



K9S FOR WARRIORS

114 Camp K9 Road
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PONTE VEDRA
BEACH, FL
PERMIT NO. 310



DOG TALES

K9s' Most Tail-Wagging News Source Warrior Update 112, August 2018

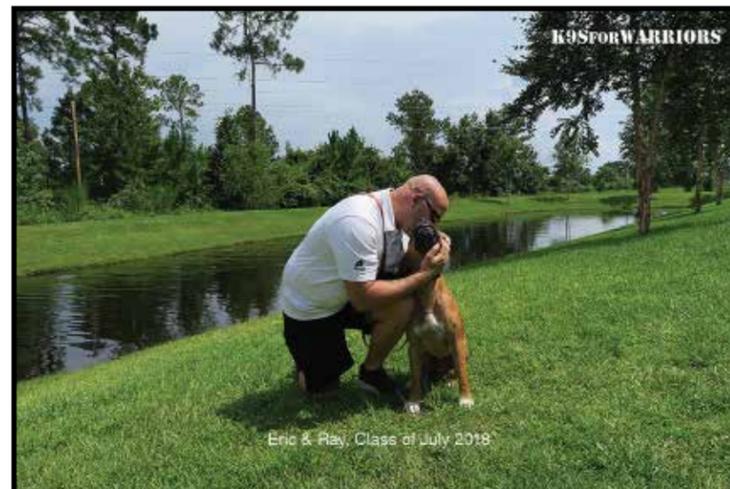


Veteran Suicide: It's Preventable

Recently, an American family experienced an unfathomable heartbreak. The anguish they endured is one that frequently echoes throughout the veteran community; it's a scenario that is difficult to understand because the end result could have easily been prevented. When a Marine walked into his VA Medical Center in Iowa City for help – it was not given to him. Concerned for his own wellbeing, he asked for admission to the hospital. The doctor refused his request. Days later, the Marine committed suicide. I am both saddened and angered by this story and the countless others out there mirroring it. Too many veterans continue to lose the battle against PTSD. While it seems many are turning their heads and ignoring the broken barrage that is the veteran healthcare system, we will not. ■



Rory Diamond
Chief Executive Officer, K9s For Warriors



Inside This Issue

Service Dog Access: Fixing the Flaws

A new nonprofit developed to ease the burdens of all disabled individuals traveling with service animals

Warrior Update

K9s For Warriors graduate goes from student to Warrior Trainer

Vet Tech Talk

See how our on staff vet techs keep our service dogs in training happy & healthy

New Campus Update

The future is looking bright for our fall warrior teams

Veteran Suicide

Read why CEO, Rory Diamond, says it's preventable

Service Dog Access: Fixing the Flaws

Introducing the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC)

The prevalence of animals accompanying their owners on airplanes is a hot topic of discussion. Surely, you've heard the crazy stories about fake service and exotic animals disrupting flights and putting the safety of passengers and flight personnel at risk. Airlines want a solution that accommodates legitimate service dog teams, while preventing and deterring the complications that arise from fake service animals and their owners.

Legitimate service animals exist to help a handler with a diagnosed disability, such as PTSD (an "invisible" wound), blindness, lack of mobility, and others. They are generally certified by one of many veritable credentialing agencies throughout the country, and are vital to ensuring disabled individuals are able to travel. However, more commonly, people are attempting to pass off personal pets as legitimate service and/or emotional therapy animals. These animals lack proper training and are the ones you see causing disturbances in public that their owner can't manage.

With vague and competing definitions of what a service animal is at the federal level, airlines and other access providers are facing extreme challenges as they navigate verification of service animal teams on their own, creating undue burdens for disabled individuals in the process.

(Continued next page)

To DONATE go to www.k9sforwarriors.org
Thanks for your continued support!

