

# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



## A LONG ROAD *in a short amount of time*

The evolution of **Patriot PAWS** has been nothing short of amazing. Very few non-profits manage to grow as quickly as we have or achieve our level of success in their chosen mission. The road along the way hasn't always been smooth, and there have been more than a few growing pains, but we have been blessed with success due to the devotion, generosity and hard work of so many fellow Americans coming together in support of our nation's disabled veterans. It's been quite a journey, so join us now as we take a look back.

**2005** – Lori Stevens, a professional dog trainer, was asked by three disabled veterans from the Dallas VA Hospital to train their dogs to help them. A need was realized, and an idea was born.

**2006** – Lori founded Patriot PAWS Service Dogs as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to train service dogs for disabled veterans. The first training center was a tiny 450 sq. ft. leased storefront on Yellow Jacket Lane.

**2008** – A partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was formed to establish a dog training program utilizing female offenders in two units in Gatesville as trainers, thereby greatly expanding the number of dogs that could be trained at once.

**2010** – The Puppy Raiser program was established to utilize DFW area volunteers to socialize dogs in training by taking them into their homes for an extended period of time and going everywhere with them as they will one day do with their veteran, something the dogs are unable to do while being trained in prison.

**2010** – Moved to our present location on Ranch Trail, leasing a 4,800 sq. ft. warehouse as the new training center.

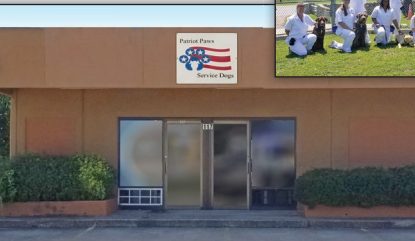
**2010** – Received full accreditation by Assistance Dogs International.

**2013** – Charity Career School exemption granted by the Texas Workforce Commission establishing Patriot PAWS as a service dog trainer training school.

**2013** – Establishment of the Patriot PAWS Aggieldand program at Texas A&M University utilizing students as puppy raisers.

**2014** – Purchased the training center as well as the identical warehouse next door establishing a permanent location of 3.5 acres and doubling our square footage.

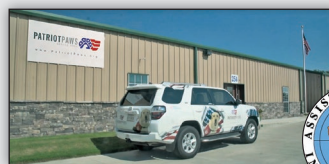
2006



2008



2010



2010



PATRIOTPAWS  
SERVICE DOGS  
AGGIELAND  
2013

2010

For PAWS.

2014



2015



2019



2017

**2014** – Expanded our offender dog training program to include one men's unit in Teague.

**2015** – Veterans For PAWS created as a peer support group open to all local veterans.

**2017** – Completion of our state-of-the-art kennel facility enabling us to again expand the number of dogs that can be trained at once and provide on-site veterinary care through our fully-equipped veterinary clinic.

**2018** – Inaugural service dog trainer class began with six trainer interns put on staff to complete the 30-month curriculum.

**2019** – First satellite office opened in College Station to support the Patriot PAWS Aggieldand program.

**2019** – Completion of a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, fully wheelchair-accessible Veterans House on campus to be used free of charge by visiting veterans and as a meeting place for Veterans For PAWS.

Always looking ahead, we are currently working to expand our offender trainer program to two additional units within the TDCJ.

**Dr. William (Bill) Perkins**, Patriot PAWS Chairman of the Board (2006–2019), has been with Lori every step of the way. “The growth of Patriot PAWS has been incredible.”, reflects Dr. Perkins. “The most critical aspect is that our mission has never wavered — to serve and help disabled veterans through service dog programs.”

As for Lori, “I never dreamed that training dogs to help our local veterans would turn into what it has. We have dogs all over the country now, and one even goes to work in the Pentagon with his veteran. Getting to meet and tell **President George W. Bush** about our organization was the honor of a lifetime, but one of my favorite parts is our prison programs. By helping us help disabled veterans, those offenders are being helped as well. Patriot PAWS has become so much more than I ever expected.”





**LETTER FROM LORI**

When I founded Patriot PAWS in 2006, my personal dog, Beau, became our first demo dog. I taught him all the cues that the service dogs in training are taught so he could demonstrate to the public what our service dogs can do. We even appeared on the David Letterman show together. But by 2010, Beau's health was failing, so I retired him and appointed a new demo dog, Jazz. Jazz became canine first lady of Patriot PAWS and was with me when I had the honor of meeting President George W. Bush. Jazz served us well until earlier this year when she also had to retire because of health factors. So now, taking over the position from Jazz, I have Pierce. Jazz still comes to work with Pierce and me and still takes it upon herself to greet everyone who comes in the front door, but she's otherwise now a lady of leisure. Pierce and I will carry on, but like Beau, Jazz will always have a special place in my heart having been by my side on this amazing journey called Patriot PAWS.



