

APRIL 2026

THE PAW[®]

MAGAZINE

Kane - Rescued 2018

HEALING IN MOTION

The power of stopping harm
before it begins.

www.WPP.dog

THE PAW[®] MAGAZINE

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APRIL 2026

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WOUNDED PAW PROJECT[®] EXISTS
TO END THE CYCLE OF ABUSE FOR
DOGS EVERYWHERE.

WE RESCUE, REHABILITATE, AND
ADVOCATE FOR THE VOICELESS—
AND WE FIGHT FOR SECOND
CHANCES WITH COURAGE,
COMPASSION,
AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT.

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ELEVATING ANIMAL WELFARE WITH ACTION

Table Of Contents

06

Healing in Motion

12

BLACKLIGHTK9®

16

Rebuilding Confidence

24

Helping without Adopting

Bella - Rescued 2019

Jazmine - Rescued 2017

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER...

This issue of The PAW[®] Magazine centers on a simple truth: healing is not passive—it is movement. It's the work of showing up for dogs who have known harm, and stepping in early enough to prevent it. Kane's story reflects both—once a victim of dog fighting, now proof that recovery and trust are possible.

For years, Wounded Paw Project[®] has been there after the harm—rescuing and rehabilitating dogs in need. But experience has shown us that rescue alone is not enough. That realization led to BlacklightK9[®], our counter dog fighting initiative focused on exposing cruelty and stopping it at its source.

This is where our work continues to grow—not just in the dogs we save, but in the harm we prevent. Every moment of awareness and every action taken in time creates a different outcome. For many dogs, it means their story can begin with safety instead of survival.

With gratitude and determination,
Ernesto P. Hernandez III
Founder of Wounded Paw Project[®]



HISTORY MEETS HUMOR. INNOVATION MEETS PAWS.

PAWS OF PROGRESS™

Icons of Innovation as
You've Never Seen Them Before!

THOMAS EDI-PAW

GEORGE PAWSHINGTON CARVER

BARKO WRIGHT

BENJAMIN FUR-LANKLIN

NIKOLA PAWSLA

EVERY RESCUE DOG HAS A STORY WORTH SHARING.

MEET THE "PAWS OF PROGRESS"™ — WHERE RESCUED DOGS BECOME ICONS OF
HOPE. ★ RESILIENCE. ★ SECOND CHANCES.

★ RESCUED DOGS. UNLIMITED POTENTIAL. ★

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SEE THEIR STORIES. SHARE THEIR JOURNEY.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA →

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— BE THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS® —



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Every Life
Deserves
A Second
Chance.

Healing in Motion

Kane's story. BlacklightK9®.

And the power of stopping harm before it begins.

Kane didn't always know what safety felt like.

When he came to Wounded Paw Project®, his body carried the quiet evidence of a life shaped by violence—one no dog should ever endure. But it wasn't just his scars that told the story. It was the way he moved. Careful. Alert. Always ready, even when no threat remained.

Kane is a survivor of dog fighting.

And today, Kane is also proof.

Proof that healing is possible.

Proof that trust can be rebuilt.

And proof that when harm is interrupted in time, recovery can begin.

*This is what Healing in
Motion looks like.*



Kane - Rescued 2018

Healing Is Not Passive

Healing is often imagined as something still—rest, time, quiet. But for dogs like Kane, healing is not a pause. It is movement.

It is the slow rebuilding of routine.
The careful relearning of trust.
The steady presence of people who do not rush, demand, or force.

