



K9sFORWARRIORS

GIVE A NEW LEASH ON LIFE TO RESCUE DOGS AND MILITARY HEROES

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)(3)

April 23, 2018

Dear AHEPA Service Dogs For Warriors Inc.,

We want you to know how thankful we are for your generosity. Your donation to K9s For Warriors is going to help a warrior change his/ her life forever. You are the reason why our warriors can take on life with a battle buddy by their side. Post-traumatic Stress Disability (PTSD) is the most prevalent disability our veterans are experiencing since 9/11. Here at K9s For Warriors, we are working to put an end to the effects of PTSD and save the lives of those who bravely served our country. You are helping us save those lives. After completing our program, our graduates return home with their service dogs to lead productive lives, reduce medications, reunite with their families, engage in their communities and find their dignity and independence again. Your support is the reason why we can save lives every day. We would love for you to know how thankful we are for your help.

The next step in this process is to search for **Athena**. The process of selecting, training and placing a service dog is complex, so the wait to find and place **Athena** will range from about 12 to 14 months. We ask that you please be patient during this time, because your continued support is what keeps us operating. Sometimes, a dog will “wash out” during training. This means that despite our best efforts, the dog was unable to complete the journey to becoming a service dog. No matter what, we will always find a home for a dog, whether they become a service dog or not. It is very important to us that we honor our commitment to the warrior by providing them the best trained dog. Though the wait is long, it is worth it.

With that said, we are now putting all our efforts into searching for **Athena**. Potential dogs need to be a certain size, under two years old, healthy and excited to learn. Once we find **Athena**, you will have the pleasure of being introduced to him/ her after thirty days. During those thirty days, our trainers will review **Athena's** performance and will identify any medical conditions. This also gives us time to see how well she gets along with other dogs, people, children or loud noises. This observation process is important because most of our dogs come from rescue shelters, so we don't always know the full details of their history. After we make sure this dog is perfect for our program, you will receive a picture of **Athena** and he/ she will enter formal training!

Some dogs learn faster than others, just like people. The length of the training depends on how fast the dog catches on. **Athena** must learn a lot to be equipped to save his/ her warrior. After intense training at both our facility and off-site, we are going to match **Athena** with a warrior that will not only be his/ her job, but her friend. We evaluate the warrior's home environment, extent of the potential disability(ies) and many other factors when matching dogs to warriors. Get ready for updates on **Athena's** progress with notes and photos!



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The warriors arrive to our facility on Sundays and receive their dogs on Mondays. You should know that sometimes unexpected things will happen, and for one or more reasons, the dog cannot be placed. Also, sometimes after placement, the dog and the warrior do not connect with one another. In either of these rare cases, we will find another dog that fits perfectly with the warrior. Every warrior should have a chance at a normal life, so we are always prepared for the unexpected.

On the first Wednesday of class, when we are confident the pairing is perfect, we will let you know that you helped bring together a new, life-saving bond. You will also receive a picture of **Athena** and his/ her new warrior as well as an invitation to their graduation. We would be so happy to see you attend the ceremony!

Although there are no guarantees throughout this process, it is important to us that we provide our veterans with the best life-changing friend possible to help with recovery. When the warrior completes our three-week program, we will have given them a new "leash on life." You and **Athena** are also a team, and we ask you to stand by us in patience as we go through this incredible journey.

We are so grateful to you on behalf of the men and women that we serve. Feel free to share this journey with your friends, family, or any other individuals that you believe would find this journey to be as amazing as we do.

Operation: **Finding Athena.**

Best regards and thank you,

Rory Diamond
Chief Executive Officer
K9s For Warriors