

As Spring Comes Paws of Honor Donors Renew Commitment to Provide Medical Care for these Loyal, Lovable Dogs

Spring is a season of renewal. And in this season of new beginnings, Paws of Honor is particularly grateful for your generous support, which helps care for the retired police and military working dogs they support.

Your gift gives these unsung heroes a second chance and the promise of brighter days ahead. (That's something we could all use these days!)

Thanks in no small part to your continued generosity, Paws of Honor is continuing to provide them with the high quality veterinary care they deserve in return for their commitment and sacrifice for our country and communities.

And no one is more grateful for your help than the officers, handlers, and owners whose privilege and joy it is to care for these retired K9s once they are decommissioned.

Because rather than being treated with dignity and respect, decommissioned **military and police working dogs are classified by the government as "surplus equipment,"** and receive no benefits -- not even basic veterinary care, medicine, or dog food. These retired K9s often have even greater needs than the average older dog, many requiring additional care for chronic arthritis, pain management, and other life-threatening ailments due to



K9 Clara is a single purpose Explosive Detection Canine who served with the Department of Defense (DOD) as Force Protection of a secure DOD facility. Paws of Honor provided K9 Clara with medical care after she retired from service.

their physically demanding military or law enforcement careers.

These expenses become the responsibility of the officer/handler/owner (often a military servicemember, veteran, or police officer themselves) -- someone like Megan W., who wrote Paws of Honor after her retired partner K9 Capa received medical care:

"I brought [K9 Capa] home after nine years of Naval service. As with most Veterans, he has a plethora of health issues. However, unlike his human counterparts, he does not have any VA benefits or equivalent. Handlers that adopt their dogs are expected to handle these costs out of pocket.

"Paws of Honor has been a godsend. I know that no matter the ailment, my dog will get the required care. I no longer have to consider cost when determining the best treatment for him."

Without the generosity of supporters like you, handlers like Megan -- a veteran and hero herself! -- might not be able to afford expensive lifesaving care for their best friend and faithful K9 companion. So Paws of Honor is grateful for your help as they support America's deserving retired working dogs (and their handlers) in their golden years.

Inside Your Paws of Honor Newsletter:

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Paws of Honor Donors Helping Four New Bomb-Sniffing Dogs



Max Sniffed for Bombs at Airports

K9 Max is a five-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever who served on the National Explosive Detection Team Program. He was trained as a Passenger Screening Canine to detect explosives on persons, as well as other areas, and worked with his handler at both Washington Dulles International Airport and Reagan National Airport. Max and his handler have a very strong bond, and they retired together on November 21, 2021.



Roadee Helped the Secret Service

K9 Roadee is a 10-year-old Border Collie/Terrier Mix who retired from the United States Secret Service (USSS). He spent his last seven years of service working at the White House, keeping the public safe. Roadee was part of a pilot program focusing on open-area searches around large groups of people. He has also worked on protective missions all over the United States. Roadee's favorite retirement activity is chasing down his KONG frisbee.



Bonnie Protected Three Presidents

K9 Bonnie is a 10-year-old German Shepherd who retired from the United States Secret Service (USSS) after eight years of service. During his years of service, Bonnie traveled extensively and protected three Presidents. Since retirement, Bonnie's favorite activities include napping and chasing his KONG in the backyard.



Cooper Worked at State Department

K9 Cooper retired after three years of service with the U.S. State Department. He and his handler served as the first line of protection for the Secretary of State as part of the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service, traveling domestically and abroad. Now that Cooper is retired, he lives with his handler and enjoys swimming, playing fetch, and laying on the couch having his belly rubbed.

Why Not Remember Paws of Honor in Your Will?

You Can Leave a Legacy of Lifesaving Support for our Four-Legged Heroes!

“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die
I want to go where they went.” -- Humorist Will Rogers



You have already shown by your generosity and care that you are committed to supporting America's brave retired military and law enforcement dogs. **Does your financial legacy do the same?** 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:

- 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 working dog's handler or veterinarian know you appreciate their service, and the sacrifices they're making to care for these four-legged heroes.

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!

Pet Tips: A Safe & Happy Spring with Your Pup



With the promise of spring just around the corner, you and your canine companion will be spending more time outside. Here are some tips for a safe and happy spring with your pup -- whether you're taking long walks or hanging out at home.

