

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



BEYOND THE TRAINING

Did you know that Patriot PAWS does more for veterans than train service dogs? Although our mission is to train service dogs for disabled veterans at no cost to the veteran, our service to those veterans doesn't stop when they receive one of our dogs. Our trainers are always available to assist with questions or concerns and, if needed, provide additional customization or refresher training. Veteran Juan Amaris has two prosthetic hands, so our trainers taught his dog, Dillinger, to help Juan dress, including zipping up his pants. And Veteran Carl Joiner, who received his dog, 2 Sox, in 2012, attended the April 2018 prison graduation for 2 weeks of service dog team refresher training.

Patriot PAWS also provides veterinary care, including annual preventative and even surgeries, free of charge for the working service dogs of our local recipients. This does not apply to social companions or dogs otherwise adopted out. Patriot PAWS Veteran Coordinator Aaron Mixell's service dog, Chief, is provided with routine allergy shots. And recently, Veteran Keith Young's service dog, Spot, had a 1.3-pound fatty tumor surgically removed from his leg by Patriot PAWS Primary Veterinarian, Dr. Rhonda Phillips Black, assisted by Carrie Robinson, staff Veterinary Technician. Thankfully, Spot is doing well. The surgery was performed in our fully-equipped veterinary medical room located in the new kennels where everything from routine care to illnesses and injuries to actual surgeries can now be handled on site.

Additional training and service dog veterinary care are just two ways that Patriot PAWS does more to support veterans. Our **Veterans For PAWS** program reaches out to local veterans in Rockwall and surrounding communities to offer them an opportunity to get to know other veterans. **Staff Veteran Coordinators Jay Springstead and Aaron Mixell**, both combat veterans, serve as the group's peer sponsors. The group is open to all veterans, not just those who are our recipients or on our waiting list. Veterans For PAWS, or VFP, meets every Monday evening at the training center and has an average attendance of 6-30, although 115 veterans have shown interest in the program. The ratio of veterans who are recipients or on our waiting list compared to those who are neither is approximately 50/50.

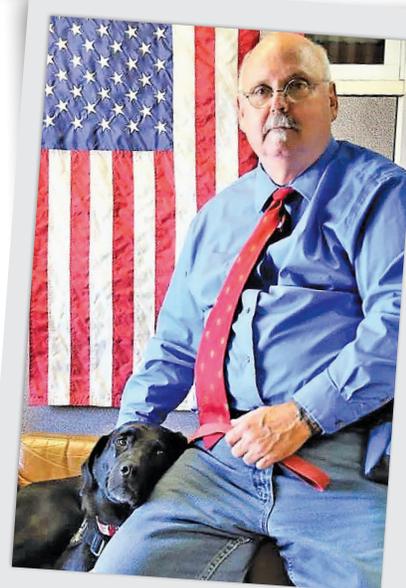
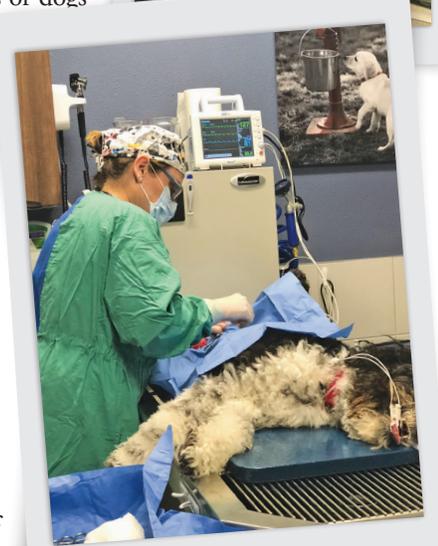
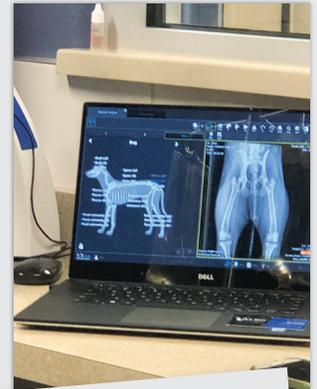
VFP was created after a veteran unexpectedly came to the training center one afternoon asking if he could do anything to help. Although protocol is to attend Volunteer Orientation before working as a Patriot PAWS volunteer, staff members sensed an air of despair about him and offered him the task of putting together several dog crates that had just been delivered. He completed the job and left, and a note was later discovered thanking Patriot PAWS for saving his life that day. He was struggling with PTSD and had been desperate for a place to go where he could feel safe and accepted.

