



Mission Accomplishments for the Year 7/1/24- 6/30/25

Working Dogs For Vets' Mission is to provide service dogs and training to disabled heroes in need, empowering them as they return to civilian life with newfound independence, reducing suicide and overcrowding in animal shelters.

- 3,659 Total Members 7/1/2024-6/30/25 226 new this year)
- 77 teams to evaluate
- 18 Veterans need to be matched with dogs from shelters
- Adopted dogs this year: 250 (new all-time total 2,581)
- 22 Teams across the U.S. are working on basics and continuing to train for the Service Dog In-Training Evaluation
- 45 Service Dogs In-Training learning tasks to become a Service Dog
- 57 Service Dog Graduates this year. We recertify annually, but many continue to train, visit, and volunteer.
- 44 Teams are Working on basic and advanced obedience training
- 88 service dogs that have retired or are ESAs now
- Suicides this year (0)
- 20 Dogs passed away: Howard, Teddy, AJ, Baby, Benz, Booboo, Buddy Budie, Evo, Fenrir, Hilda-Guard, Kimber, Kramer, Apachee, Meatball, AJA, HERO, Libby, River, Diesel
- 2 Animals Rehomed this year, Dogs that were rehomed because they didn't make it as service dogs. Those who do not make it have received basic or advanced training and were placed in a new home as a pet.
- # of Animals Rehabilitated- this year, 250
- # of Animals Monitored Post Release-2581
- Average # of service recipients per month- 2000
- # of recipients who are employed- 1,327
- # of Clients who report that services and support are available when needed, even in a crisis- 3680 # of adults with disabilities receiving sufficient social and emotional support- 3683

Age groups remaining tasks: add the following counts

18-34 = 1317

35-50 = 1331

51-70 = 844

71+ = 191

Total 3683 =

Genders

Women 1501

Men 2182

Total: 3683

Branches of service

Army 1373

Navy 624

Marine 796

Air Force 581



Charting Impact:

What is the organization aiming to accomplish?

- To provide trained service dogs to veterans at no out-of-pocket cost to the veteran.
- To reduce suicide rates among our veterans.
- To help minimize overpopulation among shelters.
- To provide a safe place for veterans to heal

What are the organization's key strategies for making this happen?

- No Veteran Left Behind Program.
- Pairs Veterans needing Service Dogs with volunteer trainers in the veteran's location. This eliminates much of the need for training at the WDFV facility.
- Before a veteran is entered into the program, WDFV ensures the following.
 1. The veteran has been medically prescribed a service dog.
 2. The veteran is capable of caring for a dog.
 3. The veteran understands what will be involved in training a service dog.
- Once the veteran is enrolled in the NVLB Program, WDFV uses its nationwide network of volunteers to find a volunteer trainer near the veteran's home.
- The volunteer trainer:
 1. If they have one, evaluate the veteran's dog to determine if it might be a suitable candidate for training as a service dog.
 2. If their dog does not pass the evaluation for training purposes, WDFV will find a suitable candidate through evaluation and adoption.
 3. The volunteer trainer checks in with the team on a weekly basis.
- We have been building a nationwide network of professional dog trainers willing to donate their time to help veterans by evaluating and assisting veterans in training their service dogs.
- We have also been building a nationwide network of shelters willing to donate dogs to the program.
- Through our volunteer trainers, we have been instructing veterans on how to train their service dogs. The volunteer trainers monitor the progress of both the handler and the dog, and report the results back to WDFV.



What are the organization's capabilities for doing this?

- Working Dogs For Vets helps veterans of all eras. Some are on active duty, but all are heroes and have served in the military.
- Many of our veterans suffer from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), both of which can be deadly disorders.
- We also help disabled veterans with limb loss and many other disabilities.
- Service dogs, adequately trained, are amazing for recovery from PTSD, TBI, and other disabilities. We have been honored to serve these brave men and women who have given so much to this country.
- Veterans are not charged for our service; it is our duty, honor, and privilege. We support our team's training for life!
- We have events that our teams are welcome to attend. Many lodges or camps locally use our facility, where they train and learn to re-enter civilian life.
- We are a small charity doing huge work and making a difference. Our military men and women fought for our tomorrows, so we fight for their tomorrows today.
- Our programs have been highly successful, yielding excellent results in recovery; however, the need remains critical, which empowers us to continue.
- We are growing at a sustainable rate and have 3,683 members we serve. But with your support, we will be able to serve many more. We plan to continue training our teams and leaders to support our programs, enabling us to serve more veterans in need.

How will we know if we are making progress?

We continue to conduct self-assessments to determine our strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Recognizing the constraints imposed by financial realities, we have sought to identify the most critical and achievable strategic initiatives on which we must concentrate our efforts in the coming years:



What has and hasn't WDFV accomplished so far?

