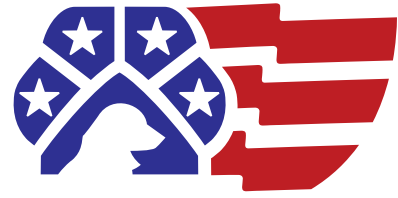


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” - DeAnn Hollis

Patriot PAWS quite simply could not do what we do without our many volunteers. Volunteers make it possible for us to keep our paid staff to a minimum by performing tasks, large and small, that a staff member would otherwise have to do. These things include everything from providing administrative support by writing thank-yous for donations, to kennel support by making food bags for the dogs. Our inmate trainers enable us to train more dogs with fewer staff trainers, while both our DFW and Aggieland Puppy Raisers socialize the dogs and reinforce their training. Plus, Puppy Raisers and Ambassadors appear at events by request to do demos and spread the word about our mission. Even our newsletter is written and designed by volunteers.

We also frequently have groups of corporate volunteers who take on large projects for us at the training center such as landscaping, fence building, etc., or help out at our Graduations or at special events fundraisers around the area.

No act of volunteer work is too small or too insignificant. We can always find work for a pair of willing hands. Even shredding paper or pooper-scooping the play yards is necessary and important, and we appreciate anyone willing to help us get things done.

There are remote ways that people help us as well. Our supporters all over the country hold fundraisers or supply drives for our benefit, or display our promotional materials at their businesses or houses of worship. Even children get involved by having a lemonade stand and sending us the proceeds. It's never too early to foster a servant's heart in our young.

Assistant Executive Director and Volunteer Coordinator, Terri Stringer, sums it up this way:

“Volunteers are the equivalent of gold to a non-profit. Without them, we would not be able to pay attention to the many things that have helped us to provide service dogs to our disabled veterans. And we are incredibly blessed to have so many folks that generously give of their time, and more importantly, their hearts, to serve those who have served.”

If you would like to become a volunteer or help us out in any way, please contact us, and we will be happy to discuss the options with you. We are always grateful for anyone willing to help us make a difference in the lives of those who have served and sacrificed for us all.





LETTER FROM LORI

People often ask us why we don't use rescue dogs. I wish we could, but not knowing the dog's history is a risk that we simply can't take.

A dog can suppress stress from his past that can surface with no warning from an unknown trigger, and that could be disastrous for both the dog and the veteran. Even puppies can experience trauma through a traumatized mother dog. Many, if not most, of our veterans are already dealing with their own post-traumatic stress and depend upon their service dog to stay calm and attentive to help them keep calm, so we must do everything within our power to make sure that each of our dogs is as dependable as possible.

Our mission is and always has been to provide the highest-quality service dogs possible for our nation's disabled veterans, and it will continue to be just that. They deserve nothing less.



SPOTLIGHT

On Jackie Fox

Breeding Director and Training Coordinator, Jackie Fox, has been with Patriot PAWS since 2014 when she became a Patriot PAWS Aggieland student puppy raiser her freshman year at Texas A&M University. She graduated in 2018 with a degree in Animal Science and a passion for animal reproduction and genetics. Jackie joined the Patriot PAWS staff in Rockwall as Senior Trainer and became involved with purpose breeding through our membership in the ABC breeding cooperative. She has successfully overseen the whelping and development of 68 puppies so far, with 2 more litters on the way.

"When I started as a puppy raiser back in 2014, I could have never imagined the journey I was embarking on. Patriot PAWS has been the perfect place to pursue my love of animals and passion for reproduction and dog behavior, all in an effort to help those who have given so much for us. I can't imagine what the next 10 years might hold."

Thank you for turning your passion into our progress, Jackie!