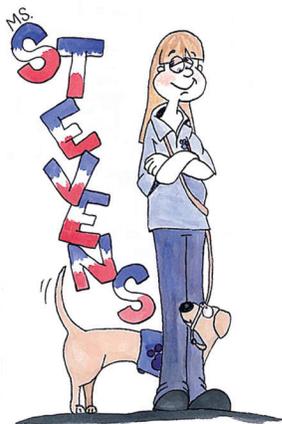
VFP takes an approach to educating its members about PTSD in much the same way that AA and ALANON conduct their programs. Members are provided a safe environment where they can talk openly about their problems free from judgment and with the understanding of their peers. The rule is to take a little and give a little each time. This helps the group as a whole to understand what PTSD is and how it affects not only themselves, but their family and friends as well. By sharing coping skills to use outside of meetings in everyday life and building confidence and trust in one another, these veterans helping veterans are making a difference in each other's lives in ways no one else could.

There is so much more that needs to be done to improve the lives of our disabled veterans, and we're doing what we can, but we can't do it without your help. Please, help us continue to give back to those who have served and sacrificed for us all.

Aaron Mixell
with Chief

Jay Springstead
with Tex





LETTER FROM LORI

Our new kennel facility has enabled us to have more dogs in our program, but the ripple effect is that now we need more trainers, so I've decided to train our own. Patriot PAWS is not only fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) as a provider of service dogs, we are also certified by the State Of Texas as a service dog trainer training school. Our new trainer internship program is a 30-month course which begins at ground level working in the kennels to learn the basics of dog care. Interns will work their way through our curriculum to learn to train service dogs the Patriot PAWS way under ADI guidelines, and at the end of the 30 months, will take an ADI exam. If they pass, they will be ADI-accredited service dog trainers. I'm really excited to give these young people the chance to learn such a rewarding profession while at the same time keeping our program moving forward. More dogs for more veterans...that's the plan.



VETERAN ARRON FRANKUM & POKEY

US Navy LT Arron Frankum of Connecticut served 1998–2008. Injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident left Arron restricted to a wheelchair, and in 2008, he received service dog Ben. Ben served Arron well until he passed away in 2016.

In April 2018, Arron received his second service dog, Pokey, a male yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Gatesville prison. According to Arron, "Since receiving Pokey, I don't think he's been more than 3 feet away from me! He has already mastered the cue of closing the door behind us and has proven to be an invaluable partner and friend. I will be forever grateful. Thank you!"



VETERAN AL MARTIN & AGGIE

US Army LTC Al Martin of Texas had a long and varied career serving our country from 1970–2005, both State-side and in Germany and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his service, Al was a Platoon Leader, Unit Commander, Medical Evacuation Pilot and US Army Comptroller. He applied for a service dog to mitigate the effects of PTSD resulting from his service as a Medical Evacuation Pilot.

In April 2018, Al received service dog Aggie, a female yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Gatesville prison. According to Al, "Aggie has a potent calming effect. She is always with me, like my shadow. She has lessened my stress and given me a greater desire to live. Words fail to express my gratitude for her."

ELI'S CORNER

As a middle-aged cat, I sometimes think back on my life and am grateful for where I am today. Before coming to Patriot PAWS, I was a drifter. My life changed the day that one of Lori's friends called her to ask if she wanted a cat who thought he was a dog because she had found me asleep with her two dogs in their doghouse. Lori hired me to teach Feline Tolerance 101 to her service dogs in training, and so my career began. It's not that I think I'm a dog, I just like dogs. And people. In fact, I like pretty much everyone. Over the years, we've had a number of different creatures at the training center including a bird, fish and even chickens, and we all got along. If we can accept each other's differences, we can be friends, a lesson I wish a lot of humans would learn. Life's too short and too good not to spend it among friends.

Until next time, dear friends.





VETERAN CARL JOINER & 2 SOX

US Army PFC Carl Joiner of Minnesota served in Vietnam 1965–1966. He was wounded when the helicopter on which he was a door gunner was ambushed while landing. Carl has mobility issues and has been diagnosed with PTSD, and in November 2012, he received service dog 2 Sox. They were featured in our Spring 2013 newsletter.

