

APRIL 2023

THE PAW



OUR MISSION

WOUNDED PAW PROJECT® IS A 501(C)(3) THAT FOCUSES ON THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL ABUSE AND THE REHABILITATION OF ABUSED AND RESCUED DOGS.

Welcome to The Paw, Wounded Paw Project's® monthly newsletter that keeps you up to date on how you and Wounded Paw Project® are making a difference for abused and rescued dogs. Each month, you'll get tips that you can use for your own pet and since Wounded Paw Project® was founded by a Purple Heart recipient, we'll also provide veterans with information they may not know.

This month we celebrate Wounded Paw Project's® 7-year anniversary. We share with you how the organization got started so many years ago and how you can help us so we can celebrate many more anniversaries.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and don't forget to follow us throughout the month on our social media platforms.

IN THIS ISSUE

SPOTLIGHT: WOUNDED PAW PROJECT
PICK UP THE POOP
SADIE SAYS
SIGN OUR PETITION
NUISANCE BARKING
CARROT PUPCAKES
VET 2 VET

WPP.dog

News@wpp.org

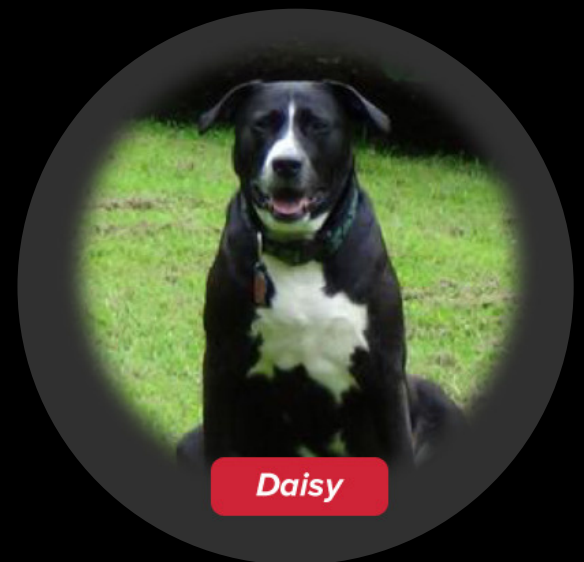
Happy Anniversary Wounded Paw Project®!

Wounded Paw Project® was founded on March 26, 2016 by Daisy, a pit bull/Labrador shelter rescue and her human, Ernesto P. Hernandez III, a Purple Heart recipient. After suffering injuries in Iraq on March 26, 2008, that resulted in being awarded the Purple Heart, Ernesto was in constant pain and given various opioids. The doctors' treatment to heal Ernesto's physical and invisible wounds failed repeatedly.

Where no doctor, family, or friend could help, Daisy was able to help heal him. One day, Daisy noticed how hard it was for Ernesto to get out of bed. Daisy gave Ernesto her tug toy so she could help him get out of bed. Daisy was determined to train Ernesto to use her tug toy so she could pull him up. Daisy began assisting Ernesto with other tasks but what Ernesto really needed was someone who wasn't human that would help him heal without judgement, medication, or labeling. And with that, Daisy turned shelter rescue into emotional support dog!

Seeing that shelter rescue dogs were viable candidates for service or emotional support dogs, Daisy and Ernesto formed the Wounded Paw Project® in 2016 to give other shelter dogs a second tail in life®. Wounded Paw Project® uses the PAW principle to become the Voice for all dogs.

The PAW principle is comprised of Wounded Paw Project® three top priorities: Protect, Advocate, and Wagployment®. We serve as a critical link between the community and law enforcement at all levels by helping those who might not feel comfortable reporting animal abuse directly to law enforcement. We work with advocacy groups and law makers to protect the rights of dogs. Through our Wagployment® program, we work with like-minded organizations to decompress and train abused and rescued dogs to give them a second tail in life® as an emotional support dog, service dog or even a happy family pet.



HELP US SAVE MORE DOGS!

Wounded Paw Project® wouldn't be successful without your help! A few ways you can help are:

- **Report Animal Abuse**
- **Make a donation at WPP.dog**
- **Tell your family and friends about us**

PICK UP THE POOP!!

The snow has melted and the grass is starting to turn green so what better time to go outside and enjoy your yard. But not so fast...remember all those cold days when you decided not to go outside and pick up your dog's poop because it was too cold outside and you told yourself you'll pick it up in the Spring? Guess what? It's now time to pick it up before you're left to deal with unintended consequences!

Other than the fear of getting dog poop on your shoes that then gets tracked into your house or it just plain smells bad in the backyard, there are several other reasons why you shouldn't let poop just biodegrade in your yard. First, all that poop could be hazardous to you and your pet's health! Poop contains harmful microorganisms. It could expose your dog to parvovirus, a disease that if untreated has over a 90% mortality rate. Poop also contains roundworms which your doggie could then become infected and show signs of a potbellied appearance, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, and dull hair.

And these microorganisms can cause life-threatening issues with children since poop can contain E. Coli and salmonella. And who wants their child to contract ringworm (another yucky thing found in dog poop).

Second, poop can transfer parasites to your soil that might end up in your water table or make it difficult to keep your grass alive. If you have a garden, these parasites might even make their way into vegetables.

