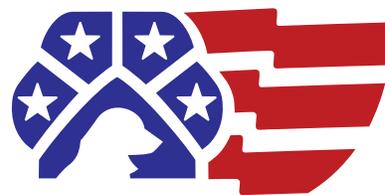


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



SECOND-CHANCE DOGS

The statistics are shocking...every day, 22 U.S. veterans take their own life. That's one veteran suicide every 65 minutes. And 30% of all U.S. veterans have had suicidal thoughts.

These numbers were released by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the Patriot PAWS family personally knows all too well the reality of veteran suicide. Veteran Coordinator Jay Springstead lost his son, Tyler, to suicide in March 2013. Tyler had served in combat in Iraq and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress so severe that he was deemed 100% disabled by the VA and was considered unemployable. Tyler was 30 years old. Jay believes that having a trained PTS dog might have made a difference in Tyler's struggle with PTS. And as Veteran Coordinator, he has noted the large number of applicants who list PTS as their primary reason for applying for a service dog.

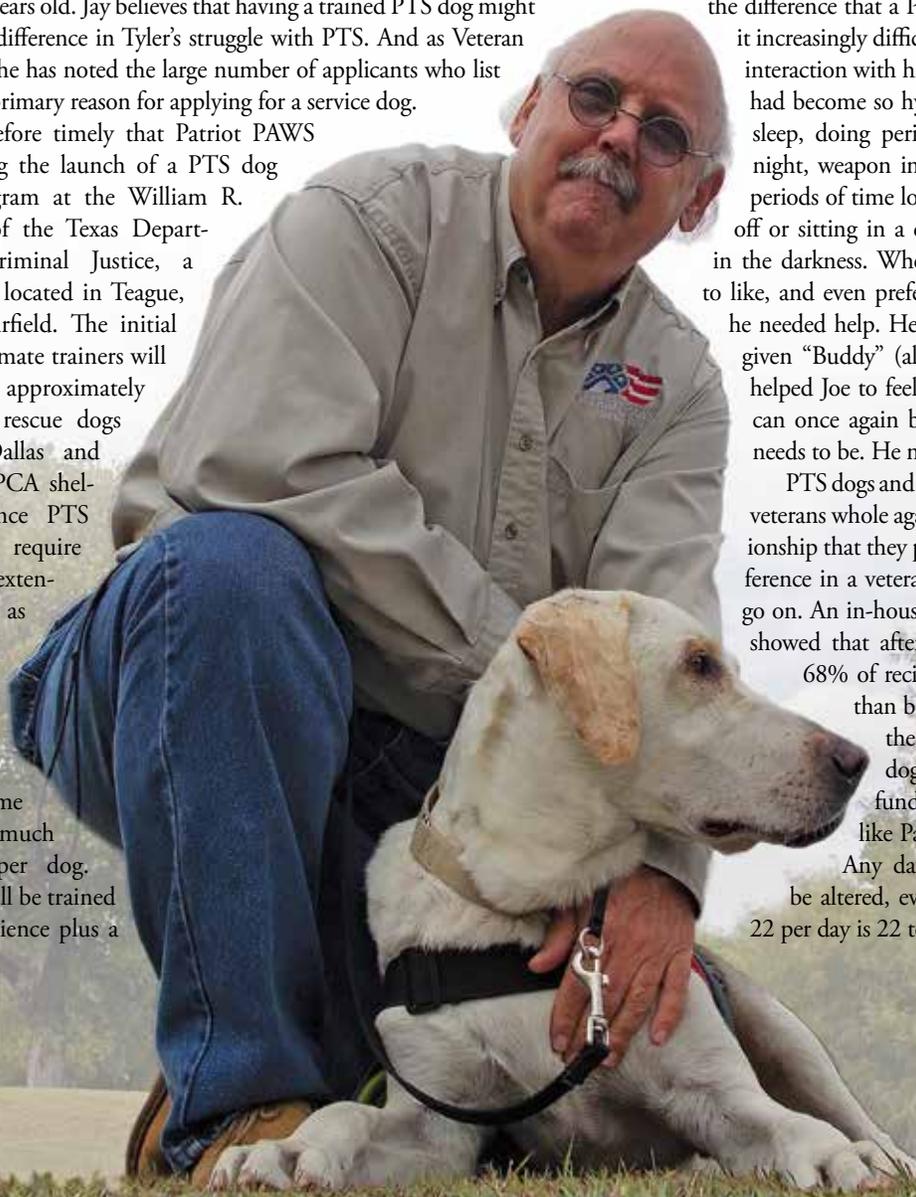
It is therefore timely that Patriot PAWS is anticipating the launch of a PTS dog training program at the William R. Boyd Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, a men's facility located in Teague, TX, near Fairfield. The initial group of 8 inmate trainers will learn to train approximately one-year-old rescue dogs from the Dallas and McKinney SPCA shelters, and since PTS dogs don't require the same extensive training as specialized service dogs, they can be trained in a much shorter period of time and for a much lower cost per dog. These dogs will be trained in basic obedience plus a

