

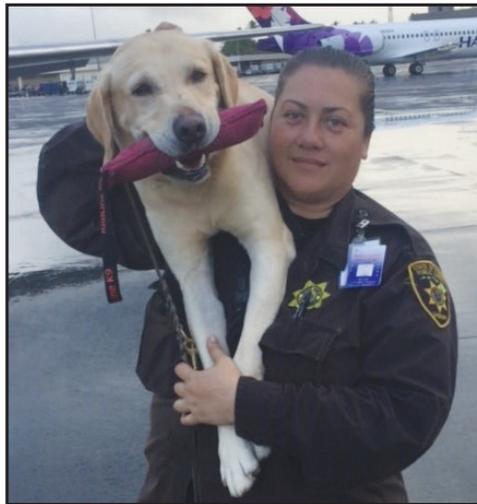
Your Generous Giving is Helping Keep Retired K9 Heroes Happy and Healthy!

At Paws of Honor, we care for America's retired law enforcement and military K9s all year long. And as we continue to celebrate the New Year, this is the perfect time to look back on the heroes we helped together, and show them a little extra love!

So the supporter-exclusive *K9 Corner* newsletter you're holding today is packed with stories of four-legged American heroes your generous giving has helped. I hope you're encouraged and uplifted by the stories you're about to read.

I wanted to take a moment to share the story of a retired hero Paws of Honor helped during his sunset years. K9 Buckley served with the Montgomery County (Maryland) Police Department. And this pup had a true heart for service: Even after retiring from police work, he spent his days volunteering as a therapy dog and in a local elementary school, until he became too old.

After retiring as a police dog, Buckley received extensive care from Paws of Honor -- thanks to the generosity of friends like you -- including physical rehabilitation, acupuncture, bloodwork tests, treatment for ear infections, x-rays, supplements for his liver and joints, medications for his eyes, steroid injections, antibiotics, an extraction of a bad canine tooth, and a necessary surgery for his laryngeal



Paws of Honor supporters provided extensive veterinary care for K9 Llander, who served in Hawaii detecting explosives for a Deputy Sheriff's unit.

paralysis, which allowed him to breathe more easily. In all, K9 Buckley received over \$16,000 in medical care through Paws of Honor.

As his mom Sharon S. said: **"I can't say enough good things about Paws of Honor. They saved my dog's life and have improved the quality of life [for] my two other retired K9s -- as well as countless others. No other charity does as much for the heroes that serve our country and our communities. Without POH [Buckley] wouldn't be**

here today!"

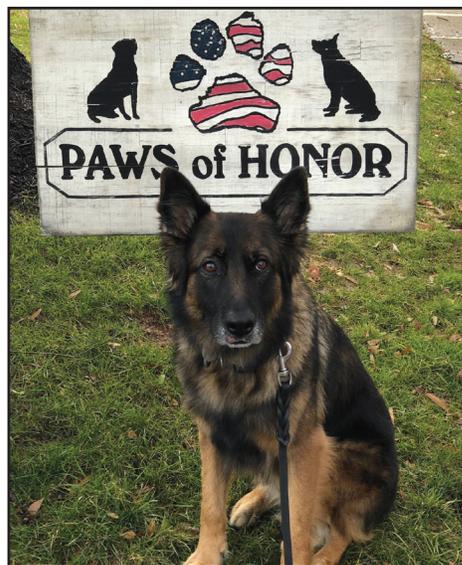
But Paws of Honor didn't just take care of Buckley's vet bills -- **with your help, we have provided care for about 200 of his fellow retired K9s in 16 different states across America.** We've covered nearly a million dollars in vet care since 2015 and rely completely on donations to fund this care. We receive zero government funding and couldn't help Buckley and his heroic friends without the support of donors like you.

So thank you for your caring heart and generous giving, which tell a four-legged hero, and a handler facing a pile of bills for veterinary care, that their service and sacrifices have not been forgotten.

Inside Your Paws of Honor Newsletter:

- Page 2-3: Meet Some of the Four-Legged Heroes Paws of Honor is Helping with Your Support!
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Pano Spent Life Protecting Dignitaries All Over the World



Hi -- I'm K9 Pano! I am a nine-year-old Belgian Tervuren. I served in the United States Secret Service (USSS) from September 2013 until March 2019, when I was honorably retired. I was trained for a single purpose -- explosives detection -- and served my career with my handler, Officer-Technician Grissay M.

