

SUCCESS STORY

Pupstar Trooper

July 2025

“The gift of these dogs to our veterans in need is invaluable.”

“I was a military police officer while on active duty and then transferred to civil affairs in the reserves. I served 15 years and got out as a Major. My favorite part about the military was the incredible training events I helped plan and execute, and the camaraderie that goes along with doing difficult things with fellow soldiers.

I received numerous medals and awards, but the one I am most grateful for is the Bronze Star. I served as a battle captain during OEF and was awarded the BSM for my responsibilities running the night operations at the detention facility. I also enjoyed jumping out of airplanes! I had a difficult time readjusting to civilian life and it manifested as anxiety and hyper vigilance. I tried to self-medicate with alcohol, but over time, that made things exponentially worse. Even when I stopped drinking, I was on overdrive with so much anxious energy, I would have nightmares or freak out in a store



without understanding why. A TBI led me to support services, which is how I found *Shelter to Soldier*.

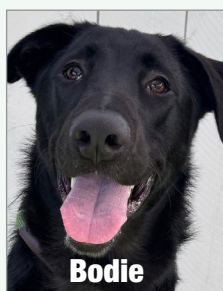
Trooper has helped make my emotions and life more manageable. I used him during my therapy homework sessions, which helped me progress in areas I was having a hard time in. He brings a smile to my face when I become overwhelmed, and he has a calming and loving presence when I am feeling anxious. The gift of these dogs to us veterans in need is invaluable. I am so grateful for those who donate and support

and make it possible for us to have access to something so life-altering.

Thank you all! Please do not hesitate! This program is incredible, the trainers are so knowledgeable and helpful, and everyone involved made the experience and my time training there very special. I had no idea a dog would completely change my struggles and how I was navigating the world after the military. **Trooper** has helped calm all the chaos in me, and there is hope for anyone feeling the same!” —*Laurie, U.S. Army Veteran, USA*

Pupdate

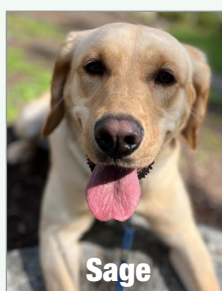
Bodie and his veteran, Shawn, are working through the basics of training together as they are one of the newer matches in the program. In each session, Shawn is growing more comfortable with commands and handling, and their bond is growing stronger with each session - and that foundation is what it's all about!



celebrate this big moment.

Duke is a total rockstar in his training - he's currently proofing his task cues and doing tons of off-site work. In his downtime, he loves a good game of hide and seek or tossing around squeaky toys. He also had his first veteran match meeting last week, which was a great step forward! We hope to have a promising match in the works for him very soon!

Bella has officially passed her task test with Shawn (a big milestone!), and they're now on their second off-site outing together. If all continues to go smoothly, **Bella** is tentatively scheduled to take her Public Access Test (PAT) on August 7th, and we're looking at the week following for her graduation to



Sage is doing a wonderful job building her focus with handlers during off-site outings and continuing to make great progress with her task training. She's really shining in both areas, and we're excited to see how she continues to grow.