

# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



## HELPING VETERANS BY RAISING PUPPIES

**Patriot PAWS has a special group of volunteers** called puppy raisers who provide our dogs with a crucial segment of their training known as socialization. Anyone interested in becoming a puppy raiser must attend classes taught by the trainers at the Rock-wall training center. The potential puppy raiser's home environment is assessed for things like animals in the home that could be problematic or unsafe conditions such as no fenced-in yard. A puppy raiser must know all of the dogs' cues and be able to correctly handle a dog in public because, once entrusted with one of our dogs, that dog lives with them and goes everywhere they go, just as he will do someday with a veteran. It is a 24-7 commitment on the part of the puppy raiser and their entire family to help the dog learn to successfully function in the world of humans. The dogs are exposed to everyday things in the average home that they weren't exposed to in the prison program, and by going everywhere with the puppy raiser, they learn to deal with the general public. The puppy raiser takes the dog with them to work, restaurants, movie theaters, shopping, and they even fly in a flight simulator together so the dog will know what airplanes are like, all things that he will potentially do one day with his veteran.

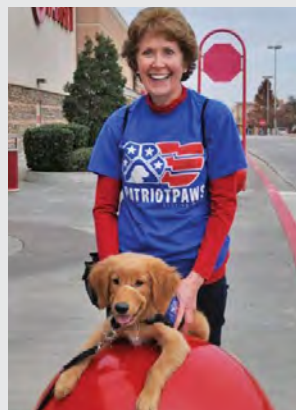
comes in seeing the dogs pick their veterans. You then realize the full circle of why this work is important. I feel exceptionally blessed that Patriot PAWS is in my life."

**Hedwig Pettinger** and **Tammie Zaleski** met at a PAWS puppy raiser recruiting meeting in April 2013. Hedwig, who previously raised pups to become service dogs for the blind, has had 10 PAWS dogs so far, 2 of which were in her care for an entire year. "Being a Patriot PAWS puppy raiser...increases your family circle as veterans receive dogs you had a hand in raising. I call it 'being related by dog.' Best family EVER!" Tammie became a PAWS puppy raiser after her sons grew up and she found herself with free time. She has had 13 dogs so far. "I loved the idea of being a puppy raiser and supporting our veterans that have given so much to our country. Everyone always asks how I can give up these beautiful dogs after having them in my home. My response is...each dog always takes a piece of my heart with them. I love them all."

**Sylvia Yetts** received her first dog in July 2016 after volunteering at Patriot PAWS for 2 years and watching the puppy raisers work. "I came to understand the importance of their role in helping these dogs to become well-rounded service dogs. I also noticed the love and



*Linda Hood and Lakoda*



*Hedwig Pettinger and Sam*



*Tammie Zaleski and Stan*



*Sylvia Yetts and Titan*

**Linda Hood** has been a PAWS puppy raiser since January 2011 and to date has taken 27 dogs-in-training into her home and into her heart. "I always have to keep in mind they are not my dogs, and I am just one step in their journey to fulfilling their purpose. The greatest satisfaction

commitment these volunteers have to the organization, to the dogs and more importantly, to our veterans. I'm loving it and (am) glad I decided to make this my commitment, too!"

**AS OUR ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO GROW, SO DOES OUR NEED FOR PUPPY RAISERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME ONE OF THESE VERY SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS AND HAVE A HAND IN TRAINING SERVICE DOGS FOR DISABLED VETERANS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE UNDER "HOW YOU CAN HELP" FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION.**

## LETTER FROM LORI

**W**hen I founded Patriot PAWS a little over 10 years ago, I really had no idea what to expect. It's in those quiet moments late at night that it hits me sometimes how far we've come but how far we still have to go. There is so much to running a non-profit that I had no idea about. All I knew is that I wanted to train dogs to help disabled veterans. I've been very blessed to have found so many good people along the way to join me, and together, we've accomplished so much. But we can never stop looking forward, never stop expanding our programs, never lose sight of all of those veterans who need our help. That is why we regularly look for ways to cut costs while continuing to train the highest-quality service dogs possible.



