

OCTOBER 2025

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

SPOTLIGHT:

DAISY "RAINBOW"
NATIONAL PETS FOR
VETERANS DAY
HALLOWEEN PET TIPS
SADIE SAYS
PUMPKIN & PEANUT BUTTER
"PAW-KIN" BITES
WPP BARK-OUT
VET 2 VET

WPP.dog

News@wpp.org

WHEN THE HOWL GOES QUIET: REMEMBERING DAISY "RAINBOW" HERNANDEZ

The life, love, and legacy of the dog who founded
Wounded Paw Project®

A Beginning Rooted in Rescue

Daisy "Rainbow"

Hernandez was never
meant to be ordinary.
Rescued from a foster
situation and a pet
store holding pen, she
found her forever
home not as an



accessory or a convenience—but as a companion for
her human's kids during his long military
deployments.

From the very start, Daisy filled gaps no one else
could. She watched football sprawled on the couch,
went camping under starlit skies, and offered the kind
of constant presence only a dog can give. For her
human—Purple Heart recipient Ernesto P.
Hernandez III—Daisy became more than family. She
became purpose.

Standing Guard Through the Dark

In March 2008, while Ernesto's unit endured a rocket and mortar attack overseas, Daisy waited at home, unaware of the weight he carried back with him. When he returned, the wounds weren't all visible. Pain—both physical and invisible—followed him.

That's when Daisy showed her true calling. One morning, she tugged insistently on her rope toy, nudging Ernesto to get out of bed. At first it seemed like play. But it wasn't. Daisy was pulling him toward life, one small action at a time.

That moment was the spark that would grow into Wounded Paw Project®—the belief that shelter dogs, like Daisy, can be healers, lifelines, and partners in recovery.



Founder, Friend, and Force of Nature

WPP has always called Daisy its Founder—and not just in name. Her story is baked into the organization's DNA:

- Her resilience became proof that shelter dogs can thrive as emotional support and service animals.
- Her devotion showed that love and loyalty need no pedigree.
- Her instinct to heal inspired WPP's mission to "give rescues a Second Tail in Life®."

Over the years, Daisy appeared in WPP stories, events, and even offered "PAWgraphs" at public meet-and-greets. She was both mascot and matriarch, reminding everyone that the mission started not in boardrooms, but in the quiet moments between a service member and his dog.

Retirement, and a Legacy Secured

In recent years, Daisy entered retirement, trading official duties for naps in sunbeams and shorter walks. Yet her presence remained felt. Every WPP initiative—from Wagployment® training to advocacy against dog fighting—carried her pawprint.

Now, with her passing, we mark not an ending, but a handoff. Daisy's spirit lives on in every rescued dog WPP saves, in every veteran who finds hope through a wagging tail, and in every supporter who believes animals deserve a voice.

What Daisy Leaves Behind

Daisy's life teaches us:

- *Rescue can be destiny.* The overlooked can become the unforgettable.
- *Healing isn't one-sided.* In helping her human heal, Daisy found her own purpose.
- *Love is legacy.* Long after the pawprints fade from the floor, they remain etched in the heart.

As we say goodbye to Daisy "Rainbow" Hernandez, we honor not only the dog she was, but the movement she started. Wounded Paw Project® exists because of her. The countless dogs saved, the countless lives touched—they are Daisy's living legacy.

Her howl may be quiet now, but her voice will echo every time a rescue dog finds a home, a veteran finds a companion, and hope finds its way back into someone's life.



