

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



"ANGELS" AMONG US

OUR MISSION STATEMENT BEGINS,

"The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans, and others with mobile disabilities, in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence."

Almost all of our service dogs are placed with veterans, but in keeping with our mission statement, we do occasionally place a service dog with a deserving non-veteran. However, our focus always has been, and will continue to be, on veterans.

While we have high hopes for every puppy who enters our service dog training program, the reality is that not every dog is suited to become a service dog. We don't view those dogs as failures, though, but rather as challenges to find a career that they are suited to. Most of these dogs go on to become in-home working dogs (IHWD) or facility dogs. An IHWD is able to assist their person at home with mobility and/or emotional issues but is not granted public access like a service dog. A facility dog is placed with a handler who partners with the dog to assist many people within the scope of that organization's purpose. Two such examples are Jeffrey and Rain.

Jeffrey is the facility dog at Adaptive Training Foundation in Dallas, a non-profit whose mission is to "provide access and inclusion to individuals living with physical or traumatic impairments by empowering them through exercise and community." His presence there is comforting and even encouraging to those working so hard to overcome their personal limitations.

Rain is the facility dog at the Austin DPS and serves to help their officers deal with the traumatic events they witness in their day-to-day service. In May, Rain and her handler made a trip to Allen to visit first responders at the Allen FD after the outlet mall tragedy. There's nothing quite like a friendly furry face and joyfully wagging tail to bring comfort even in the worst of times.

One of our favorite quotes refers to dogs as "without wings so no one suspects they are angels." It is only with your kind support that we can continue to place so many "angels" to do so much good for so many people.



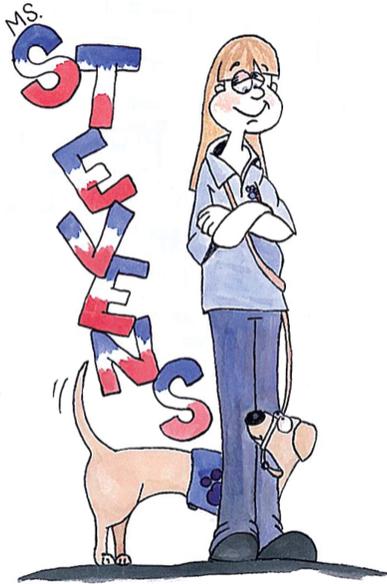
IHWD Woody,
with Veteran Sharon

IHWD Hawkeye,
with Veteran Steven

Jeffrey, Adaptive Training
Foundation Facility Dog

Rain,
Austin DPS Facility Dog





LETTER FROM LORI

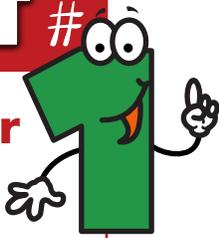
With so many fake “service dogs” out there these days, genuine service dogs and their people are often viewed negatively by the public. So, when I was given the chance to testify on this issue before the Texas Legislature, I took it.

HB 2951, which has passed and is waiting to be signed into law, will appropriate funding to the Texas Veterans Commission to be distributed to organizations accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) to be used for training service dogs for disabled veterans. Currently, there are only eight such accredited organizations in Texas, including Patriot PAWS. An ADI representative and I both testified as to the importance of quality, rather than quantity. Certified trainers using ADI guidelines produce the highest-quality service dogs possible, but that takes time and money that many organizations aren’t willing to expend, and it shows in the poorly trained dogs they produce.

Although this is a step in the right direction, there is much more work to be done, including at the national level, and I will do whatever I can to help. We must protect the rights of our disabled veterans and the service dogs they depend upon.



SPOTLIGHT #



On New Veteran Coordinator

Meet our new Veteran Coordinator, April Allison! April joined the Patriot PAWS staff in November 2022 and was promoted to Veteran Coordinator in May.

Marine Corps veteran CWO3 Allison comes from a family of veterans and first responders. During her 20 years of service, she was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Her service included working as a construction wireman, wire chief, telecommunications systems engineering officer and network engineering officer.

“I knew I wanted and needed to continue to serve in some sort of capacity once I retired from the Marine Corps.”, April recalled. “I didn’t know how I was going to do that until I found Patriot PAWS. I am truly honored with the opportunity to serve the veteran and first responder communities.”

Congratulations, April!



SPOTLIGHT #



On Patriot PAWS Cares

In May, a few days after the mass shooting at the outlet mall in Allen, Patriot PAWS received a call from the Allen PD asking if our Cares team could pay them a visit. Patriot PAWS Cares is our outreach program in conjunction with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. In the aftermath of tragedies such as mass shootings, natural disasters or other large-scale traumatic events, our Cares team may be called upon to bring dogs to visit with victims, their families or the first responders who were involved.

A team of four handlers and four dogs was quickly assembled and visited the Allen PD that afternoon. It is both an honor and a privilege for us to bring wagging tails and puppy kisses to comfort those in need.

You can read more about our Cares program in our Summer 2021 newsletter archived on our website.

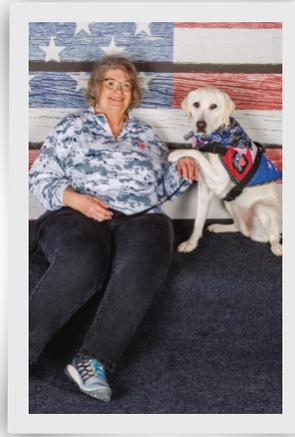




JASON & APOLLO

Army SPC **Jason** served for four years as an infantryman. He was a part of the 101st Airborne Division, trained during the Gulf War and was later deployed to Korea.

