

Serving Retired Military & Police Working Dogs In Grateful Memory of the Hero K9s of 9/11

Paws of Honor first opened their doors to provide veterinary care and products at no charge in 2015, serving retired military and law enforcement K9s that served their country, locally or even globally.

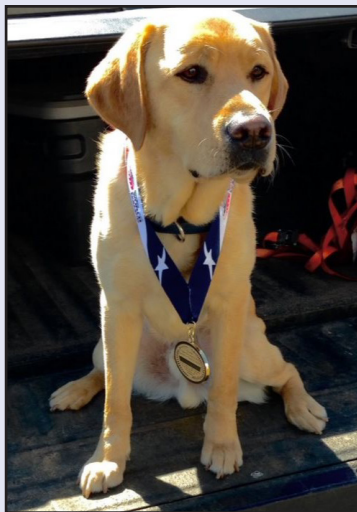
But the *idea* behind their mission came to Director Bob Youngblood long before then.

Bob remembers sitting in his office in McLean, Virginia, at 9:37 a.m. on September 11, 2001. He was looking out the window and talking on the phone to his wife about the attack on the Twin Towers in New York, when he saw plumes of black smoke rising from the direction of Washington, D.C.

The Pentagon had been hit, and Bob had friends and clients that worked there. In fact, one of his veterinary clients was the Pentagon's K9 Protection Force -- the first responders to the scene where 189 men and women would die.

On that day, lives were lost and lives were changed -- and Bob knew he wanted to help. As the Director of his veterinary clinic, he already had a working relationship with several DOD and law enforcement agencies. The clinic actually treated many of the dogs that were at the Pentagon that day, and Bob was struck by the incredible bond between the officers and their dogs, especially after experiencing what they did on 9/11.

It was this bond that planted the seed for Paws of Honor.



K9 Luke deployed to Afghanistan twice with his first handler ... then seven more times with his current dad! He worked daily in the Washington Metro Area as an Explosive Detection K9. Paws of Honor provided K9 Luke with medical care after his retirement in December 2020.

The events of 9/11 also brought to light the importance of military and law enforcement dogs in our national and global security operations. These dogs are often the first and last line of defense in the war on terrorism -- everything from securing our airports, to detecting IEDs, to conducting missions that make the entire world safer. These dogs have never been more important than they are now.

The sad part of the story is that our government doesn't treat these K9 heroes with the same reverence and appreciation after they retire from service. In fact, retired working dogs are classified as "equipment," -- and once decommissioned, they are not afforded any benefits, including veterinary care. Paws of Honor is proud to step up to fill that gap, caring for the working dogs who dedicated

their lives to serving our country.

And today Paws of Honor is still hard at work -- with the help of their generous donors -- cultivating the seed that was planted so many years ago on September 11, 2001. There are over 200 retired military and police K9s currently in their program, and they're adding new hero dogs to their ranks every month. And, with your help, they're continuing to honor the legacy of the working dogs that gave so much on 9/11 ... and that continue to bravely serve our country in the 21 years since that terrible day.

Inside Your Paws of Honor Newsletter:

Page 2: Meet These K9 Heroes New to Paws of Honor
Page 3: Helping the Hero Dogs of a Post-9/11 World
Page 4: Honoring the Working Dog Heroes of 9/11
Page 5: Paws of Honor's Legacy of Service

Page 6: Simplify Your Life While Doing MORE For Our K9 Heroes
Page 7: Be Remembered for Your Enduring Commitment to America's K9 Heroes
Page 8: "Thank YOU" From K9s and Handlers Helped By Donors Like You

Meet These K9 Heroes NEW to Paws of Honor!

Paws of Honor now has OVER 200 retired K9s in the Paws of Honor family! These hero dogs span 24 states, represent 70 different departments/agencies, and had 541 veterinary visits totaling \$590,000 in 2021. Your support -- which makes it all possible! -- is greatly appreciated by their handlers and families, as well as everyone at Paws of Honor.



Explosive Detection K9 Yoda

K9 Yoda served in the **U.S. Navy** as an Explosive Detection military working dog for almost six years. Yoda worked over 50 United States Secret Service missions protecting the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State. He also deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve at Camp Buehring and Camp Arifjan for one year. Yoda is now living the life at home, enjoying dehydrated beef lung and stockpiling toys throughout the house.

