



August/September 2023 Newsletter

Patriot K9's Paws for Patriots Program

Catie Dodson Program Training Manager

While Patriot K9s may accept a veteran's own dog into the Patriot K9s service dog program, many veterans receive a dog that started its service dog career as a puppy. In case you're wondering where PK9s puppies spend the first 8 to 10 months of their lives, the answer is simple: prison.



In the summer of 2021, Redgranite Correctional Institution (RGCI) contacted Patriot K9s about creating a program in which inmates could give back to the community by raising and training puppies for our program. The next six months were an intense amount of work. We had to find funding for the program, screen puppies that fit our requirements (two to six at a time), recruit inmates, train our own staff for this new environment, and get set up with a local veterinarian who would provide medical care for these dogs.

Five puppies from four breeders were initially chosen, and the Paws 4 Patriots program was born. These dogs have since graduated from our service dog program and live with their veterans. Currently, we have 10 puppies in training at RGCI.

The puppies and handlers follow our training program—at least two PK9s trainers visit RGCI weekly—and each puppy must pass the AKC S.T.A.R. puppy program and test and then the AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen) test before graduation. The puppies are also introduced to certain training which they will need in service dog classes.

A few weeks before they graduate from the RGCI P4P program, veterans entering the next service dog class begin visiting RGCI with us to see if they match with a puppy. The veteran is not allowed to influence the puppies—we want the puppy to choose his/her veteran. Once the pairing is firm, we get ready for graduation. At graduation, we have an official 'Change of the Leash' ceremony where the RGCI handlers transfer the training and care of the puppy they've loved and trained for over 6 months to the veteran whose life they are about to change. There is not a dry eye in the house.

Stay tuned to read about a day in the life of a RGCI puppy. More to come in the next

Events Calendar

10/2-10/6/23

Patriot K9s Gil Holcomb Week

Lake Tomahawk

Open to PK9 Students and graduates only

For more information, contact Patriot K9s

11/19/23

PK9's 2nd Annual Salute to Service Green Bay Packer Game and Raffle Event

Arrow Sports Club

6202 Schofield Ave, Schofield, WI 54476

10/28/23

American Legion District 8 Fall Conference

More information to come

Service Dogs, Emotional Support Dogs, and Therapy Dogs: what's the difference?

There is confusion in the public about the difference between service dogs, emotional support dogs, and therapy dogs. Handlers of ESA and therapy dogs can sometimes contribute to this confusion.

Service dogs are defined by Title II and Title III of the Americans for Disability Act (ADA). **A service dog is task-trained to mitigate a specific disability for its individual person.** The ADA defines a disability as a "physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities." The disability can be an obvious mobility impairment, but many disabilities are not visible: loss of vision or hearing, a metabolic disorder such as diabetes, seizures, or a psychiatric condition such as PTSD. There are at least 56 different conditions for which a psychiatric service dog can be task-trained. Service dogs often wear vests with patches identifying the dog as a service dog, asking people not to make contact or pet. However, service dogs are not required to wear vests. And contrary to what many people think, there is no national agency for certifying service dogs. Service dogs are not "registered."

An emotional support animal (ESA) may be a dog but can be another type of animal. **An ESA dog provides comfort to its individual handler, reducing mental stress. They are pets, not service dogs.** Emotional Support Animals are not considered service animals under the ADA. While ESA dogs should display good temperament and obedience in public settings, they are not task trained. Under the law, a person must have a psychological condition (e.g., anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and PTSD) diagnosed by a licensed medical professional. A mental health professional must prescribe use of an ESA. However, some people who just want to take their dog everywhere with them take advantage of the ability to obtain prescriptions online for a fee. ESA dogs often wear vests similar to those of service dogs, and should not be approached without handler permission.

Therapy dogs provide social, emotional and physical comfort to other people. They

are allowed by invitation into facilities such as schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and rehabilitation units. They are not covered by the ADA in terms of public access. Therapy dogs are typically certified through an organization such as Therapy Dogs International, Inc. TDI is the oldest and most recognized registry for therapy dogs. Therapy dogs must pass an evaluation for temperament, reaction to children and other dogs, basic obedience including food avoidance, and must pass health requirements (including vaccinations). TDI will not certify a service dog as a therapy dog. Therapy dogs should not wear vests. In fact, TDI specifically *prohibits* their therapy dogs from wearing vests, because therapy dogs are not service dogs, and vests impair the ability to pet the dog. TDI dogs typically wear a TDI bandana as their "uniform" when working. [Click here](#) for more information on TDI, Inc., its history and requirements.

[Click here](#) to visit the ADA National Network for more information on how service dogs are covered under the ADA and differentiated from ESA and therapy dogs.

Patriot K9s is accepting donations for Milo's IMHA Helping Paws Fund

In July, one of our recent veteran graduates faced the unexpected and tragic loss of his K9 partner Milo to immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA).



Through many generous donations, Patriot K9s was able to raise over \$5000 through GoFundMe to help pay for Milo's vet bills. PK9s is also accepting donations for Milo's IMHA Helping Paws Fund.

Thank you to the many donors that have already donated. With additional help, we can keep the fund going.

Douglas and Lou Ann M.

Charles and Cindy J.

Lani R.

Chelsey B.

Megan B.

Melissa H.

Charlotte R.

Carrie J.

Dan S.

Linda R.

Conrad W.

Peters Family

Justin C.

Amii B.

LeAnn S.

Julie B.

Breonna K.

Patty J.

Chaterine D.

Rory W.

Kat D.

Brandon C.

Diane D.

Kristine M.

Anonymous

Connie L.

Sharon Z.

Carrie F.

Molly O.

Kerri M.