- Schedule your dog's checkup with the vet, and make sure all shots are up to date. (Depending on where you live, you may want to ask your veterinarian for information about rattlesnake vaccinations.)
- Just like people, many pets experience allergies in the spring. If your dog is sneezing or scratching its ears, call your vet to schedule an appointment.
- Help your pup shed that old winter coat with a daily brushing and a trip to the groomer.
- Slowly ease back into walks and workouts until your dog regains strength from a long winter's rest. And be aware of warming temperatures, too.
- Brush up on the rules before visiting your local dog park.
- Before you start spring cleaning, review the impact any of your cleaning supplies can have on pets. Consider using pet-safe products like baking soda and vinegar.
- Spring is a great time to add houseplants, to freshen your air as well as your decor. But first make sure your new plant is pet-safe, as dogs can get very sick nibbling on an interesting new plant.
- Remember that rising temperatures can make time in the car dangerous for pets. Even a warm springtime sun can create a hot temperature inside your car. It's often best to leave your furry friends at home and bring them a treat instead of bringing them with you.
- Spring is a great time to wash your dog's bedding. It will help keep fur and dirt at a minimum in your home. You'll feel fresh and so will your pup!
- The Easter season can be a hazardous time for dogs. Plastic easter eggs, old boiled eggs, Easter grass, chocolate, foil wrapping, Easter lilies, and small toys can all be dangerous for pups. Consider the risks when bringing them into your home, and be vigilant for poison and choking hazards!



Happy Mother's Day to These K9 Hero Moms!



Rene, Mom to Explosive Detection K9 Maggie

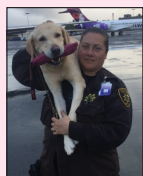
K9 Maggie was partnered with her mom and handler Rene when she became a working dog through Auburn University's Canine Training Center in Anniston, AL. Rene and Maggie partnered to perform

TSA's passenger screening explosive detection mission, and were named top dog of their class upon graduation! The pair started at San Diego International Airport and transferred to Washington Dulles, where they supported various events such as Super Bowl 50 and the 2016 presidential inauguration. K9 Maggie retired in September of 2017, but she and Rene are still inseparable and love to go on road trip adventures together!



Ashley, Mom to Dual Purpose Patrol & Explosive Detection K9 Cobra

In 2009, K9 Cobra was assigned to her first and only handler, Ashley. The two served together in the U.S. Navy, and were deployed to 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, physically unharmed but both battling PTSD. Fortunately, the bond between a handler and her dog is unbreakable. The pair was able to get through it together, and grew even closer. Ashley says, "Cobra is my savior!"



Explosive Detection K9 L. Langer

L. Langer was born into Homeland Security's National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program (NEDCTP), one of the last of the puppy programs. He was placed with his mom -- a green handler at the time -- when he was just 18 months old. They bonded quickly and have been an amazing team ever since, spending their entire career together keeping the Honolulu International Airport safe. Today, L. Langer is enjoying retirement in the sun and sand while his mom continues to work as a deputy sheriff.



Kristina, Mom to Dual Purpose Patrol & Narcotics K9 Body

Kristina W. and K9 Body met when Body was just 14 months old. He came over from Slovakia and the two were paired in basic school. "It was an instant bond," Kristina says. "He was my ride-or-die." Body was trained as a patrol and narcotics K9 and served for over seven years, getting drugs off the streets, tracking missing children and elderly people, and helping apprehend suspects. Body retired shortly after being treated for prostate cancer, and Kristina remained committed to caring for him, just like he had her back every day. "The vet bills are expensive," she says. "We're very appreciative [to Paws of Honor]."



Explosive Detection K9 Lady

K9 Lady served as a military working dog in the U.S. Air Force for almost six years. She was trained as a single purpose K9 in Explosive Detection, and worked at Fairchild AFB, serving on two United States Secret Service missions and responding to three off-base bomb threats. Lady's mom and former handler call her "Lady Bug" and says she's a loving, goofy dog, who still acts like a puppy.

