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Petco Foundation Invests in K9s For Warriors' Life-Changing Work Training Service Animals for Disabled Veterans

Investment of \$2M over five years will help the nonprofit expand in an unprecedented way

Ponte Vedra, Fla. (Jan. 17, 2019) – K9s For Warriors of Northeast Florida was awarded a \$2M grant investment from the Petco Foundation to support its lifesaving program that trains and pairs service dogs with military veterans suffering from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma.

The grant investment is the largest ever given by Petco Foundation to K9s For Warriors. It will be integral in the national nonprofit's expansion efforts, including the construction of a canine training center in Texas that will give K9s for Warriors the capacity to save more dogs. This new center will be named Petco Foundation Canine Center in honor of the Foundation's transformative investment.

"We are incredibly grateful and humbled by the Petco Foundation's transformative gift to our program and their continued support of our nation's heroes," said K9s For Warriors Chief Executive Officer, Rory Diamond. "This donation will be the cornerstone of our national expansion and will be the difference in our ability to carry out our mission of rescuing dogs and training them to be life-saving service dogs for disabled American veterans."

K9s For Warriors is a nonprofit organization that has become that nation's largest service dog provider for disabled veterans struggling with the invisible wounds of war brought on since 9/11. The VA estimates that 20 veterans die by suicide every day. It is K9s For Warriors' mission to stop veteran suicide and save veterans' lives by saving the lives of high-kill shelter dogs, training them to mitigate the invisible wounds plaguing American veterans. K9s For Warriors has rescued dogs from Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, the Carolinas and more. In 2018, K9s For Warriors rescued 257 homeless dogs and graduated 122 veteran-canine teams. The Petco Foundation investment will help nationally with rescuing and training more service dogs.

"Saving shelter dogs and transforming them into helping heroes to support our nation's veterans highlights the true potential of these canines and inspires others to see the incredible capabilities of

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)3 dedicated to American warriors who have sacrificed their tomorrows for our todays.

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shelter dogs. We are proud to help make K9s for Warriors' national expansion possible all while helping to save more dogs in Texas," said Susanne Kogut, President, Petco Foundation. We are honored to provide the vital support necessary to assure that more veterans receive a trained canine companion to help them through the challenges they face when they return home to civilian life."

The Petco Foundation concluded its 2018 Helping Heroes campaign in partnership with Merrick Pet Care at the end of October. Since 2009, this annual campaign has helped to provide more than \$14 million to support working, service and therapy animals across the country. These Helping Heroes not only safeguard our military and support our veterans, but they also rescue people during disasters, help to give independence, comfort the sick and even benefit children learning to read.

For more information about K9s For Warriors, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org. For more on the Petco Foundation, visit www.petcofoundation.org and join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using [#PetcoFamily](#) and [#HelpingHeroes](#).

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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.

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