2024-2025 Progress Report

- Working Dogs For Vets is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Founded in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, it is one of the Nation's Largest Service dog providers.
- We have veterans and volunteers in many states, which is growing daily! We are pulling dogs from over 100 shelters! WDFV is the 1st service dog provider in the state of TN that has veteran service dog teams stay in VA long-term treatment centers. We have service dogs and working dogs that have been accepted at military bases, with some currently serving alongside active-duty military veterans.
- Teamsters truck drivers now allow Working Dogs For Vets dogs to travel with truck drivers nationally.
- A first for the President and a first for Working Dogs For Vets. On June 4, 2018, a reception and memorial program was held at the White House for Gold Star Families. The event was hosted by President Donald J. Trump and attended by First Lady Melania. Working Dogs For Vets had the 1st Service dog to be photographed with the President! American Gold Star Mother Cindy Tatum and her husband, Andy, with Working Dogs For Vets Service Dog Linus, were featured in the official photograph taken with President Donald J. Trump.
- From July 2012 to June 2025, WDFV successfully paired and trained 3,683 veterans with rescued dogs, trained service dogs, and served over 2,000 teams monthly. That's over 6,600 lives saved because of each person's contributions. Many of these service dogs were trained in-house at the locations in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Ohio. WDFV was able to grow our membership to over 3,600 veterans! Our Family is growing, and more veterans are being helped because of your support!
- 3,683 total members.

What's next?

- Our goal for 2025 is to complete the build of our National HQ, making necessary updates to make it handicap accessible. We are working on building veteran housing, which will enable us to train and serve more veterans and their service dogs. Additionally, we will train more service dog trainers from across the country to assist those veteran teams that are unable to access the WDFV training facilities. One of our challenges is that, because our members are located in many states across the country, they must travel to our National Headquarters when there are no qualified volunteers in their area. We have, however, been able to train many of the veterans after they have successfully trained their service dogs to become area lead volunteers, helping other veterans with their training. W.D.F.V. has K-9 police officers and dog trainers across the country who have either helped or are currently volunteering for veteran/service dog teams in their area.
- At Working Dogs For Vets National Headquarters, we have group training classes each Saturday. This is a great help to those who can travel. We are additionally open daily, as weather permits, for Veteran/Dog teams to come and train by appointment.

Needs Statement:

Veterans with disabilities—including PTSD, mobility impairments, and other health challenges—face significant barriers to independence, mental well-being, and daily functioning. Many struggle with reintegration into civilian life, often experiencing **social isolation, unemployment, and financial hardship**. Despite research showing that **trained service dogs provide critical physical and emotional support, thousands of veterans lack access due to high costs, limited training resources, and financial constraints.**

Working Dogs For Vets (WDFV) exists to bridge this gap by providing **highly trained service dogs at no cost**, ensuring **veterans receive life-changing support** without financial burden. Through **specialized training programs, facility accessibility enhancements, and recreational therapy initiatives**, WDFV helps veterans **regain confidence, mobility, and independence**, improving quality of life and reducing **mental health crises**.

Funding is needed to **expand service dog placements, enhance accessibility, and provide essential training tools for veterans in need**. Without financial assistance, many veterans **will remain unable to access service dogs, limiting their recovery and quality of life**.



Quick Facts:

Founded: 2012

Incorporated and Non-profit status 501(c)(3): 2015

Service dog graduates: 835

Recertification Rate: 93%

Total of dogs rescued: 2581

Volunteers: Over 1000 active volunteers serving over 40 hrs per week

Measurements:

The following results were reported by graduating Disabled Hero/Service dog teams:

- 100% of respondents said that service dogs have improved their sense of well-being. 100% of respondents said that service dogs had increased their level of independence.
- 100% of respondents said that service dogs have helped them get back out in public.
- 100% said that overall happiness has improved.
- The average veteran is on 10-15 medications when beginning the Working Dogs For Vets program.
- 81% reduce or eliminate medication post-graduation.
- 81% reported that having a service dog has resulted in being able to reduce or eliminate prescription medications (the other 19% weren't taking medications, so the question didn't apply to them).

- 100% reported feeling as if their health had improved after receiving their dog.
- 83.3% feel as if they can handle anxiety after receiving their dog, and the other 16.7% don't have anxiety (they had other disabilities).
- 98% said that their service dog has helped to reduce suicidal thoughts, helped to provide a reduction in nightmares/night terrors, and has helped them in handling flashbacks. (The other 16.7% reported that it did not apply to them.)
- 100% feel they have benefited physically and mentally from the bond with their service dog.
- 95% reported handling flashbacks better after receiving their service dog.
- 98% noted that they benefited from the physical and mental bond with their service dog.
- Less than 35% of the participants reported being able to attend work or school before receiving their service dog. 75% increased attendance at school or employment services after receiving their service dogs.
- Before receiving their service dog, 85% of the participants reported that symptoms associated with PTSD played a significant role in their inability to enjoy activities. After receiving their service dog, 5% of participants continued to report that their symptoms played a significant role in daily activities.