Patrol, Narcotics Detection, & Tracking K9 Boris

K9 Boris began his career with the **Riverside County Sheriff's Department** in May 2016 with many major accomplishments in the six years he worked. He was responsible for locating 40 pounds of methamphetamine, 53 pounds of cocaine, and numerous fentanyl pills -- and that doesn't include his amazing patrol and tracking stats! Since retirement, Boris enjoys scaring any delivery drivers that come to the house.



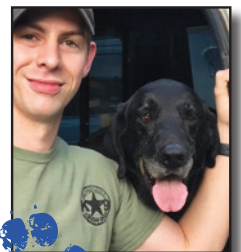
Explosive Detection K9 Martin

K9 Martin was named after Martin Richard, the eight-year-old boy who tragically lost his life in the Boston Marathon bombings. Martin served for seven years protecting travelers, visitors, and employees at the **Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)**, working as an Explosive Detection dog for the police department and retired in June 2021. Martin lived, and loved, to work. Since retirement, he has remained active, taking daily walks in the neighborhood and going on car rides with his dad.

Recently, K9 Martin was diagnosed with a Soft Tissue Sarcoma in his right hind leg/hip. Since this diagnosis, he has been in some pain, although he hasn't lost his motivation to please, and he still wants to play ball and go on walks. His handler says, "The cost of treating his illness is more than we have anticipated, but we want to give Martin every chance to enjoy his retirement years as long as he has a zest for life." We want to give Martin a chance as well, which is why Paws of Honor is committed -- with your help! -- to paying for 100% of Martin's medical care.

Cadaver K9 Pink

K9 Pink worked for eight years as a cadaver dog for **Jefferson County Sheriff's Office** in Alabama. Since this type of K9 is hard to come by, Pink was used by several surrounding agencies. K9 Pink was recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for her work on helping to track and locate the body of a kidnapped child, Kamille "Cupcake" McKinney. Pink also helped locate evidence leading to the conviction of four suspects in a murder. She worked hard and is now living her best life at home, with her handler.



Dual-Purpose Explosive Detection and Patrol K9 Arnost

K9 Arnost served in the **U.S. Navy** as a Dual-Purpose Explosive Detection and Patrol dog. During his nine years of working, he completed numerous United States Secret Service missions, as well as multiple deployment missions abroad. He loves being pet by anyone and enjoys lounging around his two-acre backyard.

Paws of Honor Helps the Hero Dogs of a Post-9/11 World

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, changed the world for everyone -- including America's K9 heroes, who were asked to step up to protect our nation like never before.

Military Working Dogs were deployed to sniff out explosives in combat zones.

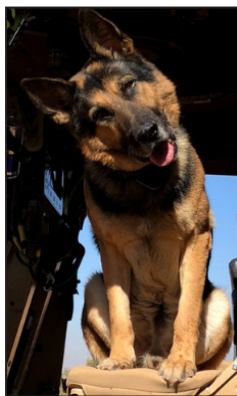


Explosive Detection K9 Aruba

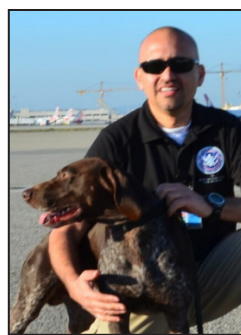
Aruba was a dual purpose Patrol and Explosive Detection K9 for the **United States Air Force**. He is now eight years old and enjoying his hard-earned retirement with his dad after three deployments!

Explosive Detection K9 Crock

K9 Crock served the **United States Army** for 10 years as a Dual-Purpose Explosive Detection dog. Crock saved multiple lives during combat operations, kept morale high, and put his heart, soul, and life into work. He is loved by everyone that he's worked with and has an amazing personality. Crock's favorite thing to do during retirement is to sleep. We think he's earned it!



At airports, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and local police departments use K9 officers to detect explosives and narcotics, and keep our citizens safe in the skies following an unprecedented type of terrorist attack.



