

A unique opportunity for Veterans with PTSD to speed their recovery from, or at the very least, learn to better cope with, their PTSD symptoms by utilizing the “Special Powers” of Rehabilitative Assistance Dogs or Service Dogs.

Experience the therapeutic benefits of the K-9 / Human Bond.



Terry Henry with ADDIE
a Certified Psychiatric Service Dog, Educational Assistance Dog and Rehabilitative Assistance Dog

I am a post-Vietnam era U.S. Navy / U.S. Air Force veteran. I spent over four years recovering from military-duty related PTSD after I got out of the military in 1987, and I am still working on it. I invite you to join me in the Wounded Warrior Project® /paws4vets™ Strategic Partnership which can help you recover, or at the very least, better cope with, your PTSD and its symptoms by utilizing “Special K-9 Powers.”

We train and place Assistance Dogs with Veterans with physical, neurological, psychiatric and/or emotional disabilities. Currently, the program is limited to Veterans who reside in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, eastern Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania. These dogs are provided free-of-charge. However, you will have to invest some “sweat-equity” into the process of obtaining one of these dogs. [Please see the “Types of Dogs” section of this web site for more information about these dogs.]



We offer three PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Programs for Veterans with physiological or neurological condition such as: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). These three Programs provide Veterans with PTSD with the love, companionship and service of a Rehabilitative Assistance Dog or Service Dog to meet their individual special needs. We have Strategic Partnerships with the Wounded Warriors Project®, the U. S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, and a rescue organization in Afghanistan which supports our AfghanDogZ™, paws4vets™ program. These partnership are designed to locate and support Veterans who want to participate in our programs.

You can get the Application Forms to apply for an Assistance Dog by going to: www.paws4vets.org, and clicking on “Application to Get a Dog.”

Participation in our three PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Programs is limited to Veterans who reside within a 100 miles radius of Morgantown or Alderson, WV. Once we obtain funding to support on-site residency, we will expand participation to Veterans who reside in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, the Knoxville region of eastern Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania. As our training facility locations increase, we will expand eligibility accordingly.

If your PTSD makes it difficult for you to deal with the Application Forms, may I suggest you have a family member or a friend help you fill them out. I know it may be difficult for you to deal with all of these forms - like being back in the military again. However, please realize I would not be asking for all of this information if it didn't serve a purpose. Having suffered from PTSD, I know... I've been there. Do the best you can. We will all help you get through it.

If you have any questions about obtaining an Assistance Dog or participating in the paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Programs, please contact me at: therry@paws4people.org. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Terry L. Henry
Executive Director
paws4people™/paws4vets™



The Basic - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program

The Basic - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program is conducted at the paws4prisons™ K-9 Training Facilities co-located at the United States Penitentiary Hazelton (USPH), Bruceton Mills, WV, and the Federal Prison Camp Alderson (FPCA), Alderson, WV. Veterans selected to participate in the program will be housed at a hotel (if necessary) within the immediate geographic area near the training facility.

Training will take place within the confines of USPH or FPCA and the surrounding areas.

Upon completion of this 12-days program, program participants, in addition to their Rehabilitative Assistance Dog or Service Dog, will also receive a “Certificate of Accomplishment” and their dog will receive its appropriate certification(s).

Participation in the paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Program - Basic will provide you with the following benefits which will enhance your therapeutic recovery process:

A real sense of accomplishment: by making the decision to apply for the program, by completing the arduous, lengthy and complex application process, including the coordination and interaction with your physical and mental health treatment teams, by completing the “home” visit and interview process, and, by being selected to participate in the program.

A sense of empowerment, responsibility and dedication for your dog’s life, when you select one of the available Program Shelter/Rescue Dogs to be your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog. In most cases, this will also mean you have saved the dog from being euthanized. These dogs are pre-trained to the advance obedience level (within the constraints and parameters of their pre-existing post-rescue behavioral conditions).