My main duty was to protect and secure the White House, the Vice President's House, and Foreign Embassies located in Washington, D.C. I also got to travel the world with my handler, both domestically and internationally, to provide a safe and secure environment for high-ranking elected officials -- including the President and Vice President -- and to secure locations the USSS protects. I even protected many Foreign Dignitaries during their visits to the United States!

I loved serving as a law enforcement working dog. I was very dedicated to my job and took it seriously. My handler and I were always ready to secure an area no matter the weather conditions or time of day. My job entailed securing the areas that a Protectee would attend by checking vehicles and equipment entering the area. Together my handler and I worked during Campaigns, Inaugurations, the Democratic National Committee, Republican National Committee, and Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summits. I have visited countries all over the world, including Estonia, Germany, Columbia, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Mexico, Israel, and Italy.

Once I retired, I knew it was time to relax and put my working mindset to ease. My handler and I both feel very blessed that he was able to adopt me once I retired. He says I am a very loving, caring and affectionate boy, and now we are enjoying my retirement together! I love playing catch with my ball, walking, running, and hiking -- but my *favorite* thing to do is to get belly rubs! Today my life consists of playing with all the balls and toys I can dream of, taking plenty of naps, and getting love and attention from my family.

My family and I are so thankful for the awesome care I've received from Paws of Honor and the donors **like you** who give generously to take care of pups like me!



See More of the Wonderful Dogs You're Helping on Facebook!

For more on your generosity in action, please "like" **Paws of Honor** on Facebook! You'll find photos, stories, and other exciting updates on the impact of your generosity -- including heartwarming photos of the loyal K9s your giving supports!

Banjo Had a Hard Life and Even Spent Time in Prison. But Today He Sits in a Hot Tub to Relieve His Arthritis.



Hello -- I'm K9 Banjo! I was trained at the Auburn University's Explosives Detection Canine Program in Anniston, Alabama. I spent the first 18 months of my life at Coffeyville Prison as part of the Prisoners and Pups program. During this time I learned basic obedience, socialization, and familiarity with external objects (flooring, elevators, stairwells, everyday noises, etc.).

After I returned to Auburn University, I was imprinted on 10 basic explosive odors. Next I completed a 320-hour course with my assigned handler, Chief Don S. of the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), part of the Department of Commerce.

This assignment was groundbreaking, as I was the first canine ever assigned to my agency! I was an immediate hit and became a welcome asset during my six years of service, paving the way for the expansion of the Explosives Detection Unit at NIST.

I retired in 2014 and today I live a life of luxury at my handler's home along with my canine brother Moose and my canine sister Lexi.

As an old boy, I have a lot of aches and pains following a busy life of service to my country. I'm very grateful to receive amazing care thanks to the staff of Old Dominion Animal Health Center, Paws of Honor, and generous donors like you!

I have hind limb weakness and arthritis in my shoulders and elbows, which makes me a great candidate for "hot tub" treatments. Through Paws of Honor I receive weekly water therapy, soaking in jets of 82 degree water. I also receive biweekly acupuncture and daily medications and supplements to keep me pain-free and moving.

I'm so thankful for Paws of Honor and kind friends like you who are going above and beyond to keep me comfortable in my old age!



Banjo

Casper Beat Cancer 3 Times, and Cobra Survived a Terrorist Bombing in Afghanistan

“The guard dog was incorruptible; the police dog dependable; the messenger dog reliable. The human watchman might be bought; not so the dog. The soldier sentinel might fall asleep; never the dog. The battlefield runner might fail ... but not the dog, to his last breath would follow the line of duty.”

-- Ernest Harold Baynes, *Animal Heroes of the Great War*



- ◆ How incredible is it that K9 Casper recently celebrated his 15th birthday?! Casper is a retired United States Secret Service K9 who has had cancer three times. He's beat the odds and has lived a wonderful life with his handler since retirement. We're honored to have K9 Casper in our Paws of Honor family!