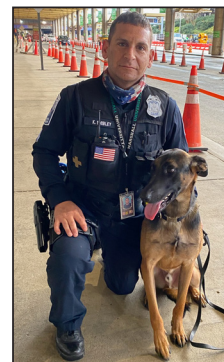
Explosive Detection K9 Patos

K9 Patos is a German Shorthaired Pointer who was assigned to the **Transportation Security Administration - TSA Explosive Detection Unit** at LAX from November 2015 to February 2021. Patos was always eager to work, and during his career, he never failed an

evaluation. K9 Patos was retired due to a medical condition and now lives with his handler. He remains active by going on frequent hikes and playing with his sister Sahara, a Golden Retriever.

Explosive Detection K9 Max

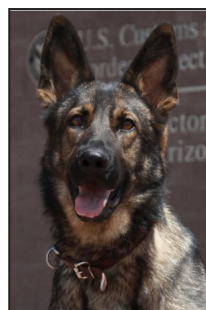
K9 Max is a Shepherd-Malinois mix who worked as an Explosive Detection K9 at **Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority** serving Reagan National and Dulles International Airports. He was on duty from January 2020 to August 2021 before having to retire due to environmental reasons.



Following 9/11, protecting our borders became an even higher priority. K9 officers are used on America's borders to apprehend dangerous people, sniff out drugs, and more!

Patrol/Apprehension K9 Kazan

K9 Kazan is a single purpose Patrol/Apprehension K9 who served with the **United States Border Patrol**. He was trained to assist agents in safely arresting felony and dangerous high risk suspects. Kazan was credited with apprehending eight violent felony suspects and consequently seizing over 2,000 lbs of marijuana. K9 Kazan earned a PH1 certification in the Netherlands KNPV (Royal Dutch Police Dog Association) program and resumed the KNPV/APA program upon retirement.



Dual Purpose Narcotics Detection & Tracking K9 Vita

K9 Vita served as a drug detection and tracking dog who spent seven years with the **United States Border Patrol**. K9 Vita spent the majority of her career at the Border Patrol Station in Sonoita, Arizona. Most of her duties consisted of

tracking narcotic smugglers in the mountains of southern Arizona between Nogales, Arizona, and Naco, Arizona. K9 Vita's seizure statistics ended with 22,882 lbs of marijuana, two lbs of methamphetamine, personal use amounts of cocaine and heroin, and 506 human apprehensions. These seizures led to multiple convictions of drug mules.



September 11th Remembrance Issue 2022

9 Hero Dogs of September 11

September 11th, 2001, was a day of horror and heroism, for America's four-legged friends as well as for her citizens. Just a few of the K9 heroes that served that day -- including some that gave their lives -- are:

- 🐾 **Salty**, the Labrador retriever guide dog who led Omar E. Riviera down from the 71st floor of the World Trade Center, after the first jet hit 25 floors above.
- 🐾 **Roselle**, the yellow Labrador guide dog who led Michael Hingson, a blind man, down from the 78th floor.
- 🐾 **Apollo** was the first search and rescue dog to arrive at Ground Zero. At one point the German Shepherd nearly lost his life to flames and falling debris. Apollo's life was saved by falling into a pool of water, and he continued working at the scene.
- 🐾 **Sirius** was an Explosive Detection K9 with the NY/NJ Port Authority Police Department. Assigned to the Port Authority Police Station in the basement of the World Trade Center's Tower Two, Sirius lost his life when the tower collapsed -- quite possibly the first and only U.S. K9 officer ever killed due to international terrorism.
- 🐾 **Nikie**, a K-9 Disaster Relief therapy dog who visited respite areas to comfort the workers toiling to clear the wreckage during the recovery period at the World Trade Center site.
- 🐾 **Bretagne**, a fire department canine and FEMA search dog, who was euthanized at age 16 on June 16, 2016 -- the last last known surviving dog to respond to Ground Zero during search and rescue efforts.
- 🐾 **Jake**, a member of Utah Task Force, a federal search and rescue team trained to respond to disasters, who traveled to New York City to search for human remains at Ground Zero. Jake served as a rescue dog at the World Trade Center site for 17 days.
- 🐾 **Trakr**, a German Shepherd police dog, found the last survivor of the 9/11 attacks. Genelle Guzman-McMillan, an assistant with the Port Authority of New York, was on the 13th floor of the North Tower when it fell. When Trakr found her on the morning of September 12, Genelle had been trapped under the rubble for 27 hours.
- 🐾 **Sage** searched the rubble of the Pentagon, where she found the body of one of the hijackers. Sage was later deployed to Iraq in 2007 to search for U.S. soldiers captured or killed by insurgents.