Michael H.

Ryan S.

Jackie D.

Kris M.

Edith K.

Coleen K.

Denise S.

John K.

Theresa L.

Gina S.

Patti C.

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Terri H.
Mary O.
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Amy C.
Jeff G.
Amber G.

Clara A.
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Troy B.
Sharon B.
Bradley P.
Terese B.
Jennifer K.
Tracy H.
Hollie T.
Nicole K.
Tyler W.
Sheila H.
Alleah P.
Judy W.
Anonymous

Thank you to our generous donors

Patriot K9s is overwhelmed by the generosity of its many donors, without whom we would have a much harder time fulfilling our mission. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their financial support:

July

Will S.

Gary U.

Kenosha Kennel Club

American Legion Post 471

VFW Post 1865 Riders Group

Marathon County Tavern League

Corey N.

Roy M.

Stacy L.

Haidee Q.

Sarah S.

Anna B.

Kevin B.

Jenna M.

Bonnie B.

August

Danaille's Dance Academy

Mark A.

Deerbrook Rumble

Eric and Chirstine B.

Roy M.

Charlene M.

Sharon and Austin B.

Marlene G.
American Legion Post 341
Patriots for Warriors
Carol T.
VFW Post 1865 Auxiliary
Ada B.
Kristin Z.
Ann M.
Steve Z.

September (to date)

Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 178
Diane and Philip B.
Oak Creek Alumni
Phipps Beaver LLC
American Legion Auxiliary 341
Fudge's Creations
Mark and Tina B.
Sharon B.
Terry P.
Taylor H.

In Memory of Brenda Schmidt

Bev and Jim R.
Jenny and Jamie C.
Annie, John, and Michelle B.
Dianne and Dick B.
James and Donna S.
Kathaleen S.
Joanne M.
Edwin S.

In Memory of Andrew Peters

Heather P.

In Memory of Greg Peterson

William and Mariann J.

In Honor of Charles and Elbert Hubbard

Taylor H.

In Honor Gary and Sheila H. 50th Wedding Anniversary

Donna V.
Gary and Sheila H.
Lory Z.
Robert and Ruth V.
William and Cynthia J.

Beware of Anaplasmosis, a disease on the rise

Anaplasmosis is a bacterial infection that can be contracted by both humans and dogs. In the U.S. it is most common in the Midwest, northeast, and west coast. The causal agent is the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, which is transmitted by the black-legged tick (aka the “deer tick”). Ticks that carry the Lyme disease bacterium can also carry *Anaplasma*. Ticks need to be embedded for 24 to 48 hours in order to transmit the disease.

Symptoms typically occur within several days to 2 weeks. While some infected dogs may never show symptoms, other dogs may develop serious problems including anemia. In some cases it can be fatal. Typical signs include lethargy, dehydration, lack of appetite, and fever. Other signs can include lameness, vomiting and diarrhea, or in rare circumstances, bleeding from the nose, neck pain and even seizures.

Anaplasmosis can also trigger a serious complication called IMHA (immune-mediated hemolytic anemia). In IMHA, the immune system starts attacking the body’s red blood cells. Treatment requires long-term use of strong immunosuppressive drugs like steroids.

Anaplasmosis is most commonly diagnosed by performing a blood test (called SNAP 4Dx), which detects antibodies against the bacteria. (This same test also tests for Lyme disease, heartworm, and erlichiosis.) A positive test does not necessarily mean the dog has an active infection. The dog may have been exposed to the disease at a prior time. If the test is positive, later tests will also be positive. If the dog is showing symptoms, the treatment consists of administering the antibiotic doxycycline for up to 4 weeks. A dog with a positive antibody test, but no clinical signs or changes in blood work, does not require antibiotic treatment.

Dogs can be re-infected with *Anaplasma* even after they have been treated with doxycycline. There is no vaccine available to prevent anaplasmosis. That’s why it’s important to use year-round tick preventative. Additional measures include: routine tick checks, prompt removal of ticks, backyard management (e.g. keep lawns cut short, remove leaf piles, etc.), and avoidance of high-risk areas (wooded areas with a dense understory, tall grass and leaf litter).

From the desk of Vic Viljevic, PK9s Veteran Liaison

Free Legal Help available

The military offers free legal assistance for veterans who need to write their will, are considering signing a lease, or need a power of attorney or notarized signature and best of all, military family members have access to it. Military Lawyers (known as Judge Advocates General, or JAGs) can offer help in legal and non-legal matters ranging from purchasing a car to renting an apartment, buying a home, paying taxes or writing a will.

If a legal assistance attorney is unable to resolve the case or a specialized attorney is needed, the legal assistance attorney will refer you to a civilian attorney, normally

through a local lawyer referral service, who can handle the case.

To find the office nearest your location by visiting one of the following websites:

- [Air Force Legal Assistance](#)
- [Army Legal Assistance Services](#)
- [Navy/Marine JAG Corps](#)
- [Coast Guard Legal Services](#)

Each military service has specific regulations regarding the extent of legal assistance they provide. For further information, contact your legal assistance office.

Source: Military.com

PATRIOT K9 STAFF

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Charlotte Rethaber-Office Manager/Veteran Coordinator
Vic Viljevac – Veteran Liaison

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pk9ofwi>

Instagram: [@patriotk9sofwisconsin](#)

Patriot K9s of Wisconsin is a non-profit organization that trains veterans and their dogs for service work in post-traumatic

stress injury (PTSI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and military sexual trauma (MST).

Our mission: At no cost to qualified Veterans, we educate and train Psychiatric Service Dog Teams to have a fulfilling and meaningful life in the community of their choice.

Crisis line: 988



Newsletter editor: Terese Barta