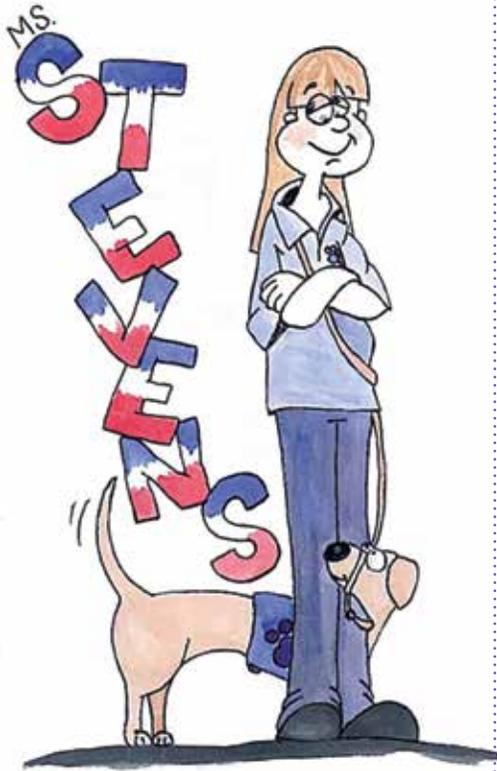
few other specialized behaviors needed by someone dealing with post-traumatic stress such as doing perimeter checks, waking their person from night terrors and being a physical barrier between their person and the public. "Jay's Dogs", as the new program is unofficially known, will be a much-needed addition to the PAWS service dog program.

Many, if not most, of the veterans who have received dogs from Patriot PAWS have been diagnosed with some degree of PTS. One in particular, we'll call him "Joe" (not his real name), is a prime example of the difference that a PTS dog can make. Joe was finding it increasingly difficult to function, having less and less interaction with his wife and two young children. He had become so hyper-vigilant that he was unable to sleep, doing perimeter checks again and again all night, weapon in hand. And he would spend long periods of time locked in a bathroom with the lights off or sitting in a dark closet. He was seeking solace in the darkness. When Joe realized that he had begun to like, and even prefer, that darkness, he admitted that he needed help. He applied to Patriot PAWS and was given "Buddy" (also not his real name). Buddy has helped Joe to feel less fearful and more secure so he can once again be the husband and father that he needs to be. He no longer seeks out the darkness.

PTS dogs and service dogs can't make our disabled veterans whole again, but the assistance and companionship that they provide can often make enough difference in a veteran's life that he or she will want to go on. An in-house poll conducted by Patriot PAWS showed that after having their dog for 6 months, 68% of recipients were taking less medication than before receiving their dog. Although the VA now acknowledges that these dogs can help, they still provide no funding, so it's up to organizations like Patriot PAWS to try to fill the need.

Any day that those terrible statistics can be altered, even by one, is a good day, because 22 per day is 22 too many.





SPOTLIGHT

ON CAREER-CHANGE DOGS

Not every dog who enters the Patriot PAWS program will become a service dog, but that doesn't mean that he can't be successful in another way. York was actually placed as a service dog, but her veteran passed away shortly thereafter, and she is now serving veterans as a therapy dog for Counselor Debbie Bruton at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, CA. Grant and Rocky have gone to Texas Rapid Response K9 to be trained to sniff out illegal drugs for law enforcement. And Roper is now working for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office as a therapy dog for children who are brought into the system by Child Protective Services. So whether it's serving in some highly-trained capacity or just being a family pet, every dog can be important in his own way.



York



Grant



Rocky



Roper

LETTER FROM LORI

While back, on a school tour of our training center, one of our trainers asked the group of children if anyone knew what PTS(D) is, and one of them answered, "It's when a person sees something bad in their mind that they can't forget." That child was right.