2018

August

- 1st: Air Force Day
- 23rd: Graduation, 6pm
- 26th: National Dog Day

September

Suicide Prevention Month
Service Dog Awareness Month

- 10th: World Suicide Prevention Day
- 11th: Patriot Day
- 18th: Air Force Birthday
- 20th: Graduation, 6pm
- 21st: National POW/MIA Recognition Day

October

- 13th: Navy Birthday
- 18th: Graduation, 6pm

November

National Military Family Month

- 10th: Marine Corps Birthday
- 11th: Veterans Day
- 19th: Armed Forces Day
- 15th: Graduation, 6pm
- 22nd: Thanksgiving Day

Service Dog Access: Fixing the Flaws

(Continued from cover page)

While most airlines have implemented their own policies, and there is a recognized need for federal reform, a comprehensive solution has not been adopted to date.

Enter the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC). This new nonprofit was developed entirely to ease the burdens of all disabled individuals traveling with service animals. Established by service animal industry leaders, including K9s For Warriors and the American Kennel Club, the goal is to build an opt-in service dog credentialing system to serve disabled individuals and the access providers that work to accommodate them. ASDAC knows the only path to success is collaboration among service dog agencies and access providers in the airline, restaurant, hotel and ride-share industries. As a result, ASDAC exists as a third-party organization to facilitate a collective approach.

ASDAC has recruited partners from all the above-mentioned industries to participate in the process. It welcomes the opportunity to connect with agencies and corporations passionate about being part of the solution. If you are in a position to join the effort, please contact ASDAC Executive Director Aschelle Morgan at aschellemorgan@gmail.com ■

Vet Tech Talk

We have two veterinary technicians on staff to keep our service dogs-in-training as healthy as possible while at Camp K9. We're featuring Brianne & Hanna in this issue so our supporters know the hard work they do!

Q: What do you do on a daily basis at K9s?

A: We oversee the medical care for dogs that are both in training and in the puppy program. From initial intake from shelters and addressing any immediate concerns, to educating warriors on how to keep their dogs healthy and happy, we care for the dogs from beginning to end. We tend to minor health issues such as broken nails, ear infections, upset tummies, and work with local veterinarians to ensure medical issues such as parasites, infections, injuries, etc., are cared for appropriately, and that

our dogs are prepared to do their jobs to the best of their abilities!

Q: Do you have any favorite stories from working here?

A: Brianne - When Oreo (pictured) came in, he had several areas of missing hair, 15-20 ticks, and fleas all over. He had a large wound on his neck and several more on his chest from trying to climb over a fence... Oreo was in terrible condition. Every day I spent time with him, getting him used to having his wounds cleaned, and making sure he was improving. You would never know from looking at Oreo now that he went through so much in his previous life. It's always amazing to see how your personal impact affects that dog and everyone he or she interacts with. I always look forward to meeting the dog's warrior, and seeing the dog's true purpose come to reality. ■



New Campus Update

The Gold Family Campus (GFC) is off to a strong start! There, we're keeping our promise to provide a lifetime of wraparound services: the seven warriors attending the first two classes previously graduated, but returned to learn advanced dog training skills after some difficulty returning home after graduation. With the extra techniques, they've also reinforced the bond with their service dogs.

In just a few months, Alachua County has embraced the GFC. Volunteers are coming in droves, and training locations for public access have been so supportive. Training spots include University of Florida, Cedar Key, and Blue Springs State Park.

The future is looking bright as we prepare to welcome new warriors and dogs to be paired this autumn. We are also working on building top-notch kennels there. You can follow the Gold Family Campus' journey by "liking" its Facebook page. ■



Class of May 2018



Class of June 2018



Class of July 2018



Warrior Update

Adam Fuller & JD, Class of May 2017

Adam Fuller and his service dog, JD, graduated in May 2017. The positive change we had on Adam's life was so profound, he decided to come back to us. But, instead of being a student, Adam is now a teacher. Recently, Adam became a member of our warrior trainer team. To ensure Adam was the right fit for the job, he spent months learning the ropes in kennel operations, dog training, and warrior training. In regard to his training, Adam says, "I've learned about what work goes into the dogs, how to properly shape behaviors, and reward timing.

It's been an eye-opening experience to see how the dog changes from a rescue dog into a service dog." Adam now spends his time encouraging and instructing warrior-dog teams. ■