, Willingness and Selflessness**. Any puppy that excels at these four things has a great chance at becoming a full service dog, but even if he becomes a PTS dog or a career-change dog instead, these principles help to ensure his success. It's quite rewarding to know that I've had a paw in shaping their destiny. Give us a blank canvas, and we'll return to you a masterpiece.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli





EDWIN MONTALVO AND ANNE

US Army MSG Edwin Montalvo of Texas proudly served his country for 25 years. He was a part of Operation Desert Storm and served tours in Honduras, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. Edwin has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress.

In the October 2015 graduation held at the training center in Rockwall, Edwin received service dog Anne, a female Golden Retriever. Anne helps Edwin to deal with his PTS issues and helps him get out of the house more. According to Edwin: “Anne takes notice when my anxiety and frustration are skyrocketing.” (She then makes a concentrated effort to lead Edwin outside to the lake on their property to play ball.) “We both tire out...and then we walk back into the house with her at my side again...Anne has made me realize when it is time to step away.”



TOBY KICKER AND KAL

US Army SPC Tobias (Toby) Kicker of Alabama served in both Bosnia and Kosovo. He has had 50 surgeries, has balance and mobility issues including problems with his right ankle and sciatic nerve, and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress. Toby applied for a service dog for physical assistance as well as PTS support and companionship.

In the October 2015 graduation held at the training center in Rockwall, Toby received service dog Kal, a male yellow Lab. According to Toby: “Kal has helped me in more ways than I can count! Just (him) being there, I am more confident and sure-footed.”



EDDIE ROMAN AND PILOT

US Army SPC Eddie Roman of Texas served 8 years, including in Turkey. Eddie worked with explosives and suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was caught in a blast. He now deals with ringing ears, seizures, nightmares and anger issues. Eddie became withdrawn and had great difficulty leaving the house and interacting with other people.

In the October 2015 graduation held at the training center in Rockwall, Eddie received service dog Pilot, a male yellow Lab. According to Eddie: “Pilot helps me a lot with my day to day issues. He’s the pilot, and I’m the co-pilot. He takes care of me, and I take care of him. We’re a team. He’s my friend. He’s my everything. I don’t know how I ever did without him.”



SPOTLIGHT



It’s our birthday! In February 2016, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of receiving our non-profit designation. February was also the 8-year anniversary

of our partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice which established our prison dog trainer program. From our humble beginnings with no paid employees and just 4 volunteers to our current staff of 19 and over 170 volunteers strong, we’re proud to be making a difference in the lives of disabled American veterans. To date, we’ve placed 109 dogs with veterans of every American war dating back to WWII. We’ve helped to raise public awareness of the reality of post-traumatic stress and initiated a PTS

dog program for those veterans whose wounds of war are not physical. Veterans from 31 states now have a PAWS dog by their side. But with over 100 currently on our waiting list, we must continue to look ahead even as we celebrate these achievements. Every dollar donated, every hour volunteered, every shared effort of every kind ensures that we can continue our mission. So to everyone who played a part in getting us this far, we thank you. Happy Birthday to us all!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 8

This year the Brotherhood of St Andrew is sponsoring its fifth annual Patriot PAWS Charity Golf Tournament. This year's event will again be held at the Buffalo Creek Golf Club in Rockwall, TX. The scoring format will be a Four Person Florida Scramble with a Shotgun start beginning at 1:00 p.m. Winners and prizes will be announced at a 6:00 p.m. Dinner at the Club House. Golfers are encouraged to build their own teams, or individuals can be assigned to a team. Player handicaps and average scores assure accurate assignments of awards and prizes. Entry fee is \$135 per player which includes cart, fees for driving and putting ranges, lunch and dinner.

More information about the day's events and sponsors is available by visiting <https://www.sadiegolf.com/patriotpaws>.

IN MEMORIAM

Service Dog Wendy

Wendy, service dog of veteran Richard Heath, passed away in November 2015. Richard received Wendy from Patriot PAWS in December 2009 after Wendy's first veteran passed away. Wendy saved Richard's life after he had a stroke, the story of which was featured on the cover of the Spring 2012 PAWS newsletter. Wendy was everything a service dog should be and more.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.
— Author Unknown

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.

SEPTEMBER 6

Patriot PAWS service dog recipient, veteran Brian Field, is on a quest to help the men and women who have served our nation with valor and honor. Many times their return home and transition back to civilian life are difficult. Their injuries, both visible and invisible, wage war on their bodies and their minds. Brian wants to honor the courage they display daily in their struggle on the home front.

To do this, Brian and his service dog, Justice, will take a "Ride For Courage" trekking 4,000 miles in 40 days cross-country from California to Connecticut along with Sikorsky Aircraft employee, Michael Quibble. Sikorsky and their parent company, Lockheed Martin, are sponsors of the ride. Brian and Mike hope to raise awareness of the issues plaguing our veterans and relay how Patriot PAWS Service Dogs can not only change, but save, the lives of our American heroes.

Brian and Mike will be riding Outrider USA Alpha Adventure Vehicles that can reach speeds as high as 45 mph. Brian's recumbent trike will be a hand pedal vehicle, while Mike's will be the standard foot pedal. Brian, who is a bilateral below-the-knee amputee, will also be pulling Justice behind him in a custom-made trailer.

The ride is set to start September 6, 2016. For more information, go to www.rideforcourage.com



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MAILING ADDRESS:

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