Another reason to scoop the poop, is that it may attract unwanted insects, mice or rats...all things that could end up in your house.

Be courteous to others! If you take your pet for a walk outside your yard, be sure to pick up your dog's poop! Don't leave it behind in your neighbor's yard or on the sidewalk or hiking trail for someone else to step in or have to clean up. Scoop up your poop!



**MEET SADIE THE MO'PITTIE...
THE MORKIE WHO THINKS
SHE'S A PITBULL. EACH
MONTH, SADIE WILL GIVE YOU
TIPS TO HELP YOU HAVE A
SAFE AND HEALTHY PET.**

**THIS MONTH, SADIE WANTS
TO REMIND YOU THAT IT'S
IMPORTANT TO CLEAN YOUR
DOGGIE'S EARS AND BRUSH
THEIR TEETH!**

Sign our petition!



Help us end Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) on military installations by signing our petition! BSL bans the ownership of dozens of safe breeds and is based on junk science that says a dog is bad based only on its breed

SCAN CLICK SIGN

and not the aggressive behavior taught by the owner. BSL is not consistent between military installations so if you adopt a dog at one base, receive orders to another, you may be required to give your dog away. This creates trauma for the family and may even result in the dog being euthanized all because the dog was welcomed at one installation and not another. Let's keep military families in tact by signing our petition.

HELP! MY DOG WON'T STOP BARKING!

Dogs communicate to us through their bark but what happens when the barking becomes a nuisance? Nuisance barking is just another way your doggie is letting you know their needs are not being met. So what should you do? First, try to figure out why your pet is barking in the first place. Is it separation anxiety? Is it hearing loss? Are they bored? Do they just want to play? All these reasons could be contributing to nuisance barking. Once you have a better idea of why your pet is barking, the better position you are in to correct the problem.

Once you've ruled out any medical condition, you can focus on behavior modification by using some of the tips below.

- Wear out your pet! Make sure your pet is getting plenty of exercise both physically and mentally. A napping dog doesn't bark.
- If your pet is barking to get your attention (and it's not an emergency), don't respond. Wait until they've stopped to give them what they want.
- Don't punish your dog for barking. If the barking is due to stress or fear, yelling at your pet will only make it worse for them.



CARROT PUPCAKE WITH CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Looking for something to put into your puppy's Easter basket? Try these carrot pupcakes! We found this recipe on pupcakesugar.com that's sure to be a hit. Recipe makes 8-10 mini cakes

Ingredients

Pupcakes:

- 1/2 cup of whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 Tbsp shredded carrots
- 1 egg

Frosting:

- 1/4 cup cream cheese
- 1/3 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup 100% pure cornstarch

To make Pupcakes:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Line 8 -10 mini muffin pan with paper bake cups.
3. In a small bowl, mix flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Set aside.
4. In a large mixing bowl, add olive oil, applesauce, carrots, and egg. Beat on medium speed until combined.
5. Add dry ingredients to large mixing bowl and blend until mixed.
6. Fill each cupcake liner with 1 Tbsp of cupcake mix and bake for 12 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool on wire rack.

To make Frosting:

1. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and yogurt together on medium speed. Mix until smooth.
2. Gradually add in cornstarch and beat on high until creamy.

Frosting should have the consistency of whipped cream.

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WOUNDED PAW PROJECT®

END

BSL

NOW



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VET-2-VET

Each month The Paw provides valuable information to our Nation's veterans on services and opportunities that may not be common knowledge to Vets.

IN MEMORIAM

April 6th marks the 15-year anniversary of Army COL Stephen Scott's death. COL Scott was killed on April 6, 2008, in a mortar attack while working out in a forward operating base gym in Baghdad, Iraq's Green Zone. He was 54-years old.

COL Smith had a lasting impact on Wounded Paw Project's founder, Ernesto P. Hernandez III. Both worked in the same office and decided to switch workout schedules with each other that April 2008 day. Any other day, Ernesto would have been working out in the gym at the time of the mortar attack. Knowing that it could have easily been him killed in the attack, Ernesto always asks himself if he only had 59 minutes left to live, what would he do since one minute made the difference between being in that gym and being somewhere else. The answer to that is simple...he would save as many dogs as he can.

PATIENT ADVOCACY

Navigating the VA medical system can be a challenge especially if you think your medical referrals should be approved but end up being denied. If you find yourself in that situation and you can't get things resolved by working with your treatment team there is help. Call the Patient Advocacy office!

Each VA medical center has a Patient Advocate that is there to ensure you get the best care possible. A Patient Advocate is an employee who is specifically designated at each Veteran Health Facility to manage the feedback received from veterans, family members and friends and works directly with your treatment team to get issues resolved.

COMMONLY USED VA PHONE NUMBERS

VA MAIN INFORMATION LINE
1-800-698-2411

VA BENEFITS HOTLINE
1-800-827-1000

VA HEALTH BENEFITS HOTLINE
1-877-222-8387

WOMEN VETERANS HOTLINE
1-855-829-6636

CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINE
1-855-260-3274

eBENEFITS TECHNICAL SUPPORT
1-800-983-0937

**ARE YOU A VET
IN CRISIS?
CALL FOR HELP
DIAL 988 THEN
PRESS 1**



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