

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



THE BIG REVEAL!

ON November 4, 2017, Patriot PAWS held a Fall Graduation and Kennels Grand Opening at which we revealed our new kennel facility to the public. And now, as promised, we would like to take YOU on a photographic tour to see it for yourself.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated to create this wonderful new addition to our campus, as well as everyone who so generously contributed to the equipping of our on-site veterinary medical room. Security remains an ongoing concern, so funding for a security camera system to enable us to provide an added measure of after-hours protection for the dogs is now at the top of our wish list. **Enjoy the tour!**



The Beginnings of the Kennels



The New Front Entrance...



...Pond and View



Concrete Runs Outdoors



General Population Kennels Indoors



Fully Equipped Medical Room



Puppy Play Yard



Indoor Space to Live Comfortably



Hello Neighbor!



Outdoor Space to Enjoy the Sunshine



Generous Gifts from Capital One Plano!



VETERAN ANDREA HILL & SAKE

US Navy PO2 Andrea Hill of Texas served in both Kuwait and Afghanistan and worked in aviation ordnance. She has been diagnosed with PTSD as the result of service-related events.

In November 2017, Andrea received service dog Sake, a male Golden Retriever, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. According to Andrea, "Sake made my life easier. He keeps me calm. He has given me purpose. He has made my life worth living. Sake totally and unconditionally loves me. He is an asset to my life. Thank you, Patriot PAWS."



VETERAN FREEDOM M. GREEN & GUS

US Army veteran Freedom Marie Green of Texas served as a combat medic working in operations, clinical and training. She has been diagnosed with PTSD as the result of service-related events.

In November 2017, Freedom received service dog Gus, a male yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. According to Freedom, "I'm beyond grateful to everyone at Patriot PAWS and to Gus. He's changing the way I experience the world and the way I see myself. I didn't know how much better life could be. He's showing me the way."



VETERAN JOE SCHNETTLER & LAKODA

US Navy PO2 Joseph (Joe) Schnettler of Texas worked as a Radioman. He served 2 tours in Iraq and was serving in Afghanistan in 2008 when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an IED. Joe sustained major back injuries, and he has since been diagnosed with PTSD.

In November 2017, Joe received service dog Lakoda, a male yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. According to Joe, "Lakoda has been great for me because he has helped me stay calm...and I have gotten out of my house more than I used to."

ELI'S CORNER

Our kennel staff is the behind-the-scenes force tasked with the tremendous responsibility of the daily care of every dog at the training center. It is their job to ensure that each dog's individual needs are met during the time they are not actively training. From food to exercise to grooming, they make sure that each dog is healthy and happy because a dog's physical and mental well-being are essential to his training. Some dogs require more attention than others, but these dedicated staff members and the volunteers who assist them can always be counted on to think "outside the box" to do whatever it takes to help each dog be the best service dog candidate he can be.

As for me, I'm more of an inside the box (or bag) kind of cat because they're both great places for a nap.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli





VETERAN MELISA SATTERWHITE & SAUCY

US Army PFC Melisa Satterwhite of Texas worked in communications in the field and drove equipment trucks. While on active duty, she was involved in a crash in which her seatbelt pulled on and tore her carotid artery, causing her to have a massive stroke. Melisa is now confined to a wheelchair and has compromised speech.

In November 2017, Melisa received service dog Saucy, a female yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. According to Melisa, “I now have a friend and companion who loves me unconditionally and never leaves my side. Saucy is totally devoted to me and has made such a difference in my daily life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”



VETERAN RICHARD HEATH & RANGO

Richard Heath can tell you firsthand what having a service dog means to a disabled veteran. Richard and his service dog, Wendy, were featured on the cover of our Spring 2012 newsletter. And Richard can also tell you how devastating it is to lose that dog.

In November 2017, Richard received service dog Rango, a male yellow Lab. When asked about receiving his second service dog, Richard replied, “I was fearful I might make comparisons. You never forget your first service dog, especially one as good as I had, but each one is unique, so keep an open mind and heart. There is a reason unknown to us mere mortals why this particular dog picked you, so embrace it, and all else will fall into place. Rango was just what I needed.”



VETERAN TODD BAKER & EAGLE

US Army SPC Todd Baker of Michigan worked as an Environmental Health Tech after serving previously in the US Marine Corps infantry. His service included deployment to Iraq. Todd applied for a service dog to help him deal with PTSD issues.

In November 2017, Todd received service dog Eagle, a male black Lab, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. According to Todd, “Eagle has given me purpose, affection and selfless love. He is always by my side ready to work and...has quickly become my best friend. Thank you...Patriot PAWS...If it wasn't for (your) selflessness, I and many other veterans would continue to stumble through life without a clear direction.”

SPOTLIGHT

ON TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (TDCJ)

2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of Patriot PAWS' partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under which our inmate trainer program was created. Female inmates at the Crain and Lane Murray units in Gatesville and male inmates at the Boyd unit in Fairfield train dogs for Patriot PAWS while learning useful skills which help many of them find employment after release. **Thank you, TDCJ, and Happy Anniversary!**



FROM THE KENNELS

DONNA FAY – Kennel Manager

MELODY CRAIG – Kennel Technician



What is your funniest story from our kennels?

D: Not funny, but heartwarming. At the end of every night, the kennels are quiet and calm. Each staff member has their own version, but we wish the dogs a good rest before turning out the lights.

M: A professor was here performing a seminar when we were still in the dog house (the building previously used as kennels). We had no running water in the dog house at the time, and he kept attempting to turn on the faucets.

What is your favorite part about the new kennels?

D: The heating and air conditioning system. It is so amazing. Our air gets completely changed out 7 times per hour.

M: The commercial AC/heating unit.

What is a fun fact about you?

D: My background was not in animal care. I've worked on Wall Street, business owner, Young Life Leader and as a mom.

M: My dog, Harvey, will roll on his back and dance if I tell him, "dance!"; but my boyfriend won't dance.



LETTER FROM LORI

...will return in our Summer Issue.

ENGRAVED BRICKS FUNDRAISER UPDATE:

As of the last week of January, 107 bricks and 5 benches had been ordered to go into our future garden area, Patriot Garden. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far! This is an ongoing project, so additional bricks or benches may be ordered from our website under "Donate" or by contacting the training center for an order form. The multi-phase project is anticipated to begin in early Spring with demolition of the existing dilapidated house and construction of a new house in its place to be used by veterans, courtesy of the Dallas Builders Association.

WANT TO READ more about Veteran Richard Heath (Spring 2012) or therapy dog Roper (Fall 2014)? Just go to www.patriotpaws.org and click on News/Newsletters. There you'll find every issue dating back to our very first in 2011. Read how we've grown!



THANK YOU to Hawk Security Services for donating the materials for and installation of our new alarm system! Plus, every person who mentions Patriot PAWS when purchasing security services from Hawk will receive a \$100 discount (\$200 discount for military), and Hawk will make a \$100 donation to Patriot PAWS! Call 888-UGO-HAWK or visit HawkSecurity.com.

IN MEMORIAM

In February, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office lost their therapy dog, Roper, who was trained by Patriot PAWS and spotlighted in our Fall 2014 newsletter. Roper's job was to provide love and comfort to children involved in cases in the Child Abuse Division. Our hearts go out to his handler, Thad LaBarre, and everyone who worked with "Officer Roper".

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

• 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 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.