As former President George W. Bush suggests, post-traumatic stress should not be considered a disorder but instead an injury as much as any physical wound is. But because it's not visible, PTS is often misunderstood by the public. People with PTS dogs are often asked why they have a service dog because they "look fine". Appearances can be deceiving, though. PTS is real and can be as debilitating as any physical injury.

Our new PTS dog program hopes to educate the public regarding the need for these dogs as well as help the growing number of veterans applying for them. To do that, we're expanding to a third TDCJ unit, and for the first time ever, will use male inmates to train rescue dogs. It's an ambitious project, but second-chance dogs trained by inmates to help veterans sounds like second chances all the way around to me.

ELI'S CORNER

Teaching feline tolerance to dogs is not an easy job. In fact, it can be exhausting, especially when you're the only one doing it. I think that's why my boss decided that I needed an apprentice. His name is Leo.

Leo is just a kid and gets distracted easily which makes it difficult for me to teach him the fine points of working with dogs: 1. Always keep your eye on a dog, especially if he's not leashed. 2. Read his body language to try to determine if his intent is playful or aggressive. 3. Dogs don't jump, so if you have to make a getaway, just run to a place over his head, and you'll be fine. 4. Deploy claws only as a last resort. 5. Puppies make puddles, so watch



Leo

where you step. 6. Some dogs lick you when they like you, but you'll get used to it.

I look at educating Leo as an investment in my future. Right now, it's added work for me to teach him on top of training dogs, but once he's fully-trained, he'll be a lot of help to me, especially as our organization continues to grow. And one of these days, I may even want to retire, but not anytime soon. This is a pretty good gig for a cat, something I think Leo is already realizing. The kid just might end up almost as good as me.



Eli

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli



VETERAN DEVON COLBERT AND JOHNNY

Navy Seaman Devon Colbert of Rockwall, TX, served stateside in Intelligence. In December 2012, while employed as a firefighter by the Garland Fire Department, Devon was involved in a car crash in which he suffered a dislocated neck and C5 spinal cord injury which left him initially paralyzed from the neck down. He has regained limited use of his arms and hands but is still in a wheelchair.

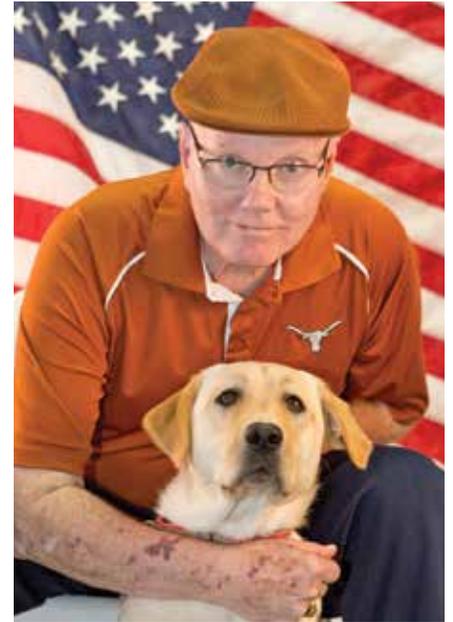
In July 2014, Devon received service dog Johnny, a male Goldendoodle, at a special graduation held at Huffines Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in Plano. Devon wanted a service dog to help him help his wife with their 2 young sons and says, "Johnny has been a wonderful addition to the family. He helps me a lot and makes my life easier. We love him."



VETERAN NATHAN HOUSER AND LUCKY

Army SGT Nathan Houser of Lewisville, TX, served two tours in Iraq. He has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress which makes it difficult for him to go out in public. He also suffers from night terrors.

In August 2014, Nathan received service dog Lucky, a male Golden Retriever, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center. When Nathan was a child, his family had a pet Golden Retriever named Rusty that they were unable to take with them when they moved. Nathan's heart had been broken, so when he first saw Lucky, he was immediately drawn to him. Fortunately for Nathan, Lucky was drawn to him, too, and now sleeps in the bed with him and wakes him from his night terrors. According to Nathan, "He's my buddy."



VETERAN LOREN CHILDRESS AND HAVEN

Army 1LT Loren Childress of Kerrville, TX, served in Vietnam and was wounded. He went on to have a 30-year career as a high school coach and history teacher but was diagnosed late in life with delayed-onset post-traumatic stress. He was living alone and found it difficult to leave his house, so he applied to Patriot PAWS and says, "It was worth the wait."

