

Paws of Allegiance

Summer 2023 Newsletter - Northwest Region



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Summer "Kompoocha" Event

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This summer, our Alaska team in Anchorage is extremely honored and excited to be partnering with Zip Kombucha on four separate occasions selling a unique new brew flavor entitled "Kompoocha"! On the last Saturday of every month this summer, our staff and Dogs-In-Training will be tabled educating the Anchorage community about Paws for Purple Hearts and sampling our signature new flavor, while the Zip Kombucha team helps them raise money for their facility.

Zip Kombucha has been a Veteran-owned business in Anchorage since 2016 and their owner, Jessie Janes, is still currently serving in the Alaska National Guard. Their hard kombucha set them up for even more success and since that debut in 2020, business has been better than ever. When we began our partnership with them this summer to produce a special line of kombucha with our own logo, dogs, and flavor on it, we could not have been more thrilled. Each Saturday, there is live music, food trucks, and fun all around for everyone, including our dogs! With the



Summer Festival

8161 Schoon St from 2-8pm
May 27th | June 24th | July 22nd | August 26th



beautiful Alaska landscape in the background, you are guaranteed to enjoy this special summer partnership. Mark your calendars for future dates and keep an eye out on our website to learn more about this limited time event!

Summer Puppy Parent Trips in the Northwest

Living in the Northwest regions, especially around our two established facilities in Tacoma, WA and Anchorage, AK pose as a wonderful opportunity for our amazing Puppy Parents to take our Dogs-In-Training on a variety of different excursions! From camping to hikes around different National Parks, the possibilities are endless.



Launa on Vacation With Her Puppy Parents



Paws for Purple Hearts Alaska Team at Zip Kombucha

After your Puppy Parent Orientation, summer is the best time for field trips with our Service Dogs-In-Training, like Luana who accompanied her Puppy Parents to a trip in Seward, AK. She got to work on not only her socialization skills, but also walking on different surfaces, polite greetings, and more! With them, she was also able to get in some amazing walks on the beach and hikes, which make for one happy pooch on vacation!

In Tacoma, Patrick has been able to partake in many hikes and outdoor activities this summer, and is already looking forward to more. Unlike many labradors his age, he has proven his dislike for water and swimming, but enjoys a nice long hike near the

water! Unfortunately, the summer months have been fluctuating hot and cold with sporadic rainy days, but on the nicer days, we make sure he and Ericson both take many different trips!

Are you interested in becoming a Puppy Parent with Paws for Purple Hearts? Get in contact with a staff member at the site closest to you to find out how!

Follow Paws for Purple Hearts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram



**Marketing & Communications Specialist
Claire & Patrick on the Ferry**

PAWS Act Coordination

As many of our readers know, our Paws for Purple Hearts Anchorage, AK location has been participating in the legislative act, the PAWS Act. If you have not been keeping up with our previous newsletters, the PAWS Act was signed into law back on August 25th, 2021. It requires the VA to conduct a five-year pilot program to provide canine training to Veterans that have been diagnosed with PTSD as a part of their mental health care.

This inspirational program is already finding results to prove the significance a Service Dog has on the lives of an individual suffering from PTSD. In the coming years of participating in this act, we hope to continue to show not only our government, but the entire country just how vital these dogs are.

This summer, our facility in Anchorage is slowing down to just one session a month instead of the normal two cohorts we had been keeping. Because of the large amount of traveling that occurs during the summer months in Alaska, we want to make sure that we accommodate the schedules of our participants.

If you've been a participant in our studies thus far, thank you for your dedication to the research being conducted by our site and many others! If you have not participated in a session with us and would like to, get in contact with Ashley O'Connor, PhD, LCSW, PAWS Program Coordinator at the Alaska VA to learn more about participating in a cohort and getting to work in this incredible congressional act.



Luana & Margaret in Anchorage, AK



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Paws for Purple Hearts is licensed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, chartered by an Act of Congress for combat-wounded Veterans.



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