A sense of realization that you are not alone with your PTSD and that you have a real potential to recover from or better cope with your PTSD as you emerge during the course of your 12-days learning how to train and work with your dog, surrounded by people who have learned to live with and overcome their PTSD. Thus, you spend those 12-days having the opportunity to interact, learn from, mentor and be monitored by the paws4prisons staff and inmates, many of whom also suffer from PTSD.

A sense of accomplishment, which will only increase over time, as you and your dog experience the “Special Power” of the “K-9 / Human Bond.” As you train with your dog and as your dog begins to trust and bond with you, an incredible energy will form that will help to conquer the power your PTSD has to control and encapsulate you. Your dog will replace those negative aspects of your PTSD.

A sense of expression and engagement as you are encouraged to write and submit daily “blog” entries detailing and describing your and your dog’s daily activities. This will be part of your Public Awareness Campaign to help bring public attention to the benefits of Rehabilitative Assistance Dog / Service Dogs, and a fundraising campaign to help the next group of Veterans get their dogs. You will also experience a sense of commitment and dedication to others as you help perpetuate the system so that your fellow Veterans can experience what you are experiencing.

At the end of your 12-days experience, you will participate in the “Graduation Ceremony” during which the prison inmates who have successfully transfer trained you and your dog will officially present you with your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog. This ceremony will be planned and hosted by the paws4prisons™ program inmates and serve as their official goodbye to you and your dog, and the official beginning of your new life with your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog [PTSD] or Service Dog [Psychiatric-PTSD]. This dog will provide you with years of service to help you cope with your PTSD. The ceremony will provide you with formal recognition of your permanent bond with your dog and will also allow you to witness and share the emotions of the prison inmates as they say “goodbye” to the dog they have helped train for you.

Once you have completed this course, you and your dog will officially be part of the paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Program - Basic **Alumni**, which will also afford you the benefit of our continued oversight and involvement with you and your dog. Should you or your dog require refresher training, you will be able to come to a training location where paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Program staff will assist you with any/all training situations. You can also receive training advice and/or assistance via phone or email.



The Advanced - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program

The Advanced - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program is conducted at the paws4prisons™ K-9 Training Facility located at the United States Penitentiary Hazelton (USPH), Bruceton Mills, West Virginia. The Veterans selected to participate in the program will be housed in Morgantown, West Virginia and supervised by paws4prisons™ staff (housing currently anticipated to be in the West Run Apartment Complex which is a Corporate Sponsor of paws4people™). Training will take place within the confines of USPH, and the surrounding areas including Morgantown, Fairmont, Cheat Lake, WV and Deep Creek, MD. **The course is configured for six program participants.**

Upon completion of this 4-month program, program participants, in addition to their Rehabilitative Assistance Dog or Service Dog, will also receive a "Certificate of Accomplishment" and their dogs will receive their appropriate certification(s).

Participation in the Wounded Warrior Project® /paws4vets™ Strategic Partnership Advanced - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program will also provide you with the following benefits which will enhance your therapeutic recovery process:

A real sense of accomplishment: by making the decision to apply for the program, by completing the arduous, lengthy and complex application process, including the coordination and interaction with your physical and mental health treatment teams, by completing the "home" visit and interview process, and, by being selected to participate in the program.

A sense of empowerment, responsibility and dedication for your future dog's life. You will directly participate in the selection of your Shelter/Rescue Dog from the national (non-public) dog rescue network. The dog you select will be delivered to USPH for direct entry into the paws4prisons™ Shelter/Rescue K-9 Training Program. In most cases this will also mean that you will have saved the dog from being euthanized (the day you select it).

A very powerful and extensive sense of realization that you are not alone with your PTSD and that you have a real potential to recover from or better cope with your PTSD as you emerge during the course of your 4-months of learning how to train and work with your dog and other dogs, surrounded by people who have learned to live with and overcome their PTSD. Thus, you spend those 4-months experiencing and having the opportunity to interact with, learn from, mentor and be monitored by the paws4prisons staff and inmates, many of whom also suffer from PTSD.