At the January 2023 Graduation, Jason received service dog **Apollo**, a male black Lab, to assist with his mobility and balance issues. According to Jason, "It's only been since January that he's been by my side, but it's hard to imagine my life without Apollo now. He's become my constant companion and true source of joy. I am truly grateful to Patriot PAWS for the opportunity to have found my best friend. Your organization has made a profound impact on my life."



LIB & FLANNEL

Air Force Capt **Lib** served for five years as a registered nurse, both Stateside and in England. She met her late husband, Woody, when they were both stationed in Abilene. In 2014, Lib started volunteering for Patriot PAWS, joined the staff in 2016 and is currently one of our two Veteran Coordinators.

At the January 2023 Graduation, Lib received service dog **Flannel**, a female yellow Lab, to assist with her knee-related mobility issues. According to Lib, "Flannel still has a lot of puppy in her, so she does funny stuff that makes me laugh on a daily basis. She started noticing when I was upset and teary early on in our relationship and tries to comfort me. She's a beautiful animal and brings a lot of joy whenever she's around."



MIKE & BILLY

Mike was one of the earliest Patriot PAWS recipients. He and his service dog, Cappuccino, became Ambassadors for the organization raising money and posting a YouTube video of all the amazing things Cappuccino could do. Sadly, Cappuccino passed away in 2022.

At the January 2023 Graduation, Mike received service dog **Billy**, a male yellow Lab. According to Mike, "Patriot PAWS has come a long way, and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. I am in a wheelchair and drop a lot of items off of my lap, but no worries, all I have to do is give the command, and it is put back in my lap from Big Billy. He loves helping me. Thank you so much Patriot PAWS."

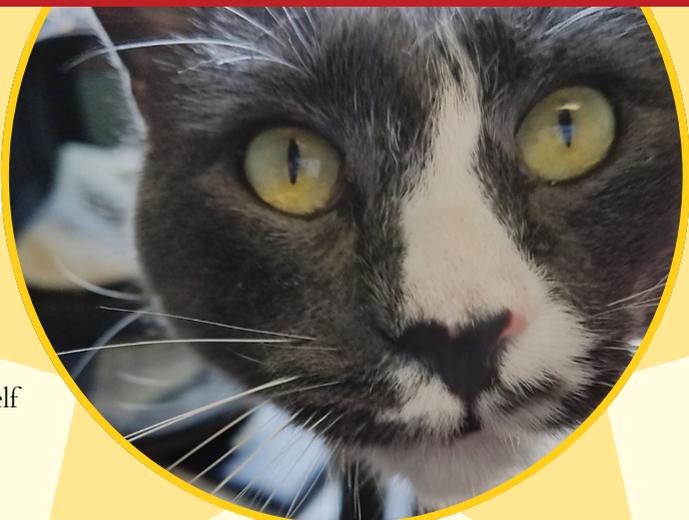
CATTITUDES

Hello. For those of you who don't remember me, my name is Leo. Eli was more than just my fellow feline dog trainer, he was my mentor and, most of all, my friend. And while I can never fill the giant paw prints he left behind, I will carry on here at Patriot PAWS and do my very best to make him proud of the kitten he took in all those years ago.

Teaching feline tolerance to so many puppies and dogs is not a one-cat job, so The Boss hired another feline dog trainer to assist me. His name is Sir Lancelot, Lance to his friends. Lance and I have been given this new newsletter column all our own, so next issue, Lance will introduce himself and give you his take on a cat working in a dog's world.

Until then, y'all take care.

Leo



SNEAK PEEK AT THE CLASS OF 2025!



| 3 TYPES OF SUPPORT ANIMALS | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| | SERVICE DOGS | THERAPY DOGS | EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS | |
| COMPARISON | SERVICE DOGS | THERAPY DOGS | EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | |
| ADA covered: Rights to bring animal into public establishments | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | |
| Needs to tolerate a wide variety of experiences, environments, people | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | |
| May live with their Disabled owners, even if "No Pets" policy in place | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | |
| Primary function is to provide emotional support, through companionship | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | |
| Specifically trained to assist just one person | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | |
| Provide emotional support and comfort to many people | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | |

SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
North Texas Giving Day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Annual Charity Golf Tournament
hosted by
the Brotherhood of St. Andrew
Registration at 7:30a.m.
Shotgun Start at 9a.m.
Complimentary Breakfast & Lunch
provided for all Golfers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
Bi-Annual Charity Gala
Paws & Stars 2023:
A Night in Emerald City
presented by Pulte Group,
Santander, and Mojo Consultants

Missing any newsletters?

No worries, all of our previous issues are archived on our website. Just go to patriotpaws.org and click on Newsletters & Events. You'll see all the good news about our mission and how you help us serve our veterans.



IN MEMORIAM

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

The Patriot PAWS Family's hearts go out to Veteran Richard Heath for the loss of his service dog, **Rango**, to Veteran Chris Nunnery for the loss of his service dog, **Papi**, and to Veteran John Oldham for the loss of his service dog, **Duchess**.

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
- 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 Patriot 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