In April 2018, Carl and 2 Sox attended a graduation at the Gatesville prison for two weeks of refresher training. Carl explained, “I was concerned for 2 Sox that I had forgotten too much of our original training and wasn’t being consistent in utilizing her skills. I think we both feel better now. It means a lot to have Patriot PAWS always there to help.”



VETERAN TOBY KICKER & CASSIE

US Army SPC Toby Kicker of Alabama served from 1997–2006 and was a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Gunner. He served in both Bosnia and Kosovo and was severely injured in a training accident while mobilizing for deployment to Iraq. Toby has balance and mobility issues and has been diagnosed with PTSD.

In the April 2018 graduation held at the Gatesville prison, Toby received service dog Cassie, a female yellow Lab. According to Toby, “My mobility is not stable all the time due to my hip and leg injuries. I fell the other day, and Cassie helped me up. We are still learning each other and bonding very well.”



VETERAN TONI AGUILAR & GASTON

US Navy PO3 Toni Aguilar of Texas served three sea service deployments during her 1991–1997 service. She currently works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and applied for a service dog to help her with her service-related disabilities.

In April 2018, Toni received service dog Gaston, a male black Lab, at a graduation held at the Gatesville prison. Toni says that Gaston has helped her in many ways, all important, “but the most meaningful indicator of my improved quality of life came from one of my kids (who said), ‘Momma, you haven’t yelled at us hardly at all lately.’ This is a change, and it’s very real.”

SPOTLIGHT

PUPPIES!!

Having our new kennels means that we can now have more dogs in our program which means that we have been getting in a lot of PUPPIES! These 7 cuties are all littermates and are named Boyd, Coach P, Daman, Doctor T (Doc), Easton, Phoenix and Ripley. Wish them all luck as they begin their long journey down the road to becoming service dogs!



FROM THE KENNELS

Don Rose and Don Weintraub, otherwise known as “Don 1” and “Don 2”, are two Vietnam era veterans who come to the Patriot PAWS facility every morning to volunteer in the kennels. Get to know more about “The Dons” by reading below!



How did you first find out about Patriot PAWS?

DR: Several years ago, I was taking a dog for a walk at Harry Myers Park, and Patriot PAWS was there for an event on Veterans Day.

DW: I saw Patriot PAWS vans riding around all the time and thought it would be something I would enjoy being involved with. It fulfilled my love of dogs and veterans!

What did you do for a living before you retired?

DR: I was an Electronic Engineer for 45 years.

DW: I worked 40 years in the auto industry and owned both Cadillac and Jeep dealerships.

What is your favorite thing about coming to volunteer at Patriot PAWS every day?

DR: Coming here gets me up every morning.

DW: Getting to spend time with Donna and Melody – they are wonderful!

ON THE ROAD TO 102

Our WWII veteran friend, Sgt. Nick Nichols, turned 101 in March and wanted everyone to know, “101 is a blessing from the Lord. I feel great, I love helping Patriot PAWS and veterans when I can, and I’m enjoying life to the fullest.” Sgt. Nick, featured in both our Summer 2016 and Summer 2017 newsletters, has been fundraising for Patriot PAWS since his 99th birthday party. If you would like to help Sgt. Nick help his fellow veterans, you can visit his GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/sgtnick100 or designate any other form of donation with “Sgt. Nick”.



SAVE THE DATE!

You don’t have to live in Texas to give! Please, help us break last year’s record of over \$55,000 in donations to Patriot PAWS by making your donation at <https://northtexasgivingday.org/patriot-paws-service-dogs>.



ENGRAVED BRICKS FUNDRAISER UPDATE:

As of April 30, 136 bricks and 8 benches had been ordered to go into our future garden area, Patriot Garden. The dilapidated house has now been demolished, and the new veterans’ house being built courtesy of the Dallas Builders Association is expected to be completed sometime this Fall. Additional bricks or benches may be ordered from our website under “Donate” or by contacting the training center for an order form.

THANK YOU TO PURINA PRO PLAN VETERINARY DIETS

for partnering with Patriot PAWS as our exclusive dog food provider! Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets has been our preferred and recommended diet for several years, and we are proud to be affiliated with such a well-respected brand.



IN MEMORIAM

The Patriot PAWS Family’s hearts go out to Veteran Aaron Sears for the loss of his service dog, **Lane Murray (Lane)** and to Veteran Robby Davis for the loss of his service dog, **Doc**.

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.