A very deep sense of personal accomplishment, which will only increase over time, as you learn how to train your dog, and then observe your dog learning from you. The transformation in your dog, coupled with your dog's recovery from his/her own form of K-9 PTSD (their rescue experience), will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

An extremely viable sense of personal accomplishment will result as you help train dogs for children with major disabilities. As you put more of yourself into the training of these dogs for these children, you will become engaged in activities which are "bigger-than-one's-self" and foster a sense of "giving" to another less fortunate individual. This experience will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, replacing feelings of guilt and horror, thus mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

Another extremely viable sense of personal accomplishment will result as you help train dogs for your fellow Veterans who suffer from PTSD. As you put more of yourself into the training of these dogs for the next class of Veterans to go through this program, you will become engaged in activities which are "bigger-than-one's-self", and foster a sense of "giving" to another individual. This experience will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, replacing feelings of guilt and horror, thus mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

A sense of accomplishment, which will only increase over time, as you and your dog experience the "Special Power" of the "K-9 / Human Bond." As you train with your dog and as your dog begins to trust and bond with you, an incredible energy will form that will help to conquer the power your PTSD has to control and encapsulate you. Your dog will replace those negative aspects of your PTSD.

A sense of expression and engagement as you are encouraged to write and submit daily "blog" entries detailing and describing your and your dog's daily activities. This will be part of your Public Awareness Campaign to help bring public attention to the benefits of Rehabilitative Assistance Dog / Service Dogs, and a fundraising campaign to help the next group of Veterans get their dogs. You will also experience a sense of commitment and dedication to others as you help perpetuate the system so that your fellow Veterans can experience what you are experiencing.

Experience more personal accomplishment as you help train the Veterans in the next Basic - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Class. This training will include transfer training of the dog(s) you have been helping to train to the newly arrived Veterans in the Basic - K-9 class. As you put more of yourself into the training of these Veterans and their dogs you will once

again experience being involved in things bigger than yourself. This experience will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, replacing feelings of guilt and horror, thus mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

At the end of your 4-months experience, you will participate in the planning and execution of the “Graduation Ceremony”, during which the prison inmates who have helped to train you and your dog will officially present you with your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog. This ceremony, planned and hosted by the paws4prisons™ program inmates and the member of your Advanced K-9 class, will serve as the inmates official goodbye to you and your dog, and the official beginning of your new life with your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog [PTSD] or Service Dog [Psychiatric-PTSD]. The ceremony will also serve as your official goodbye to Basic -K-9 class members and their dogs, which you helped to train and the official beginning of their new lives with their Rehabilitative Assistance Dog [PTSD] or Service Dog [Psychiatric-PTSD]. Your Rehabilitative Assistance Dog [PTSD] or Service Dog [Psychiatric-PTSD] will provide you with years of service to help you cope with your PTSD and this ceremony will provide you with formal recognition of your permanent bond with your dog and will also allow you to witness and share the emotions of the prison inmates as they say “goodbye” to the dog they have helped train for you.

Once you have completed this course, you and your dog will officially be part of the WoundedWarriorProject®/paws4vets™ Strategic Partnership Advanced - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program **Alumni**, which will also afford you the benefit of our continued oversight and involvement with you and your dog. Should you or your dog require refresher training, you will be able to come to a training location where paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Program staff will assist you with any/all training situations. You can also receive training advice and/or assistance via phone or email.

As a graduate of the Advanced - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program you may apply for other positions within the program at other training locations. Positions include K-9 Trainer and Program Manager.



The Custom - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program

The Custom - K-9 Recovery/Intervention Program is conducted at the paws4prisons™ K-9 Training Facilities co-located at the United States Penitentiary Hazelton (USPH), Bruceton Mills, WV, and the Federal Prison Camp Alderson (FPCA), Alderson, WV. Veterans selected to participate in the program will be housed at a hotel (if necessary) within the immediate geographic area near the training facility.