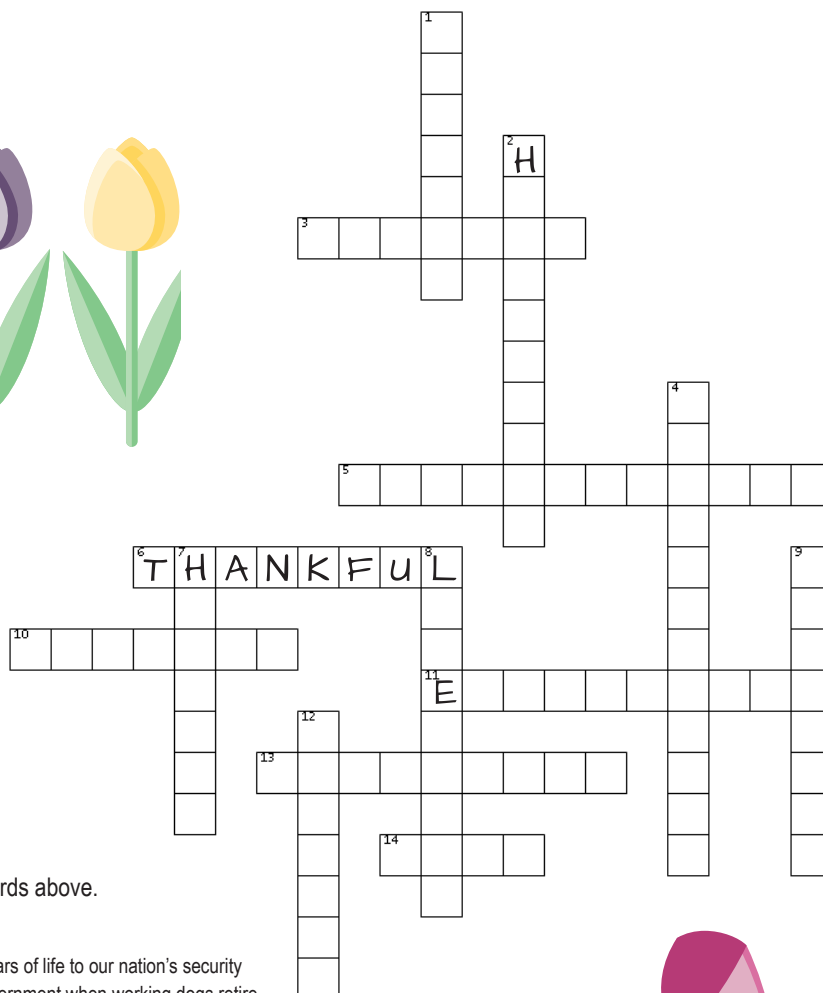
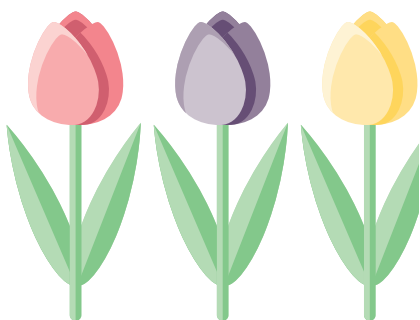


Dual Purpose Patrol & Explosive Detection K9 Duke

K9 Duke served as a military working dog in the U.S. Air Force for nearly eight years, trained as a dual purpose K9 in patrol and explosive detection. Duke and his mom served in hostile war zones and dangerous combat situations on two deployments and dozens of missions, during which Duke was instrumental in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. Now that Duke is retired he is living the good life with his Mom and former handler who permanently adopted him.



Spring Into Action with Paws of Honor



Use the clues to fill in the words above.

DOWN

1. Dog that dedicated its best years of life to our nation's security
2. No longer provided by the government when working dogs retire
4. Paws of Honor partner who is qualified to treat diseased or injured K9s
7. A K9's person
8. Paws of Honor donors who give selflessly
9. Given to a charity, such as Paws of Honor
12. Four-legged heroes show this to their handler and country

ACROSS

3. Dog that dedicated its best years of life to our country's military
5. How you can help today
6. How Paws of Honor, handlers and retired K9s feel towards their supporters like you
10. K9s to their officer/handler
11. Paws of Honor would move heaven and earth to prevent this
13. Dog
14. At Paws of Honor there is one at both ends of the leash



Down: 1. OFFICER 2. HEALTHCARE 4. VETERINARIAN 7. HANDLER 8. LIFESAVER 9. DONATION 12. LOYALTY
Across: 3. VETERAN 5. CONTRIBUTION 6. THANKFUL 10. PARTNER 11. EUTHANASIA 13. COMPANION 14. HERO