Did You Know ... 6 Facts About Police & Military Working Dogs

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, forever changed the world as we know it -- and launched our nation into a war that would last twenty years. In the aftermath of 9/11, K9s were deployed to secure possible threats, recover victims, and provide comfort to the workers searching through the rubble. And in the years that followed, thousands of police and military working dogs have been ensuring America's safety and security ever since. Did you know that ...

- There are over **2,000 active-duty military working dogs** serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, according to the U.S. Department of Defense
- Man's best friend is deployed all around the world, including approximately **700** of them serving overseas in war zones and diplomatic postings
- Most military working dogs (MWDs) retire after about **10** years
- Each military working dog saves between **150-200** lives throughout their service, according to American Humane Society's estimates
- K9 officers were first used in America in **1907** in New York City
- More than **100** search and rescue police dogs played an important role in searching for victims after the 9/11 attacks



By the Numbers: Paws of Honor's Legacy of Service Built from the Ashes of 9/11

Observing the incredible bond between police officers and their working dogs in the aftermath of 9/11 planted the seed for Paws of Honor. Today, they have provided over a million dollars in care for hundreds of retired working dogs -- thanks to the generosity of kind, patriotic friends like you!

- Since Paws of Honor went nationwide in 2019, they have paid for nearly **\$1.25 MILLION** in veterinary bills for retired police and military working dogs.
- The average annual cost of a retired working dog's medical care is **\$1,625**. This number includes basic care such as senior wellness exams, monthly heartworm and tick medication, bloodwork, and annual vaccines.
- Paws of Honor has cared for more than **300** canines nationwide.
- Today there are **204** active K9s with the Paws of Honor family!



Maggie, a retired Explosive Detection K9, visited the vet for a dental cleaning and to have two small tumors removed on two of her paws. Her care was paid for by Paws of Honor, thanks to the generosity of friends like you!

Meet K9 Llarocque

K9 Llarocque was trained in Explosive Detection at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She is named after Judith Frankel Larocque, a 9/11 victim on board American Airline Flight 11 out of Boston. Llarocque was assigned to the Hawaii State Sheriff's Department, and participated in countless hours of searches to include USPS mail, inbound/outbound cargo, threats, and unattended vehicles, just to name a few. She's had the privilege to participate in fun events such as the Super Bowl, the NFL Pro Bowl, marathons, concerts, and more. K9 Llarocque retired in October 2019 and enjoys hanging out in the AC, going on daily jogs, and being spoiled rotten by her family.



The Guardians of the Night

When a military or police dog dies, part of the ceremony includes the reading of this poem, which potently reflects the bond between officer and dog.

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.



Simplify Your Life While Doing MORE For Our K9 Heroes: *Join The “K9 Companion Club” Today!*

The **K9 Companion Club**, Paws of Honor’s monthly giving program, is a simple and secure way YOU can make an even bigger difference for America’s K9 heroes when they retire from service. And by joining the **K9 Companion Club** you will also enjoy great benefits that make it as easy as possible to continue your faithful patriotic support for America’s four-legged heroes.

As a generous supporter, you already know that once retired these dogs are considered “surplus equipment” by the government, despite their years of faithful service. And they receive no veterinary or medical care from the government, even though their physically challenging service often leaves them with even greater needs than other older dogs. Now we’ve created a new way for you to help our four-legged heroes while reducing the amount of mail you receive at the same time! By enrolling in the **K9 Companion Club**:

- ★ Your monthly donation is conveniently and securely debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card each month, so you don’t have to spend time writing checks or searching for stamps.
- ★ You’ll receive less mail from us -- and the money we save on postage and printing helps your gifts go further each month. (We’ll continue sharing important program updates and newsletters like this one.)
- ★ You’re free to cancel your membership in the **K9 Companion Club** at any time.

