



K9S FOR WARRIORS

GIVE A NEW LEASH ON LIFE TO RESCUE DOGS AND MILITARY HEROES

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

PAWS ACT FAQs

What is the purpose of the PAWS Act?

The PAWS Act would require the VA to fund service dogs as a treatment option for veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI and/or Military Sexual Trauma. Currently, the VA refuses to fund this treatment option that we know saves lives – it's how we've saved over 300 veterans since our organization began.

Who introduced the PAWS Act?

Florida Congressman Ron DeSantis is responsible for creating the bill, which also receives abundant support from K9s CEO, Rory Diamond.

Has the PAWS Act previously been up for vote?

Yes. The original bill was introduced in April 2016, and unfortunately did not receive enough support for passing. The PAWS Act was then reintroduced in May 2017 (H.R. 4764).

How would the PAWS Act work?

If passed, the VA would grant a voucher to each qualifying veteran to take to any service dog organization of their choosing. The cost of a service dog is an average of \$27,000. Enabling veterans with this option means they could find treatment sooner, and the nonprofits like us serving them would immediately have the necessary funds to assist them.

What is the current PAWS Act bill number?

The bill number is H.R. 2327.

Would the PAWS Act assist veterans who served in conflicts before 9/11?

Yes; however, please note that at this time, K9s For Warriors only serves post-9/11 veterans.

Why does K9s For Warriors only serve post-9/11 veterans?

Although our founder is passionate about all veterans, she chose to specifically serve post-9/11 veterans because her son was impacted during this time period. We are also a small organization. At this point, we currently do not have the resources to accommodate veterans who served before 9/11. We do, however, provide veterans that do not qualify for our program with other resources.

Is there proof that service dogs really help veterans with PTSD?

We believe so; we see it every day at Camp K9 and have graduates who can attest that their symptoms improved due to service dogs. More scientifically sound evidence will



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soon be released to the public. K9s For Warriors is partnering with other leading organizations to conduct studies on the efficacy of service dogs as a PTSD treatment.

Will the demand for service dogs increase if the PAWS Act is passed?

Likely. However, with additional funding available, service dog organizations will become better equipped to handle the demand. In addition, we believe K9s For Warriors' program could easily be replicated, which would make it easier for new service dog organizations to be established.

Will the waitlist to acquire a service dog increase if the PAWS Act is passed?

K9s For Warriors takes measures to decrease our program's waitlist. We have done this recently by opening a new kennel and hiring new staff members. We are confident in our ability to adapt to meet our veterans' needs, whether or not the PAWS Act is passed.



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How can I support the PAWS Act?

Go to <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> and type in your zip code. Your state representatives will be displayed to you, and you can choose whom to contact by clicking on their name.

Example text:

I'm writing to voice my support of the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members Act. More than 20 veterans a day are dying by suicide, often because they don't have access to effective treatment options. Service dog organizations like K9s For Warriors have already proven that service dogs are an effective treatment for recovery of PTSD, TBI, and Military Sexual Trauma, yet the VA healthcare system still refuses to recognize and provide this option. We must do more to save the lives and honor the sacrifice of our heroes who returned home. Service dogs help veterans heal. When they heal, their families heal, and they return to their communities as productive citizens, pursuing higher education and re-entering the workforce, rather than living in isolation, or worse, seeing suicide as the only way out. However, high quality service dogs come at a high price, one which most veterans could never afford on their own. The average cost of a service dog, classified as medical equipment, is \$27,000.

Medication is not always the answer. The servicemen and women who voluntarily fought for our freedom should not have to suffer even more after coming home because they can't afford the treatment that is best for them. Please support this life-saving initiative that will give veterans the option of choosing a service dog to heal from their invisible wounds. Please vote "Yes." Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(Your name)

What if my question isn't listed here?

Please email info@k9sforwarriors.org with your specific question.