

UNITED STATES VETERANS SERVICE DOGS

Helping veterans find their new normal.



UPDATE ON OUR DECEMBER GRADUATING CLASS

Marcey Phillips says, "Beignet has been able to look into my eyes and reach my soul when I'm having a seizure, a panic attack, when I'm depressed, can't leave the bed, or just need reassurance that I'm okay in a crowd or situation. Her puppy raisers and trainers couldn't have known their beautiful act of kindness of raising her would create such an incredible partnership! Forever humbled and grateful!"

EXCITING NEWS

We are thrilled to announce our 501(c)(3), not-for-profit status. This is a big step in our plans to begin to meet the overwhelming needs of our veterans.

We are also welcoming Andrew Camplen as our new Director of Client Services. Andrew is a Desert Shield/Desert Storm Veteran, a Texas VFW Gold Legacy Life member, and a retired Texas Police Detective. The most important part is that Andrew is a former USVSD graduate. He was placed with Sebastian in August of 2019, so he knows firsthand the love and hard work that goes in to raising and training a service dog. This made Andrew the perfect choice to work with our applicants and graduates. His role is vital in providing the best experience before, during, and after a veteran's placement with a service dog to help them find their new normal.



PUPPIES! PUPPIES! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

What's happening with our in training dogs?

Koda takes flight

Our neonatal and breeding team has been busy with a recent donation of breeders from Ridge View Labradors. Almost all of the dogs have been placed with their breeder fosters.

Our “K” litter just turned 9 weeks old. Koda took his first flight to meet his puppy raiser. The weeks leading up to his first flight were spent practicing behaviors that would set him up for success for his first flight and with his new puppy raiser. He practiced relaxing in a Sherpa, "sit", "down", and kennel behavior. We are so excited to see this little pup grow up.



Formal Training

Formal training is the four months of training before the placement of a service dog with their handler. Cleopatra, Charlotte, Chicory, Felipe, Natalie, and Nixon are all currently in formal training. They have been working on leash yielding where they yield to light pressure from the leash. Block work is an important PTSD task used to create space between the handler and the public. They are working on generalizing this command to be used in any environment with distractions. Jonathan Achary, our apprentice service dog trainer, says, “The teaching process is going smoothly. I can’t wait to see what this string will accomplish.”

USVSD meets New Hampshire

Our Puppy Program has been working on the growth of a new group in the New England area. Janine Graham, Hidalgo’s puppy raiser, fell in love with the journey of puppy raising. She decided to become a group leader and started recruiting more individuals to puppy raise. With the placement of three new pups, Chloe, Koda, and Watson, the group has begun monthly puppy classes. In the upcoming months, the group plans to continue adding more dogs and have raisers in each of the six states in New England.