Your monthly gift can be life-changing -- especially today, when more K9 heroes and their handlers than ever need our help because of the coronavirus crisis and economic challenges. They dedicated their lives to serving our country ... so now it’s our turn to care for them as they live out their retirements!

So I hope you’ll join the **K9 Companion Club** today -- to help ensure we have the funds we need to support our K9 heroes in desperate need of urgent medical care and ongoing treatment to improve their quality of life. To enroll, please see your enclosed reply form.



Your monthly gift supports heroes like K9 Ringo, who spent seven years doing an amazing job protecting Americans in war zones as an Explosive Detection K9. By the time he retired K9 Ringo had accumulated 10 deployments, with his stellar nose helping find explosives in many high stress and dangerous situations. Ringo is now retired, and like virtually all our nation’s retired K9s, he receives zero retirement or other benefits from the government. Paws of Honor is dedicated to supporting Ringo and his family by providing 100% of his veterinary and medical care as they are able!

More Ways You Can Help America’s Retired K9s:

- Shop www.pawsofhonor.org/shop-all/ for great gear including t-shirts, baseball caps, and magnets to help spread the word about Paws of Honor and how we’re helping America’s heroes.
- Consider adopting a retired working dog. While most 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 veterinary care provider know you appreciate their service and care for America’s four-legged heroes.

Remember & Be Remembered for Your Enduring Commitment to America's Four-Legged Heroes



Supporting America's Best Friends When They Need it Most



"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

- Roger Caras (photographer & writer)



Your bequest helps support hero dogs like K9 Smith. Smith, who just recently crossed the rainbow bridge, was certified in explosive detection and tracking and served with the Pennsylvania State Police from 2013 until his retirement in early 2021.

During your lifetime you've dedicated your voice, time, and money to helping America's brave retired working dogs. Don't you want to continue that legacy of generosity and love long after you're gone? It's easy to do so by making a bequest to Paws of Honor -- and your charitable bequest is deeply appreciated by and the handlers who care for these four-legged heroes.

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.



Paws of Honor Photo Game



See if you can spot the 6 differences in the below photos of Paws of Honor hero Argo. We've already found one for you, just five left!



“Thank YOU” From K9s and Handlers Helped By Donors Like You

Your gift to Paws of Honor helps provide veterinary care and products free of charge for retired military and law enforcement K9s, that served our country bravely and are now in need of medical attention. The officers, handlers, and owners you're helping are so grateful for your support! Because, without your help, many would struggle to provide their furry companions with the proper medical attention they need to live healthy happy lives, even after they've retired from a life of service. The messages below are for YOU from K9s supported by generous friends of Paws of Honor.

"We woke up this morning and our little guy [K9 Joker] wasn't acting like himself. Thankfully we decided to take him in! He had a piece of Kong obstructing his intestines. He is home and sleeping. We are forever grateful to Paws Of Honor ... for saving his life!"

- Handler of K9 Joker, a retired Explosive Detection K9 with the United States Secret Service (USSS)

"I think [K9 Pano] is really enjoying physical therapy [paid for by Paws of Honor]. I can see a difference right away! He has more energy and is a lot more playful!"

- Officer-Technician Grissay M., handler of K9 Pano, a retired Explosive Detection K9 with the United States Secret Service (USSS)

"[I'm] extremely thankful for Paws of Honor for stepping in and covering the expenses."

- Handler of K9 Sunshine, who had to have difficult surgery to remove fluid accumulating around her heart

"At a time when you're worried whether or not your partner is going to be okay, Paws of Honor is there to take the financial burden off of your shoulders thru their amazing support. Thanks to them and everyone who helps support them! They are truly a blessing!"

- Handler of Explosive Detection K9 Christy

"My wife and I are especially thankful for the huge help that Paws of Honor has extended to our retired [Military Working Dog], Bubba. Bubba (a girl!) served her entire time in Bahrain. She earned the unofficial, yet honorable title of 'Desert Dog' as she was there for 9 years! Over the years, Bubba has developed hip dysplasia, spondylosis, and arthritis. Although she refuses to believe that these conditions limit her in any way, the cost of taking care of her would be substantial! **Without Paws of Honor, we would not be able to cover many of the expenses associated with her well-being."**

- Handler of retired military working dog K9 Bubba (U.S. Navy)