*In this age of technology, one of our goals is to expand the readership of the e-version of our newsletters. If you are reading this from a paper copy that you received through the mail and would be willing to switch to receiving a digital copy instead, please use the link on the back page to "pupdate" your preference. We have no plans to discontinue mailing paper copies to those individuals and organizations who wish to continue to receive our newsletters that way, but printing and mailing fewer paper copies is one more way that we can make the most of your donation dollar.*

*As with anything worthwhile, it takes a village. Thank you for being a part of ours.*



Leo

**I'm** always glad when Patriot PAWS adopts a new rescue dog to train because I feel a certain kinship with these dogs. Through no fault of their own, they ended up at a shelter. I once found myself homeless, too, but Lori gave me a chance to become a dog trainer and, well, you know how that turned out. We give these dogs a chance to become PTS dogs to help our disabled veterans, to have a purpose to their life, to be needed and cared for and loved. Two-legged or four-legged, that's what we all want, right? My apprentice Leo understands this first-pawed, too, since he was abandoned as a kitten and taken in by Lori to help me. Sometimes, one of these rescues excels in his training to the point that he can go on to become one of our mobility service dogs. Other times, though, the training just doesn't work out for some reason, in which case, we do our best to place him as a social companion or a therapy dog or even adopt him out as a pet. But if he does have to be taken back to the shelter, the 30–45 days of training that he received while with us will have made him highly adoptable. We believe that no dog is ever a failure and can find a purpose to his life if only given a chance, and around here, that's what we're all about...second chances.

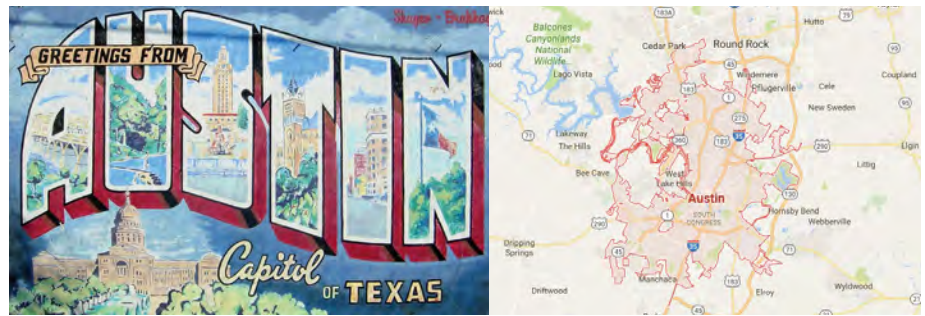
Until next time, dear friends.

*Eli*



# WHERE IN AUSTIN IS TOMMY?

Fox 7 News in Austin, TX will be raising a Patriot PAWS puppy named Tommy on air from September 13th through the end of this year. Eight Fox employees went through Patriot PAWS Puppy Raiser In Training classes to enable them to train and care for Tommy, a black Lab puppy. Fox 7 will air segments twice a week on Tuesdays and Sundays, the first being educational on how service dogs help veterans, the second called "Where In Austin Is Tommy?", an entertaining look at Tommy's training and travels with his eight handlers as they go about their work doing news stories and attending events. The segments can also be viewed on the Fox 7 website and the Patriot PAWS website, or watch Tommy by following Patriot PAWS on Facebook or Twitter. Fox affiliates across the country will be given the opportunity to air these segments as well. At the end of the year, Tommy will leave the station to enter the PAWS prison program for the next phase of his extensive training where Fox 7 will continue to follow his progress. After Tommy's training at the prison is completed, Fox 7 will again serve as his puppy raiser for the next rotation of his training. Thank you to Fox 7 for giving us this special opportunity to share Tommy's journey to becoming a service dog.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**3**  
TYPES OF

**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			





## PUPDATE YOUR NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE

By using the link below to sign up to receive our newsletters by email instead of receiving paper copies through the mail, you will help us reduce our printing and mailing costs. Our digital version is the same as our printed version, so you'll still receive the same great newsletter and help us s-t-r-e-t-c-h our donation dollars at the same time.

**Thank you!**

<http://www.patriotpaws.org/pupdate-1.html>



**Thank You** to Nestlé Purina PetCare for their generous support in supplying Pro Plan products to Patriot PAWS for the remainder of 2016 enabling us to feed our dogs high-quality food at no cost to us.



*wag, wag.*

### IN MEMORIAM

**Service Dog Captain**

**Service Dog Luke Skywalker**

The Patriot PAWS family has lost two wonderful service dogs. Our hearts go out to veteran David Scott for the loss of his service dog, Captain, and to non-veteran Kristen Daniels for the loss of her service dog, Luke Skywalker.

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



**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO OUR DONATION PAGE**  
**HELP US SERVE THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED US ALL**

## 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, April 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.