- ◆ In 2009, K9 Cobra was assigned to her first and only handler, Ashley. Cobra worked as a Patrol/Explosive Detection dog in the U.S. Navy and was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2011. For 10 months, Ashley and Cobra worked side by side, and encountered some pretty scary situations, including a roadside bomb. They left Afghanistan in 2012, thankfully uninjured.

The bond between a handler and their dog is unbreakable. Over the next year, both Cobra and Ashley fought with PTSD, but they were able to get through it together, and grew even closer. Ashley says, **“Cobra is my savior!”**

We are proud to have K9 Cobra as part of our Paws of Honor family! Thank you for your service, Cobra and Ashley!

Results of the “National Citizens Survey on the Plight of Retired K9 Heroes”

Recently Paws of Honor conducted a national survey of supporters regarding the plight of retired working dogs. And here's what we learned:

- 81% of our supporters were already aware -- prior to receiving our mailing -- that unlike our military and law enforcement officers, when K9 heroes must retire from service due to age or serious injuries, the cost of their medical care just stops because they are considered “surplus equipment.”
- 95% felt federal and state legislators should help provide adequate funding to cover veterinary care costs for such incredible dogs serving the public.
- 83% of the responders have or have had a pet companion.

We value the feedback of our loyal donors and are always eager to hear your thoughts on the work we are doing caring for America's heroic retired working dogs. Thank you for your continued support!



Military Dogs Jump Out of Airplanes, And 4 Other Amazing Facts about K9s

- Military working dogs (MWDs) can be found in every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, performing a variety of tasks from drug and explosives detection to scouting and patrolling. Depending on which branch of the military they serve in, some dogs can also swim long distances and jump out of airplanes.
- The Military Working Dog Program is based out of Lackland Air Base in Texas with the 341st Training Battalion. During the training, these brave pups undergo intense training in obedience and military skills as well as teamwork with their handlers -- and fewer than 50% of candidates complete training and make the cut to become active service members.
- There are over 2,700 active military working dogs, and it is estimated that each dog saves 150-200 human lives over the course of their service. Those are some true heroes!
- Treatment of military working dogs has vastly improved in past decades. For example, of the roughly 4,900 dogs that the United States used in Vietnam, around 2,700 were turned over to the South Vietnamese army, and a staggering 1,600 were euthanized. Fortunately, neither of these barbaric practices are allowed today.
- In November 2000 President Bill Clinton signed Robby's Law (H.R.5314), which requires that all MWDs suitable for adoption be available for placement after their service. (The bill was named for a hero pup whose former handler fought dauntlessly to adopt him, to no avail.)



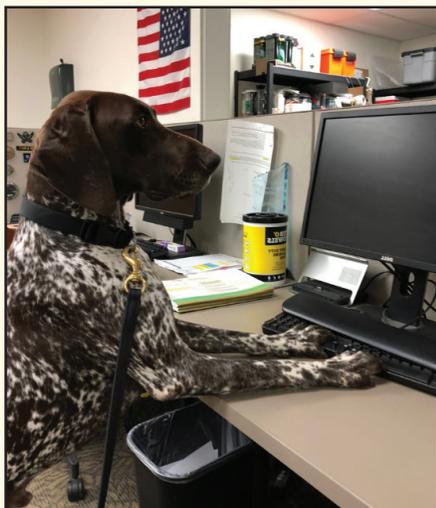
- ▲ K9 Europa served with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Explosive Detection Program.

Mark Your Calendar with 12 Important Dog Days in 2022

1. **January 24** is Peanut Butter Day (honoring the creamy creation that helped treat and train many dogs)
2. **February** is Dog Training Education Month
3. **March 13** is K9 Veterans Day
4. **April 30** is World Veterinary Day (honoring the heroes who care for our furry friends)
5. **May 10** is German Shepherd Day (one of the most common working dog breeds)
6. **June 5-11** is Pet Appreciation Week
7. **July** is National Lost Pet Prevention Month
8. **August 26** is National Dog Day
9. **September 11** is National Pet Memorial K9 Day
10. **October 21** is National Pets for Veterans Day
11. **November 6-12** is National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week
12. **December 2** is National Mutt Day

