



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Care Services and K9s For Warriors partner on lifesaving large dog program

***Nationally renowned service canine training organization to build training center
on ACS campus; focus on harder-to-rescue big dogs***

SAN ANTONIO (January 17, 2019) - San Antonio City leaders have unanimously voted in favor of a new partnership between Animal Care Services and national nonprofit K9s For Warriors to bring a new canine center and rescue program to the Alamo City. Today's agreement approves an initial ten-year lease of three acres of ACS property to build a canine training facility for use by K9s For Warriors in their service dog training program. The initiative would focus on larger dogs and 200 ACS pets are expected to work their way through the training to become PTSD service animals throughout the country.

The Florida-based nonprofit currently operates two campuses in their home state and the national expansion will be a big boost for the dog rescue aspect of its program. "The prospect of bringing our national nonprofit to San Antonio is thrilling to us," said Rory Diamond, K9s For Warriors CEO. "We're more than ready to help the homeless dogs there find a new purpose as a lifesaving PTSD Service Dog. To achieve that, over the course of the next year, K9s For Warriors will be engaging the San Antonio community to build a base of volunteers and donors to ensure our organization's success in the Alamo city." Animal Care Services Director Heber Lefgren agrees. "Collaboration continues to be the core of ACS' success and we're thrilled to have a partner to support our mission and help our country's veterans. K9s For Warriors has a big heart for these big dogs and we love that they will be saving a life to save another." While the program will begin in the spring, a recent investment

from the San Antonio based Petco Foundation is expected to aid in construction of the canine center itself which will kick off later this year. Since 2011, K9s For Warriors has paired disabled American veterans with highly trained PTSD Service Dogs, over 90% of which are from shelters. San Antonio Animal Care Services credits a robust placement program with partners like K9s For Warriors with helping the City achieve a 92% live release rate in FY18.

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About the City of San Antonio

San Antonio is a global city with a dynamic economy and workforce, a deep cultural heritage and diverse communities that are resilient and welcoming. It is one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country, nurturing entrepreneurship, encouraging investment and funding infrastructure. America's seventh-largest city offers a vibrant business climate and growth opportunities in bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, transportation, manufacturing and healthcare. In 2015, UNESCO designated San Antonio's 18th century Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site – the first in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active duty military, veterans and crucial military commands. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov.

About K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of service dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as a result of military service post-9/11. The service dog program is unique and offers an innovative approach to recovering from the invisible wounds of war. Two lives are transformed with each pairing. The veteran reduces his/her risk of suicide while the rescue dog receives a newfound purpose.

Find more information at www.k9sforwarriors.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$230 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 5.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.