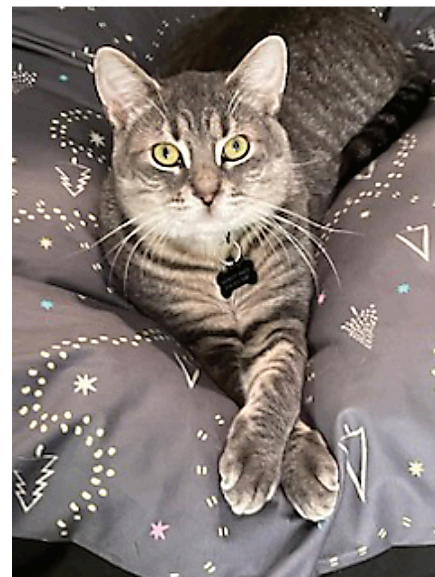
Cattitudes

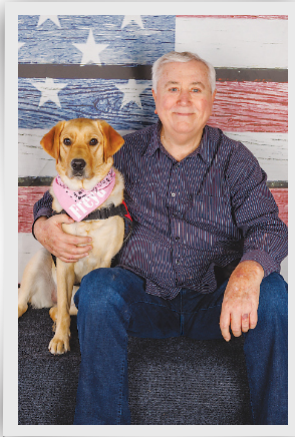
As the feline tolerance trainer for Patriot PAWS, it falls to me to make sure that our pups in training learn that cats aren't to be viewed as prey and chased. The younger a puppy can learn this, the better, although it can be rather annoying when one mistakes me for a plush toy. I always tell myself that he's young, he'll learn, and they always do.

I must admit, though, that the hardest thing to get used to with this job has been **puppy kisses**. It's nice when they like me, but please, **save the kisses** for the two-legged staff members who actually seem to like it!

Until next time, y'all take care.

Lance





DAVID & FREYA

Air Force TSgt **David** served for 10 years. His crypto communications job took him to many different countries in service to our country. David suffers from mobility issues.

At our Spring '24 Graduation, David received service dog **Freya**, a female Golden/Lab mix. According to David, "Freya looks at me with love in her eyes. She is helping me cope with life, and walking and playing with her is good exercise for me and very therapeutic. She has been a great addition to my life, and it is only getting better and better."



GREG & DOGE

Army SPC **Greg** served for just short of four years. He was deployed to Afghanistan and was the 13 Bravo Ammo Team Chief. Greg sustained a knee injury and also suffers from back issues.

At our Spring '24 Graduation, Greg received service dog **Doge**, a male black Lab. According to Greg, "Doge sticks to my side like glue and has helped me a lot with being out in public. At the house, he makes things easier on my knee and back. I cannot thank Patriot PAWS and all their supporters enough for what they do for us veterans!"



MIKKI & DUBEY

Navy PO2 **Mikki** served Stateside for 12 years. She was a hospital corpsman & served attached to the Marine Corps. Mikki was injured multiple times, both during her service, & afterwards as a firefighter and EMT.

At our Spring '24 Graduation, Mikki received service dog **Dubey**, a male black Lab. According to Mikki, "Dubey has certainly made life worth living again! Dubey FORCES me to be a better person in every way. I honestly wish every veteran suffering from a disability of ANY kind could have a service dog, especially one as magnificent as my Dubey Jewel! He's simply amazing!"

In Their Own Words

Now and then, we'd like to share with you what we hear back from our veteran recipients. Tricia received Hoge in our Fall 2023 Graduation.

"Can I tell you how I feel about Patriot Paws [sic]? Waiting...it seemed like forever and then it wasn't. The time arrived and I met so many wonderful people in Gatesville. It was an amazing and emotional week.

Trust the process. I heard this phrase from the beginning. I totally believed it and then I met Hoge. Believe in love at first sight? I do, Hoge was a bit hyper but the energy is something I found she matches. She is an over greeter HAHA, so am I. She is NOT afraid of wheelchairs. Oh I had tread her paws a time or two but she has learned to watch out for my wheels. I had the opportunity to work with many dogs

and my goal was to trust the process but then there was Hoge and I just fell in love. She worked with me so perfectly. She does not think of it as work but play. I met some amazing veterans from all services that week and we stay in contact even now.