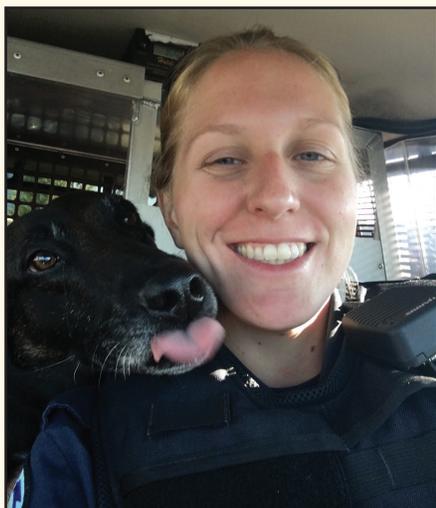


We Welcome One Hero Dog and Say Goodbye to Another



Thanks to the continued faithful support of friends like you, Paws of Honor is regularly welcoming AMAZING new K9 heroes to our family.

One of our newest members is **K9 Niko**, a three-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer. Niko was trained in Explosive Detection to protect life and property at airport facilities in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was forced to retire early due to medical conditions that hindered his ability to work. Today Niko is enjoying life in retirement, spending his days playing at the beach, chasing tennis balls, and napping in the A/C. His favorite treats are ice cubes, carrots, apples, and pig ears.



Shown here is **K9 Tomas**, a beloved Paws of Honor pup who recently passed away and is greatly missed by his handler and best friend. Again, thanks to generous supporters like you, we helped Tomas and his mom by providing needed medical care while he was with us. Thank you for your service, K9 Tomas!



The Top 3 Police & Military Working Dog Breeds

You'll probably see many faces like these in the pages of your K9 Corner newsletter!

- 1. German Shepherd** -- One of the most iconic police dogs. German Shepherds' intelligence ranks 3rd place in the dog world. They are easily trained to handle a myriad of duties, and pick up on new commands quickly. They are also incredibly loyal and work well as a team. And their bodies are practically built for police work -- large, muscular, and naturally fast. This combination of intelligence, obedience, and athletic prowess all work together to keep them as one of the best police dog breeds.
- 2. Belgian Malinois** -- Belgian Malinois dogs are similar to German Shepherds, but are slightly smaller. They are fearless, intelligent, and obedient, and their smaller size makes them even faster than German Shepherds! And they have the same captivating gaze that can make any offender's blood run cold.
- 3. Bloodhound** -- Bloodhounds were the very first police dogs, and are known for their incredible sense of smell. They are incredibly valuable in sniffing out everything from narcotics, to bombs, criminals on the run, lost children, and even cadavers.

Please Consider Remembering These Heroic Dogs in Your Will

By making a bequest to Paws of Honor you can help alleviate their pain and suffering long after you're gone.

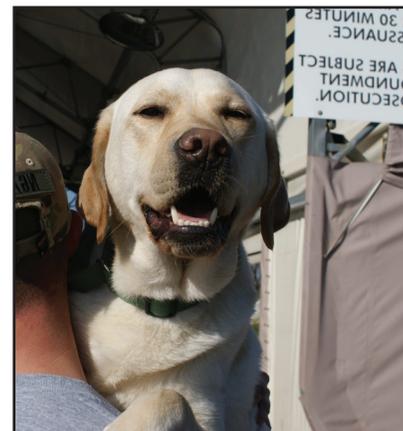
*“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.”
— Photographer & writer Roger Caras*

The start of a new year is the perfect time to assess your charitable giving ... figure out what really matters ... and resolve to make a difference. Remembering Paws of Honor in a charitable bequest is a wonderful way to ensure your legacy of support for America's brave retired military and law enforcement working dogs for generations to come! It's simple and effective to do so by making a bequest to Paws of Honor in your will, insurance policy, or other planned giving option!

Proper Language to Include When Making Your Bequest to Paws of Honor:

“After Fulfilling All Other Provisions, I Give, Devise and Bequeath ___ Percent of the Residue of My Estate to Paws of Honor Tax ID # 47-5643489, Which Pays for the Medical Care of Retired Military as well as Federal, State, and Local Working Dogs.”

To schedule a confidential discussion of your options, email us at info@pawsofhonor.org or call (703) 403-8281. Paws of Honor does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective or current donors. Always consult your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.