Beau



Jazz



Pierce

**SPOTLIGHT**

**ON YOU!**

A non-profit is successful only if its mission has the support of the public, so it is because of you, our loyal donors, that we are able to help so many of our nation's disabled veterans. Donors from Greenville, TX to Los Angeles, CA to Lakeview, OR to Watertown, MN to Virginia Beach, VA to Key Biscayne, FL and communities of all sizes in between all band together in support of our mission. Whether the donations are monthly, quarterly, annual or just whenever they can make them, this loyal support is what enables us to continue our mission. From pocket change in a donation bucket to major grants from corporations and foundations, every donation dollar counts, and *no donation is ever too small to help make a difference*. So, thank you all for your past support, and please, join us as we continue working to give back to those who have served and sacrificed for us all. *Only with your help* can we continue making the lives of disabled veterans better, four paws at a time.

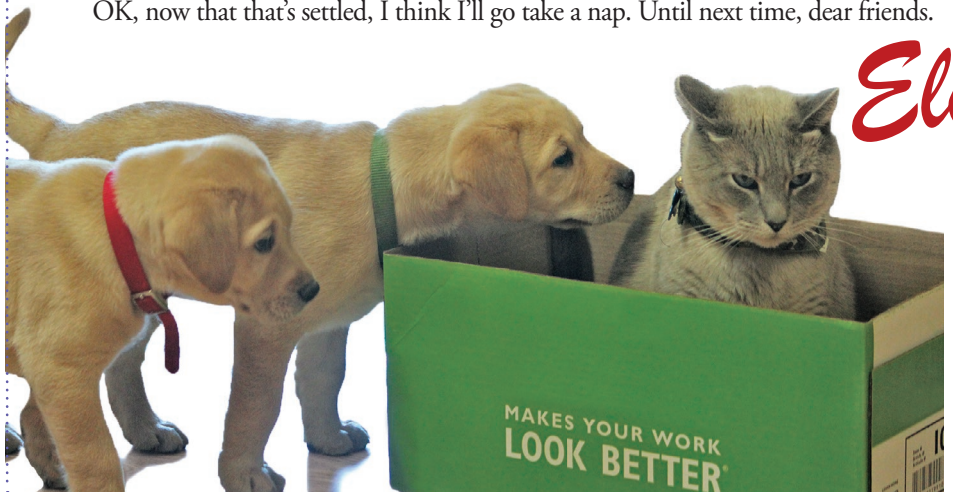


**ELI'S CORNER**

When my good friend, Jazz, retired earlier this year, it got me to thinking about my own retirement. I mean, I'm not getting any younger, either. But then, I'm in good health and love my job, so why would I want to retire? Besides that, what would Leo do without me? What would Patriot PAWS do without me? It just wouldn't be right to make them do without my expertise in dog training. And if I did retire, then what would I do all day, sleep? Hmmm, now that's an idea...but no, wait, others before self, right? Yep, my mind is made up, no retirement for me, at least not for now. There are just too many dogs who need me.

OK, now that that's settled, I think I'll go take a nap. Until next time, dear friends.

*Eli*



# FAQs

## Q – WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DOGS?

**A** – Most of them come from reputable breeders, either through donation or purchase, but we also work with local shelters to use rescues that we evaluate as suitable for our program.

## Q – WHY DON'T YOU USE GERMAN SHEPHERDS?

**A** – German Shepherds are wonderful dogs, but like other protection breeds, they can be perceived by the public as aggressive since so many are used as military or police dogs. Labs, Golden Retrievers and Doodles, which are mostly what we use, are perceived as friendly. Most of our veterans have Post Traumatic Stress, and it would only add to their anxiety if people were afraid of their dog.

## Q – WHY DO YOUR DOGS WEAR A MUZZLE?

**A** – It's not a muzzle, it's a Gentle Leader Head-collar, which functions much like a halter on a horse. Many of our veterans have balance issues, and a Gentle Leader helps them control the dog, reducing the chance of the dog being able to pull the veteran off-balance. The dog's mouth is not restricted, so he can still eat, drink, bark and hold objects in his mouth while wearing it.