In August 2014, at a graduation held at the training center in Rockwall, Loren received service dog Haven, a female yellow Lab. According to Loren, "It's a privilege to accept one of the Patriot PAWS dogs...we each come with our own set of problems...I believe Haven will help take me where I want to be."



VETERAN CARL SCARBOROUGH AND ANGEL

Army SPC Carl Scarborough of Houston, TX, served in both Afghanistan and Iraq as a combat engineer whose job was to sweep for IEDs. He was in or near 48 blasts in the short period of only 2 months, and his multiple injuries have left him with balance and hearing problems. He has also been diagnosed with severe post-traumatic stress. Carl is currently a full-time student studying Emergency Medical Services.

In August 2014, at a graduation held at the Rockwall training center, Carl received service dog Angel, a female Golden Retriever. According to Carl, "I was in a dark place.

Knowing that I was going to get a service dog saved my life. I appreciate all the love and support. Thank you to everyone at Patriot PAWS."

OOPS!

In our Summer 2014 newsletter, we inadvertently said that veteran Chad Boudreaux's children love to come over and play with his service dog, Andy, when in fact, they are his buddy's children. We apologize for the error.

WELCOME TO THE DOG SIDE



Teresa and Bella

When I first started volunteering at Patriot PAWS back in 2009, I didn't tell anyone that I'm a cat person at heart. It wasn't until Eli came to us in 2010 that my cover was blown. A number of people in the organization had never owned a cat in their entire life and didn't quite know what to do with one. I think I was outed when I offered to trim Eli's claws one day, something no one professed to know how to do on a cat. Now if you've ever had the pleasure of meeting Eli, or ever read Eli's Corner, then

you know that he's not your average cat. If any feline could bring lifelong dog people over to the cat side, it's Eli, and that's exactly what he's done. I consider it an honor to serve as his ghostwriter.

Prior to PAWS, I knew next to nothing about service dogs but quickly became in awe of them. I always thought it was cute to see a dog play fetch with a toy, but to see a service dog go to a refrigerator, open the door, get out a drink bottle, close the door and then take

the bottle to someone who is mobility-impaired gives "fetch" a whole new perspective. And "tug" isn't just a game, it's a service dog pulling open a door for someone in a wheelchair to go through. These dogs are highly-trained aides doing things for their person that are difficult or even impossible for them to do on their own. When I saw what joy a working dog brings to everyone around them, it made me want to have a therapy dog to take on visits to the VA Hospital to spread a little of that joy around.

So I went to an animal shelter and adopted a little Beagle to train with to become a therapy dog team. I named her Bella, and the day after I adopted her, I took her to the training center to meet everyone. I'll never forget what one of the trainers said. She looked at me and grinned and said, "Welcome to the dog side."

So all you self-proclaimed dog people and cat people out there, watch out, because somewhere, there's an Eli or a Bella just waiting to recruit you, and you just might find yourself in a place that you never expected to be. It's a very special place that I like to think of as...*the fur side.*

—Teresa Prunty Bass

SAVE THE DATE AND BECOME A SPONSOR!

Every year, we have a tail-wagging good time at the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Charity Golf Tournament. The date has been set for next year, so make plans to come out and play, either as a single joining another group, or bring your own foursome. We are also looking for sponsors. ALL earnings are very generously donated to Patriot PAWS to help fund this *service for those who have served.*

DATE: June 2, 2015

TIME: Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Buffalo Creek Golf Club, Rockwall, Texas

REGISTER: 11:30 a.m.

DINNER: 6:00 p.m.

FEES: \$125 per player

Includes cart, driving range, putting range, lunch and dinner.

For additional information, contact Larry O'Dell at
LarryOdell200@msn.com



PLEASE DONATE TODAY

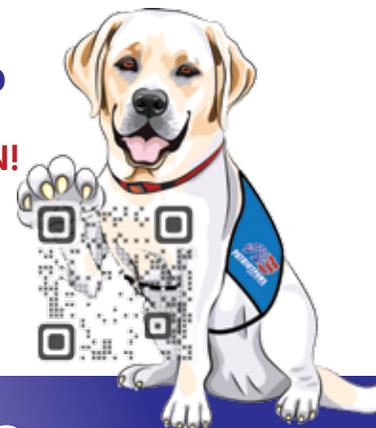
- We accept all major credit cards on our website
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person
- Smartphone App—Download it from your phone's Internet browser at www.patriotpaws.givemodo.com

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone with a donation
- 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.

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