



Clarissa Black is the founder of the Pets for Vets program.

What We Do

- Shelter dogs facing euthanasia are specifically selected for each veteran to match his or her personality.
- Professional animal trainers will rehabilitate the shelter dogs using positive reinforcement and teach the dogs good manners to fit into the veteran's lifestyle.
- Training can include desensitization to wheel chairs or crutches and recognizing and reacting to panic or anxiety disorder behaviors.
- Each veteran-dog match is provided with all of the necessary equipment to start their new life together.
- Each pet will be healthy, up to date on all vaccinations and micro-chipped.
- Help clients find reduced cost veterinary care and equipment for the lifetime of the pet.
- Life line of training support for the life time of the dog.

This is a win-win way to give back to our troops who have given so much for us.

Why We Do It

Many returning veterans suffer from physical and emotional injuries relating to their time in service, making it difficult to transition back to civilian life.

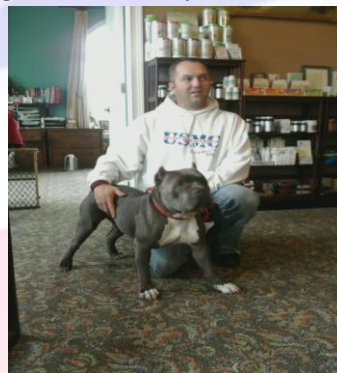
- 20% of the 1.6 million U.S soldiers who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffered symptoms of PTSD – Rand Institute 2008

Veterans with PTSD or TBI who are not eligible for a service dog can benefit from a Pets for Vets companion animal.

- 4 million dogs and cats are euthanized every year in shelters across America – The Humane Society of the United States

These dogs and cats can make excellent companion animals but never have that chance.

Pets for Vets can help! Medical studies have shown that companion animals significantly improve mental and physical health, including reducing stress, depression and anxiety, symptoms experienced by many serving in the military.

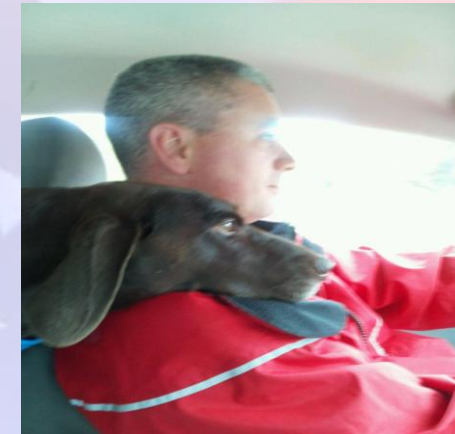


Shannon and Iago

Positive Impact

Pets for Vets believes that companion animals can be a life saving therapy or friend that many returning servicemen and women need.

One veteran who suffered from PTSD and TBI was no longer dependent on medication just one month after receiving a Pets for Vets companion dog.



David and Remington

A veteran who suffered from PTSD was able to finally turn her lights out at night, shortly after receiving her companion dog.

Working with and learning to train his Pets for Vets companion dog, helped a veteran take his mind off what he endured in Iraq, manage his anger and better his relationship with his son.

Pets for Vets and the stories of veteran-dog matches have been featured nationally on NPR, CBS, CNN, PBS and AOL.