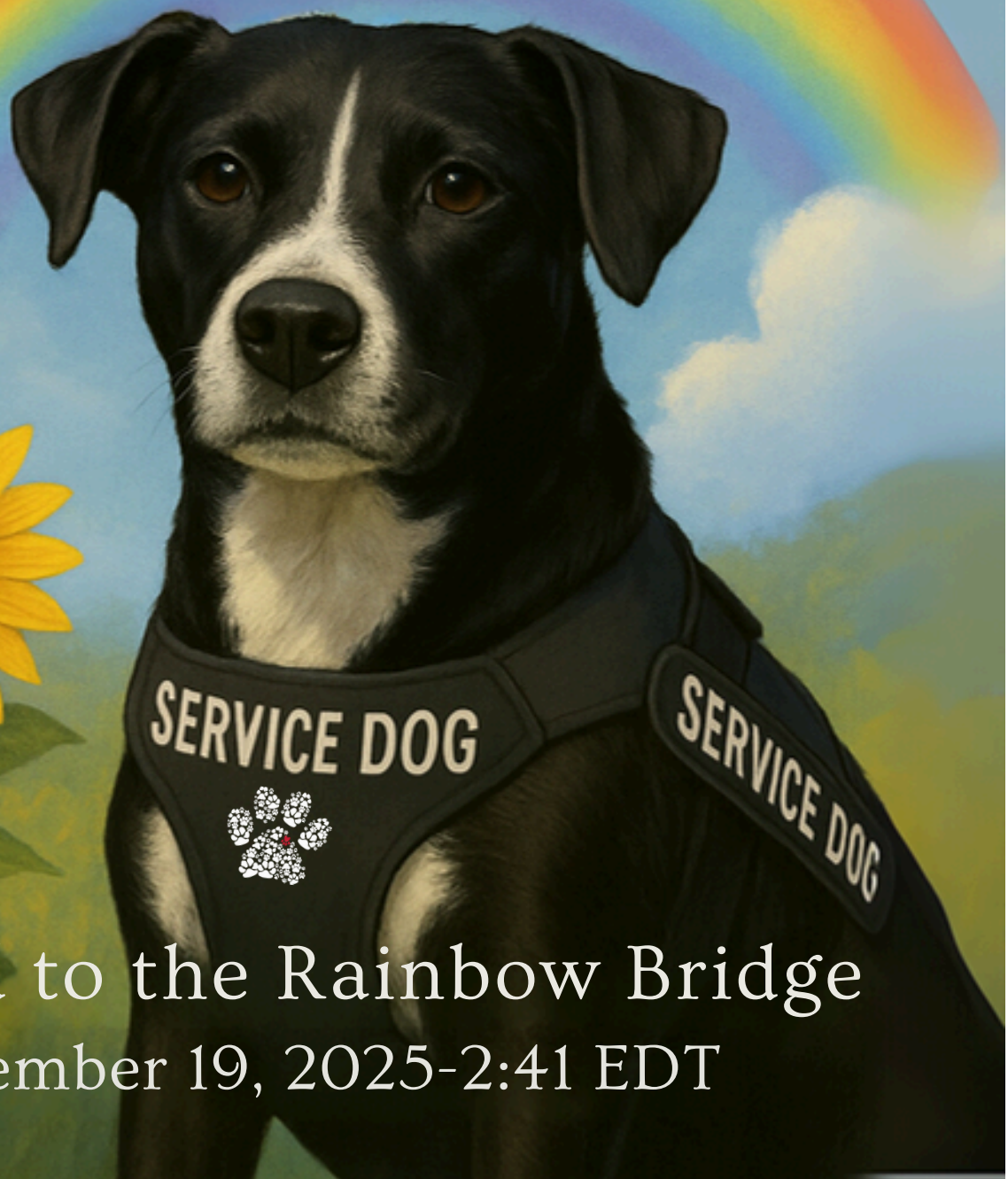
Scan the code to watch
Daisy's Tribute Video



DAISY

Founder

WOUNDED PAW PROJECT®



Crossed to the Rainbow Bridge
September 19, 2025-2:41 EDT

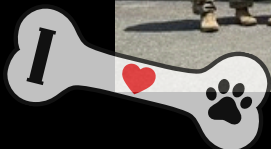
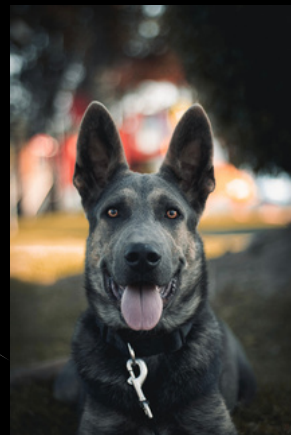
**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



**OCTOBER 21ST IS NATIONAL
PETS FOR VETERANS DAY!
THIS DAY RECOGNIZES AND
PROMOTES THE POWERFUL**

**BOND BETWEEN VETERANS AND COMPANION
ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY RESCUED PETS.**

**THIS DAY ALSO HELPS RAISE AWARENESS
OF PROGRAMS THAT MATCH VETERANS
WITH PETS FROM SHELTERS, EMPHASIZING
THAT MANY ANIMALS IN NEED OF HOMES
CAN BECOME LIFELONG COMPANIONS AND A
SOURCE OF HEALING.**



No Tricks, Just Treats: A Spook-Free Halloween for Your Pets



Halloween is a night of fun for people—but it can be frightening, even dangerous, for pets. Costumes, candy, and constant doorbell rings can all create stress or hazards.

Keep candy, especially chocolate and anything with xylitol, well out of reach. Glow sticks and wrappers may look like toys, but they can cause illness if chewed. If your pet wears a costume, make sure it fits comfortably, doesn't block vision or breathing, and has no dangling pieces to chew.

With trick-or-treaters coming and going, pets can slip out unnoticed. A secure ID tag or updated microchip is essential. Consider creating a quiet room with familiar bedding, water, and toys so your pet can relax away from the noise.

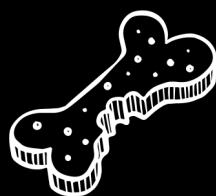
By planning ahead, you can enjoy the festivities knowing your pet is safe, comfortable, and ready to greet November with a wag!