More Ways You Can Help America's Retired Working Dogs:

- **Shop** for Paws of Honor merchandise at <https://store.pawsofhonor.org/shop-all/> where we have great gear including t-shirts, coffee mugs, and magnets. Your purchase helps spread the word about Paws of Honor and how we're helping America's heroes.
- **Alert** your friends and neighbors to the fact that when military and police K9s retire from active duty, all the dogs' benefits cease, including veterinary care. Many officers, handlers, and owners simply cannot afford this expense.
- **Spread the word** on social media outlets about the needs of our retired four-legged heroes. This can be as easy as “sharing” posts from our Paws of Honor Facebook page!
- **Send** us the name and e-mail address of any pet owner or handler you're aware of who needs Paws of Honor's professional veterinary services so we can contact them and see if we can be of assistance.
- **Consider** adopting a retired working dog. While many of these heroes stay with their handlers after retiring, some are unable to and need a good home and lots of love. There are many wonderful organizations which can help you with this process.
- **Learn** everything you can about the roles that these dogs play in our world, the level of training they receive, and their dedication to service in keeping us safe from danger.
- **Sign** your enclosed THANK YOU note to let a retired K9 working dog's handler know you appreciate their service, and the sacrifices they're making to care for their former partner. Some cards might be sent to vet clinic staff to let them know how much their work is appreciated as well.



Please Take a Moment to Pay a Final Tribute to Some of the Brave, Hard-Working Dogs that Passed Away in 2021



◀ On the afternoon of October 20, 2021, retired Fairfax County Police Department K9 Bodhi loaded up in his handler's cruiser for one last ride. Although Bodhi had to be carried out of the cruiser, he made sure he

walked into the clinic under his own power. And to the very end, K9 Bodhi and his handler were side by side.

▶ K9 Gus began his career in 2010, working with the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan. He went on to serve as an Explosives Detection K9 with the U.S. Capitol Police until he retired on July 4, 2018. He was always happy and could make everyone smile and laugh. We miss you K9 Gus!



◀ K9 Iggy was born as part of the "puppy program" with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, specializing in narcotics and patrol. She retired in 2018 and went to live with her handler. This sweet girl

crossed the Rainbow Bridge on October 16, 2021 -- just two weeks shy of her twelfth birthday.

▶ K9 Nigel was supposed to become a support dog for the blind, but he liked chasing squirrels too much! His trainers thought finding explosives might suit him better -- and they were right. Nigel joined the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives where he met his partner and handler. In retirement he loved napping, playing tug-of-war, and relaxing in the grass.



When a military or police K9 dies, part of the ceremony includes the reading of this poem which reflects the powerful bond between officer and dog. We share it with you to honor the service of military and law enforcement K9s who dedicated their lives (and in some cases gave their lives) to serve our country.

The Guardians of the Night

“Trust in me my friend for I am your comrade.
I will protect you with my last breath.
When all others have left you
And the loneliness of the night closes in,
I will be at your side.

Together we will conquer all obstacles
And search out those who might wish harm to others.
All I ask of you is compassion,
The caring touch of your hands.
It is for you that I will selflessly give my life
And spend my nights unrested.

Although our days together
May be marked by the passing of the seasons.
Know that each day at your side is my reward.
My days are measured by
The coming and going of your footsteps.
I anticipate them at the opening of the door.
You are the voice of caring when I am ill.
The voice of authority over me when I've done wrong.
Do not chastise me unduly
For I am your right arm,
The sword at your side.

I attempt to do only what you bid of me.
I seek only to please you and remain in your favor.
Together you and I shall experience
A bond only others like you will understand.
When outsiders see us together
Their envy will be measured by their disdain.
I will quietly listen to you
And pass no judgement.
Nor will your spoken words be repeated.
I will remain ever silent,
Ever vigilant, ever loyal.

And when our time together is done
And you move on in the world,
Remember me with kind thoughts and tales.
For a time we were unbeatable,
Nothing passed among us undetected.
If we should ever meet again on another field
I will gladly take up your fight.
I am a Police Working Dog and together
We are GUARDIANS of the NIGHT.”