## Q – DOES THE VETERAN EVER GIVE THE DOG BACK?

**A** – Yes, occasionally. We do our best to make the best possible match between veteran and dog, but sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise, including the veteran becoming too ill to be able to care for the dog. If the veteran dies within 3 years of receiving the dog, we will take the dog back and place him with another veteran. If the veteran had the dog longer than 3 years, we allow the family to keep him, if they wish.

## Q – WHEN THE DOG DIES, DOES THE VETERAN GET ANOTHER DOG?

**A** – Yes. It is important to allow the veteran to have time to grieve, though, so the new dog won't be constantly compared to the first one. We usually ask them to wait a year, after which we work to find an appropriate replacement, typically in a different breed or color to avoid comparisons.

## Q – WHAT HAPPENS TO A DOG WHO FAILS IN HIS TRAINING?

**A** – At Patriot PAWS, no dog is ever a failure. If a dog is not suited to be a full service dog, then he may become an in-home working social companion instead. They are not granted public



access but can provide companionship and support for a veteran at home. Some become career-change dogs working as therapy dogs in District Attorney's offices to comfort children who are brought in by Child Protective Services, some become bomb or drug detection dogs, and we even have one dog who is working in the Galapagos Islands sniffing out invasive snails to protect the ecosystem. If a dog is unable to work because of health issues, then he will be adopted out as a pet, usually with the family of a veteran who is able and willing to care for him.

## Q – WHICH MAKE BETTER SERVICE DOGS, MALES OR FEMALES?

**A** – Dogs are as individual as humans, so what makes a dog a good service dog is usually not related to his or her gender.

## Q – HOW DO THE DOGS GET THEIR NAMES?

**A** – Most of our dogs are sponsored, and sponsorship comes with naming rights. Corporate sponsors usually choose names relevant to their business, while individuals usually choose names with personal meaning to them. Sponsorship levels range from \$5,000 to \$35,000. Rescue dogs are usually named by Patriot PAWS staff.

## Q – WHY DOES IT COST \$35,000 TO TRAIN A DOG?

**A** – The cost involves all expenses from the time the puppy is procured at approximately 8 weeks of age including initial veterinary evaluation, general care and training supplies, veterinary care, training for 18 months–2 years, team training once he is placed with a veteran, graduate equipment sent home with the veteran and follow-up support after the dog is placed. We provide these dogs to the veterans free of charge.

## Q – CAN YOU TRAIN MY SPOUSE/KIDS FOR ME?

**A** – No, sorry, we only train dogs.

## FROM THE KENNELS

Providing the highest quality care for our service dogs in training is a task the Patriot PAWS kennel team excels at daily. While being a part of the kennel team is full of endless puppy kisses, games of fetch and watching young pups grow up to become service dogs, it is also a lot of hard work. Each month at our Rockwall training center, each dog consumes a 30-pound or larger bag of Purina Pro Plan food, an average of \$500 worth of specialized cleaner is used to clean and disinfect the kennels, and approximately 300 loads of laundry are done. Our kennel team definitely has their hands full! We are blessed to have over 260 volunteers in the DFW area who help out in the kennels on a regular basis, and we could not be more grateful to have so many extra sets of hands ready and willing to assist in any way they can.

So far this year, we have had over \$140,000 in dog-related expenses. Thank you to all our generous donors who make it possible for us to keep all our dogs happy and healthy while working toward their goal of becoming Patriot PAWS Service Dogs!



Kennel Team Member,  
Kamrey



Kennel Team Member,  
Troy

## GET UP AND GIVE!

**North Texas Giving Day is almost here,  
but you don't have to live in North Texas to give!**

At Patriot PAWS Service Dogs, we do one thing...we train dogs to serve disabled veterans. And these dogs save lives. But we can't do it alone...we need your help! Your #NTxGivingDay donation will help us continue to produce the highest quality service dogs possible to help our nation's heroes. See the enclosed North Texas Giving Day insert to see how YOU can Get Up and Give!



**• 972-772-3282 •**

**Consider today what you can do to help us help them...**



*"The atmosphere here is unreal and reinforces the fact of how great it is to be an American veteran! What is really amazing is how the commitment of Patriot PAWS never ends. They are here forever for each veteran who receives one of their great animals..."* – Arlie Matthews, 2016 Graduate

### PLEASE DONATE TODAY

- We accept all major credit cards on our website at [www.patriotpaws.org](http://www.patriotpaws.org)
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person. **Address: 254 Ranch Trail Rockwall, TX 75032**

### ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone
- 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](http://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Patriot PAWS at no cost to you.