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 DOGS NEED PHYSICAL AFFECTION! PHYSICAL AFFECTION BUILDS TRUST, REDUCES STRESS, AND REINFORCES YOUR BOND—PLUS, IT'S BASICALLY THEIR PAYCHECK FOR BEING ADORABLE.



PUMPKIN & PEANUT BUTTER "PAW-KIN" BITES

Halloween isn't just for humans—your four-legged friend deserves a little festive fun too! While you're indulging in candy, you can spoil your pup with these safe, homemade goodies. Our "Paw-kin Bites" are packed with pumpkin (great for digestion) and peanut butter (a doggy favorite) for a tail-wagging Halloween celebration.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup pumpkin purée (plain, not pie filling)
- ½ cup natural peanut butter (no xylitol)
- 2 ½ cups oat flour (or finely ground oats)
- 1 tsp cinnamon (optional)

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. Mix pumpkin purée and peanut butter in a large bowl.
3. Stir in oat flour (and cinnamon if using) until dough forms.
4. Roll dough into small balls or press into spooky cookie cutters (pumpkins, bats, ghosts).
5. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
6. Bake for 20–25 minutes, until firm.

Let cool completely before serving.

**We're
Looking for**



Volunteers

GET INVOLVED

Report animal abuse

Adopt / Foster a shelter dog

Volunteer at Wounded Paw Project® or your local animal shelter

Sign our advocacy petition

Help someone who needs help with a pet

SPREAD THE WORD

Wear our T-shirts

Subscribe to our newsletter

Tell your family and friends about us

Follow us on our social media platforms



SCAN TO DONATE

DONATE

Make a cash donation at WPP.dog

Donate your car, truck, or boat through our CARS program

Bequeath money or real estate to Wounded Paw Project®



WOUNDED PAW
PROJECT®

www.WPP.dog



Each month The Paw highlights businesses, organizations or individuals that share Wounded Paw Project®'s focus on helping abused and rescued animals as well as Veterans.

This month Wounded Paw Project® gives a “Bark Out” to The Platform Magazine! The Platform is dedicated to celebrating inspiring stories of resilience, leadership, and community impact. Founded by Dr. Judy Staveley, who also launched The Platform Magazine Foundation INC. to further education, innovation, and empowerment, the publication gives changemakers a global stage to share their voices. The October issue will feature Wounded Paw Project® on the cover alongside Diva, a powerful symbol of survival and second chances. This edition will highlight WPP’s mission to “Be The Voice For The Voiceless®,” showcasing how our organization is fighting animal cruelty, supporting rescued dogs, and uplifting veterans and communities. Readers can access The Platform worldwide through theplatformmagazine.com, MagCloud, and Magzter.

Thank you for supporting Wounded Paw Project®!!



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.

WHOLE HEALTH

Did you know the VA now offers a Whole Health program? Instead of focusing only on illness, Whole Health helps you build a care plan around what matters most to you—whether that's reducing stress, improving sleep, managing pain, or finding more purpose in daily life. Veterans can access classes like yoga, tai chi, nutrition workshops, and even integrative therapies such as acupuncture or mindfulness. To enroll, start by contacting your local VA medical center and ask for the Whole Health office or a Whole Health coach. You can also call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) and ask about Whole Health programs at your facility.

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**

COMING SOON!!!



WHO WE ARE

A healing farm and dog sanctuary where veterans and rescue dogs thrive together through farming, care, and purpose.

WHAT WE GROW & SHARE



Eggs from happy hens



Honey from sanctuary bees



Produce from veteran-tended gardens

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Supports veterans' mental wellness

Gives rescue dogs a mission

Donates food to animal shelters and underserved veterans



CORE PROGRAMS



Farm & Animal Therapy

- Tend to 5 garden beds full of seasonal produce
- Care for egg-laying hens and sanctuary bees
- Participate in canine-assisted wellness sessions



Dog Sanctuary

- Rescue, rehabilitate & train dogs to become service/emotional support companions/great family pet
- Holistic approach with love, structure, and second chances



Farm to Paw Goodness

- Fresh produce, eggs & honey used in house-made dog food
- Donate surplus food to animal shelters and underserved veteran communities

WHERE GOODNESS GROWS



PAWVILLE FARMS is part of the Wounded Paw Project® movement to Be The Voice For The Voiceless®

Veteran-led. Dog-powered. Purpose-grown.



RE/MAX
AGILITY

MilitaryTimes



WANT TO SEE YOUR
BUSINESS OR
ORGANIZATION
HIGHLIGHTED HERE?
SEND US AN EMAIL AT
NEWS@WPP.ORG

Fur-ever



In Our Hearts



WOUNDED PAW
PROJECT®

WORK WITH US

Wounded Paw Project®
12644 Chapel Road #193
Clifton VA 20124

Telephone
1-844-SAVAPAW
(1-844-728-2729)

FOLLOW US

WPP.DOG

