



**K9SFORWARRIORS**

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# DOG TALES

K9s' Most Tail-Wagging News Source 🐾🐾 Warrior Update 118, February 2020



## Warrior & K9 Graduates – Group Photos



CLASS OF NOVEMBER 2019



CLASS OF DECEMBER 2019



CLASS OF JANUARY 2020

## Puppy Rescue Feature: The Final Chapter

Last year, we started sharing the story of a rescue puppy named Marmaduke in Dog Tales. In each issue, we chronicled his journey from being found in the rain on a dead-end road in Georgia, to being picked up by K9s For Warriors and placed with a puppy raiser, to his training to become a certified service dog. We're thrilled to report that Marmaduke passed all his training with flying colors, and is now seriously helping a veteran! We interviewed his new battle buddy, graduate Dana Rimmer, for his take on what life is like now with Marmaduke by his side.

### 1. What was it like training with Marmaduke for three weeks?

At first, I was nervous, so I wasn't sure how it would go. Once we got to work it was a blast. It went quick and everything fell into place. The training and campus were great, nice and quiet, and they gave us a lot of one-on-one time with a lot of focused training.

### 2. What made you decide to apply for a service dog?

I was having a problem getting out. There'd be weeks where I wouldn't leave the house. I'd just wake up and lay in bed or sit in the living room. My wife wanted me to get out of the house and it got to the point where I was taking meds to supplement the sun. The companionship made me sign up - to have a reason to go outside. To take my service dog for walks and give me a purpose.

### 3. How does Marmaduke help you the most?

He's gotten me out of the house a lot more. Knowing that he needs to get out and interact forces me to get out and out of my comfort zone. I take him to the park and let him get his energy out. I take him for rides in my truck and we like to go for walks. He likes to walk on the beach.

### 4. Any quirks of Marmaduke? Does he make you laugh when doing something in particular?

Everywhere we go, everyone says, "Look show beautiful your dog is!" And he likes to show off. He curls his tail up, saying, "Hey, look at me!" He's very dramatic with his emotions and is a big flirt! People always stop and say, "Your dog is so beautiful. Can I pet your dog?" But I have to say, "No, he's working. You can see the big signs on his vest." And he LOVES little children. He'll see kids in the store and automatically go over to them. For some reason he wants to be around kids. He's very playful with kids.

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20 IS A NAME,  
NOT A NUMBER.

Help Prevent Veteran Suicide.  
K9sForWarriors.org #20IsAName

Be a part of our new campaign to end Veteran suicide. Please visit [www.k9sforwarriors.org/20IsAName](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/20IsAName)

Thanks for your continued support!

## Puppy Rescue Feature: The Final Chapter continued...

### 5. What is Marmaduke's relationship like with your family?

He's very loving towards my family. He loves my wife and my grandkids. He's always licking my grandson's face. My family loves Marmaduke to death. He's a very loving family dog. I love him to death. I don't remember what it was like before we had him.



**1,146 DOGS RESCUED, 604 WARRIORS GRADUATED**

## Politicians, Dogs & Dirt

### What do these three have in common?

They were all part of the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Petco Foundation K9 Center in San Antonio, Texas! Our Military City, U.S.A. vision dug its way closer to reality in December when we broke ground for what will be a 20-run kennel, operating in partnership with San Antonio Animal Care Services. Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, George P. Bush (yes, of the Bush family), lent a hand when we put the shovels to the ground for the ceremonial start of construction.

This kennel will pull eligible ACS shelter dogs for transportation to our Florida locations for formal service dog training and eventual pairing with a veteran. This project is made possible by a highly generous, \$2 million grant investment from the Petco Foundation. We could not be more grateful for this substantial investment in our program which helped kickstart our national expansion!



## Gaining Ground with Service Dog Access

Over the last year and a half, K9s For Warriors has been proud to serve as a leader in the fight against fake and poorly trained service dogs. One way we accomplish this is through our support of Service Dog Pass. This is an effort to create an opt-in credentialing system for legitimate service dogs. The goal is to reduce the burdens faced by Americans with disabilities when traveling anywhere with a service animal. The credential system is designed to work with airline security systems, rideshare accounts, hotel databases and more. In 2019, this effort was strengthened through a deeper partnership with the American Kennel Club. AKC publicly stated their commitment to provide leadership on the issue and protect responsible use, elevating the urgency of service dog fraud throughout the nation. Together, and alongside a multitude of industry leaders, K9s For Warriors and AKC have guided the Service Dog Pass initiative, bringing together not just the service dog industry at-large, but also access providers, to create a viable solution. Service Dog Pass looks forward to rolling out a beta phase of the effort in 2020 and integrating a full system into public life in 2021.



For more information on our role in the effort, visit <https://warriorsresearchinstitute.org/service-dog-pass-asdac>

**Rory Diamond**, Chief Executive Officer, K9s For Warriors



## Small but Mighty

Camp K9 is expanding yet again! If you kept up with us last year, you'll recall that we added an indoor training center and a new veterinary technician's office to our headquarters. Adding to that, last month we broke ground on what is to become the Chartrand Family Warrior Resource Center. However, don't let this simple name belie the huge endeavors planned to take place. This one building will comprise four different ventures: K9s For Warriors Resource Center; American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC); Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans (ASDPMV) and K9s For Warriors Research Institute. Each of these organizations is dedicated to veterans and service dogs in its own unique way, ultimately using one other to become stronger. You can read more about each of them at our blog, in a recent post entitled "K9s For Warriors: An Ever-Innovating Nonprofit."