Training will take place within the confines of USPH or FPCA and the surrounding areas.

This program is designed for the Veteran, who because of the severity of his/her Complex-Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, is currently not ready for the demands and/or responsibilities of having a Service Dog. Through the collaborative efforts of the Veteran's Medical Treatment Team (MTT) and Psychological Treatment Team (PTT) and the paws4vets™ Medical Evaluation Team (MET) and the paws4vets™ K-9 Operations Staff, a unique and specifically designed K-9 based Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) is formulated for the Veteran. This ITP utilizes the K-9-Human or Human-Animal Bond to enable the Veteran to receive the therapeutic benefits of a K-9 based/centered PTSD Intervention Program, without the demands and responsibilities of having an Assistance Dog. As the Veteran progresses through the ITP, he/she is monitored by the MTT, PTT and MET. After successful completion of the ITP the Veteran is re-assessed for placement with an Assistance Dog. If the Veteran is determined ready for such placement, then the Veteran begins the placement process. The ITP can be modified at any time during its implementation, allowing both the Veteran or his/her treatment teams to specifically tailor the ITP to fit his/her individual needs.

Participation in the paws4vets™ PTSD Recovery / Intervention Assistance Dog Training Program - Custom will provide you with the following benefits which will enhance your therapeutic recovery process:

A real sense of accomplishment: by making the decision to apply for the program, by completing the arduous, lengthy and complex application process, including the coordination and interaction with your physical and mental health treatment teams, by completing the "home" visit and interview process, and, by being selected to participate in the program.

A sense of empowerment, responsibility and dedication for the training and well-being of a dog from within the paws4prisons™ K-9 training program. You may be involved in the selection of a dog or dogs for entry into the paws4prisons™ Shelter/Rescue K-9 Training Program. In most cases this will also mean that you will have saved the dog from being euthanized (the day you select it).

A very powerful and extensive sense of realization that you are not alone with your PTSD and that you have a real potential to recover from or better cope with your PTSD as you emerge during the course of your ITP. You will learn how to train and work with dogs and you will be involved with people who have learned to live with and overcome their PTSD. Thus, you have the opportunity to interact with, learn from, mentor and be monitored by the paws4prisons staff and inmates, many of whom also suffer from PTSD.

A very deep sense of personal accomplishment, which will only increase over time, as you learn how to train your dog, and then observe your dog learning from you. The transformation in your dog, coupled with your dog's recovery from his/her own form of K-9 PTSD (their rescue experience), will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

An extremely viable sense of personal accomplishment will result as you help train other dogs for children with major disabilities. As you put more of yourself into the training of these dogs for these children, you will become engaged in activities which are "bigger-than-one's-self" and foster a sense of "giving" to another less fortunate individual. This experience will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, replacing feelings of guilt and horror, thus mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

Another extremely viable sense of personal accomplishment will result as you help train dogs for your fellow Veterans who suffer from PTSD. As you put more of yourself into the training of these dogs for the next class of Veterans to go through this program, you will become engaged in activities which are "bigger-than-one's-self", and foster a sense of "giving" to another individual. This experience will increase your self-esteem and self-confidence, replacing feelings of guilt and horror, thus mollifying many PTSD symptoms.

A sense of accomplishment, which will only increase over time, as you and the dogs you are involved in training experience the "Special Power" of the "K-9 / Human Bond." As you train with your dog and as your dog begins to trust and bond with you, an incredible energy will form that will help to conquer the power your PTSD has to control and encapsulate you. Your dog will replace those negative aspects of your PTSD.

A sense of expression and engagement as you are encouraged to write and submit “blog” entries detailing and describing your and your dog’s activities. This will be part of your Public Awareness Campaign to help bring public attention to the benefits of Rehabilitative Assistance Dog / Service Dogs, and a fundraising campaign to help the next group of Veterans get their dogs. You will also experience a sense of commitment and dedication to others as you help perpetuate the system so that your fellow Veterans can experience what you are experiencing.