Share the Love for Our K9 Heroes with Paws of Honor Children's Books

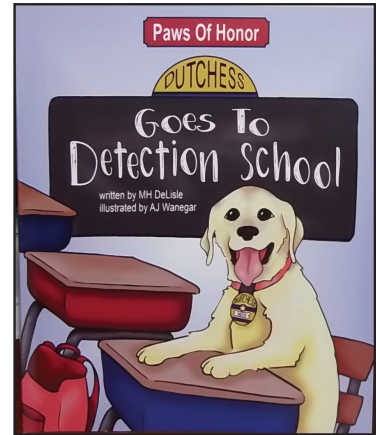
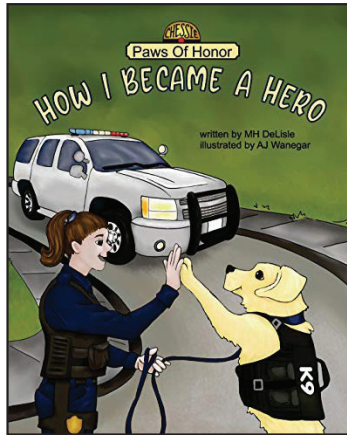
Last year, Paws of Honor launched its first children's book, *How I Became A Hero - Chessie's Story*. This year, we are excited to bring you the sequel, *Dutchess Goes To Detection School*!

Follow K9 Dutchess as she sets off for school! She's unsure of what to expect and is a little nervous, but with her strong will and "can-do" attitude, there's nothing that can stop her from succeeding. Dutchess's story is one of failure, success, and friendship that children will relate to.

In *Chessie's Story*, kids learn from a real live K9 officer trained to protect and serve. Learn how K9 Chessie overcomes fear, finds where he belongs, and becomes a hero!

Both books are beautifully hand illustrated, and all proceeds help provide care and comfort to retired K9 heroes of Paws of Honor. Fall in love with our children's books and help our retired K9s at the same time!

Find both books and other Paws of Honor gear online at store.pawsofhonor.org.



10 Fascinating Facts About Dog Owners & Pup Lovers Like YOU!

1. Dogs are the most popular American pet, and studies show they and other pets provide a variety of health benefits -- including reducing the stress hormone cortisol, increasing activity levels, and easing anxiety and depression.
2. Nearly 64 million American households own at least one dog.
3. 33% of Americans considered adopting a pet during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Up to 85% of the world's 900 million dogs are free-range.
5. There are over 150 different dog breeds.
6. 48% of households have a small dog.
7. Nearly 36% of yearly pet spending goes towards veterinary and medical care.
8. Only 23% of pet dogs are rescued from a shelter or humane society.
9. Over 95% of dog owners consider their pet to be a member of the family.
10. 1 in every 5 dog owners buys special treats and presents for their pet.



Paws of Honor Supporters & K9 Handlers Have 'Doggone Good Time' at Christmas Party

Celebration Thanks Donors and Dog Owners for Their Generosity and Service

Local Paws of Honor supporters, along with K9 handlers and their furry friends and families, were invited to the first-ever Paws of Honor Christmas party in Washington, DC, in December.

"This was our way to thank our K9 handlers in person for their service and thank our generous donors who make it possible to provide our four-legged heroes with veterinary care," said Bob Youngblood, Founder and President of Paws of Honor.

"Christmas is the season of giving, and it's hard to think of a better gift for these loyal dogs than lifesaving veterinary care. My staff and I are deeply grateful for the compassion and generosity of every one of our supporters."

The group of approximately 85 people, including Paws of Honor staff, local donors, and K9 handlers and their families, met and mingled and got a chance to see their children (and their dogs, too) photographed with Santa.

Ashley S., who served in the Navy and deployed to Afghanistan, attended the Christmas party as a donor and K9 handler. Ashley's dog Cobra was hit by a roadside bomb and forced to retire at age 5.

"Cobra had a cyst on her tail, so I brought her to the vet, and the vet forwarded me to Paws of Honor," Ashley said. "Paws of Honor supporters paid over \$3,000 worth of surgery for her, and that was a lifesaver, because I was pregnant with my third child and I would not have been able to afford to take care of Cobra at that point. My family and I continue to make donations to Paws of Honor because they cover the costs for these dogs."

Another K9 handler, Chris W., attended with his dog Cooper. This Department of State K9 experienced seizures in the line of duty, which led to medical retirement. Although the seizures subsided, Chris had to take Cooper to the vet for a different problem.

"Paws of Honor stepped in and helped with the medical bills," he said. "It's an amazing organization and I thank them very much for taking care of one of my best friends."



K9 handlers, along with their dogs and children, spread the cheer at the Paws of Honor Christmas party in Washington, D.C.



Ashley, her daughter, and K9 Cobra