All the training does not prepare you for the growth of your heart. I believe as I grew in hers I knew she grew in mine. I never wanted a dog. I needed a helper. I think I found both.

As a veteran who is a Suicide survivor, I am certainly glad I failed that one, I truly believe that pairing me with a service animal has a critical place in my life. I do wonder how many veteran suicides could be prevented with the pairing of the veterans with a truly trained service dog as I received from PP? Not only does Hoge work with my daily needs of picking things up, closing doors and getting me out. She

picks up on my moods. I do not know how, maybe we don't put up walls to our dogs the way we do people. She gets up close to me when I need it and even does a paw if she notices me starting to stress and we both get away to a quieter place.

My life is better with Hoge but I truly believe it was not just her breeding but her training under PP. To me, the training PP did is what made the difference.

It made the difference in my life and that is a fact. I am a better, happier and more productive person since being paired with my Hoge and a big thank you to Patriot Paws [sic]!"





THANK YOU to everyone who participated for helping make our Inaugural Benefit Sporting Clays Shoot at Dallas Gun Club in April a success!

Special thanks to:
Presenting Sponsor,
Elite Turbine Maintenance,
Hero Sponsor,
Mojo Consultants and
Corporate Volunteers,
Capital One.

Stay tuned for next year's Clays Shoot date.

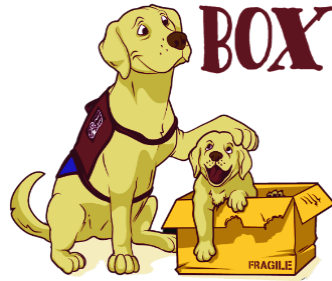


MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SUPPORT PATRIOT PAWS THIS NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY!

SAVE THE DATE, 09/19/24, to be a part of the largest community-wide giving event in the nation, North Texas Giving Day! Donors nationwide can participate by making a contribution to Patriot PAWS to help us continue our mission of changing the lives of disabled veterans, four paws at a time.

In conjunction with Assistance Dogs International, you can dive into the world of service dog training with Patriot PAWS Service Dogs in an immersive 3-day training workshop **September 26-28, 2024.** You'll learn from world-renowned dog trainers Ken Ramirez, Michele Pouliot and Kathy Sdao on the topics of impulse control, cue tips, chain/behavioral sequences and more. While geared toward service dog trainers, dog trainers in general or anyone else interested in service dog training may attend. **For additional information and to register, please visit:** <https://patriotpaws.org/thinking-outside-the-box/>

SERVICE DOGS THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

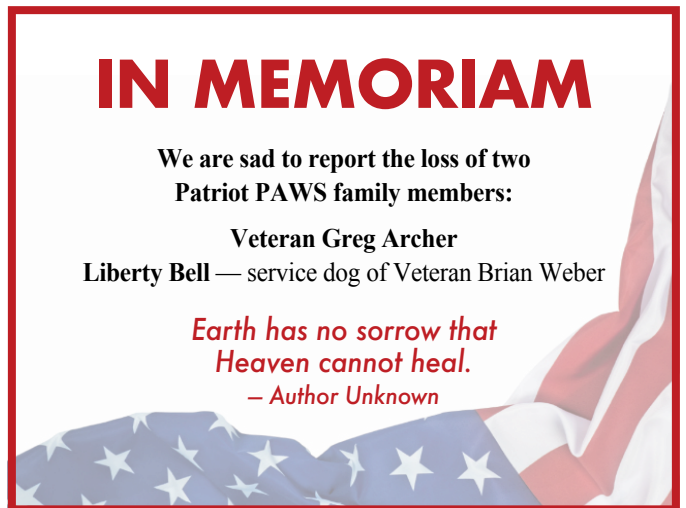


IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the loss of two Patriot PAWS family members:

Veteran Greg Archer
Liberty Bell — service dog of Veteran Brian Weber

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



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.

• 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