

Paws of Allegiance

Summer 2022 Newsletter - Northwest Region



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Introducing Shapiro

By: Samantha Reside, Advancement Associate

In early April, our team in Alaska was lucky enough to welcome a new puppy. Shapiro a.k.a "Shay" came to us from a breeder in Texas at about 10 weeks old. She is a full Golden Retriever and has all the personality that comes with that breed. Shay does not mind getting dirty, whether it be by digging in the backyard or rolling around in a parking lot. She knows how to get your attention when she wants something and she makes it clear when there's something she doesn't want to do! Shay has started fitting in well among the pack here in Alaska. She has been doing great when on field trips and is coming along really well in her puppy training. Shay has a full-time Puppy Parent family that is helping to reinforce her training and introduce her to all new things. According to them, Shay loves being outside; whether it be on their deck, in the yard, on a walk. To their surprise, the snow didn't bother this Texas pup one bit. She definitely likes to chew; especially on any stick, plants or pine cone she can get her paws on. Shay will even indulge in snacking on a dandelion from time to time. She loves a good crinkle toy, her little stuffed animals, a good scratch behind her ears and getting her shoulders or feet massaged. Shay has certainly made herself home in Alaska and we are excited to see how she progresses in her training as a future Service Dog.

Shay at our Anchorage Site



Cassidy and Ericson in WA

By: Samantha Reside, Advancement Associate

In our last newsletter, we introduced our new PPH team in the Seattle/Tacoma area of Washington. According to his trainer, Cassidy, Ericson is a happy little worker. He likes to work as hard as he naps and this young man sure can nap! He loves working on light, lap and retrieve. His favorite toys are his Kong and his Arcadia Trail Rope with a float bottle on it. His favorite treats are Costco chicken jerky and his favorite place that he has walked to so far is American Lake. Cassidy and Ericson were able to come up to Alaska at the end of April to visit the rest of the PPH Northwest team! Ericson was able to spend some time with his littermate, Elaine, and meet all the other PPH dogs at our Anchorage facility. We are so excited that Ericson's training is going so well and that he and Cassidy have adjusted to their new home in Washington. Be sure to follow them on our social media platforms, Instagram @pphnorthwest and on Facebook - Paws for Purple Hearts Seattle, for more updates and stories about their adventures in Washington.



Trainer Cassidy Cooley
and Ericson in AK

Summer Swimmers

By: Samantha Reside, Advancement Associate

It's summertime and here in Alaska, we love getting outside and exploring everything the great outdoors has to offer! For many, this includes swimming in the lakes, river, and ocean. At Paws for Purple Hearts, we want to teach our dogs to be comfortable with any lifestyle that their Warrior might have an interest in; this includes water activities. In case you didn't know, the dogs at PPH are a combination of Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers or a mix of the two. A lot of people assume that these breeds take to water immediately, but that's not always the case. It was finally time for two of our pups, Elaine and Kreitzburg a.k.a. "Laney and Kai", to put on their life jackets and hit the pool. In Alaska, we take our pups to an indoor dog pool called Alaska K9 Aquatics. It's perfect for dogs who like to swim year-round but live in a place that's covered in snow and ice for a good portion of the year. This is a great environment for Laney and Kai to be comfortably introduced to the water. The instructors at the pool spend the entire first session with each dog playing and slowly introducing them into the water by using either toys or food as motivation.



Kreitzburg at Swim
Practice

Kai was a little apprehensive at first but really loved playing with the different toys the instructor had. He was eventually taken for a little float by the instructors and seemed to be enjoying himself quite a bit. For some people,

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giving your dog swim lessons may seem unnecessary. But this is just another important piece of training that our Service Dogs go through and it's something that you can have your own dog participate in too. Being fearful of water can be a really hard thing for any dog to overcome, so you want to make sure they're first experiences with it are positive ones. If not introduced correctly, the dog might develop a fear of the water, making swimming or even bath time a scary activity, so if you want to teach your dog to swim and safely cool off in the summer heat, then be sure to look for a swim class for your dog that's closest to you! That's why at PPH, our trainers take the time to introduce our dogs to all new things in a safe and fun environment!



Ruther Glen
Dog-In-Training, David

PAWS Act: Groundbreaking Opportunity

By: Claire Richardson, National Advancement Associate

Many of our readers know Paws for Purple Hearts is dedicated to Veterans and our programs are exclusively offered to them, but this year we are taking it one step further from participating in the PAWS Act. You are probably curious as to what the PAWS Act is all about and what it entails? Well we are here to break it down and give you all a glimpse into the science behind our Service Dog Programs! The PAWS Act was brought about by a new bill enacted by Congress and signed by the President of the United States. It had previously been presented to Congress back in 2016 and has gone through many reconstructive changes over the last six years. It is now called "Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members" (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act. This act requires the Veterans Affairs Administrations to implement a five-year program that offers Veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder the opportunity to train with Service Dogs as a portion of their complementary health program. This allows eligible Veterans

registered through the VA health care system that have been recommended by a professional mental health care official to participate in the therapy offered through programs such as ours. Of the five sites authorized, two of our PPH sites out of the five were selected: PPH Alaska and PPH San Antonio! PPH agreed to participate in this five year volunteer program to help prove just how life changing these dogs are to our Veterans and why it is important to continue to promote the Service Dog Industry. Within this five year training program through the VA, our two facilities are proving to the world and our government that Service Dogs do make a difference in the lives of wounded Warriors which has been our mission from the very start. Paws for Purple Hearts and the other organizations within this PAWS Act are here to show through various studies and research over the course of these five years just how much it matters. We cannot wait to share with you more on this phenomenal opportunity and the impact that it will make. Since we are receiving no funding from the government for providing this program to Veterans, we are more grateful than ever for contributions to our organization from donors like you!

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