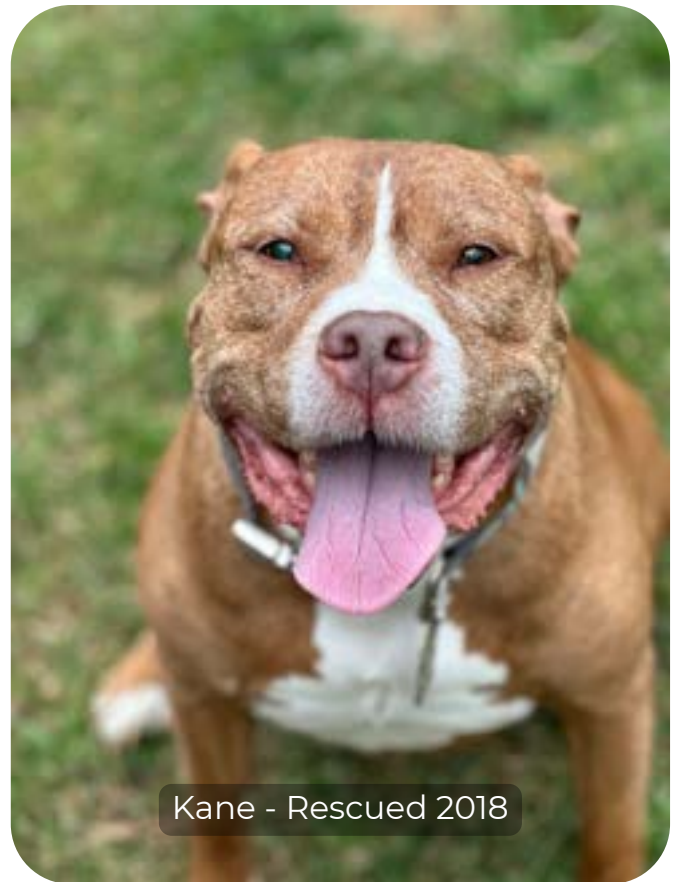
Healing requires motion because trauma does not stop on its own.

Without intervention, violence compounds. Fear deepens. Damage becomes harder—and sometimes impossible—to undo. For too many dogs, rescue comes only after the worst harm has already occurred.

That reality has shaped how Wounded Paw Project® understands healing today.

From Rescue to Prevention

For ten years, Wounded Paw Project® has stepped in when dogs had nowhere else to turn—rescuing, rehabilitating, and advocating for animals already harmed by cruelty and neglect.



But experience brings responsibility.

Rescue alone is not enough.

Some harm must be stopped before it happens.

That belief led to the creation of BlacklightK9®, WPP's counter dog fighting initiative designed to expose what hides in the dark and disrupt violence at its source.

BlacklightK9® is not about spectacle or shock. It is about protection.

Through education, safe reporting pathways, and collaboration with trusted partners, BlacklightK9® works to interrupt cycles of cruelty before they leave lasting physical and psychological damage on dogs and communities alike.

This is healing in motion—at the earliest possible moment.

Kane Is Why Prevention Matters

Kane's story could have ended very differently.

For many dogs pulled from fighting operations, trauma runs so deep that recovery is slow, complex, and uncertain. Some never fully regain the ability to trust. Others carry injuries that permanently limit their futures.

But Kane was given a chance.

Because someone intervened.
Because violence was disrupted.
Because rescue arrived before it was too late.

Today, Kane moves forward—steadier, calmer, grounded in a life

defined not by what was done to him, but by what came after.

Every dog protected through prevention is a dog who may never need to survive what Kane endured.

That is the quiet power of BlacklightK9®.

Light as an Intervention

The name BlacklightK9® comes from an investigative tool—one that reveals what cannot be seen by the naked eye. But the mission extends beyond exposure.

Light is an intervention.

When communities are informed, silence loses its grip.

When reporting feels safer, cruelty loses cover.

When harm is interrupted early, healing becomes possible sooner—and in some cases, unnecessary altogether.

This work is intentional and measured. It is grounded in the



Kane - Rescued 2018

belief that protection itself is a form of care.

Ten Years. Still Moving Forward.

As Wounded Paw Project® marks ten years of service, the mission remains the same: **Be The Voice For The Voiceless®**. What has evolved is how that voice is used.

Today, it speaks not only for dogs already harmed—but for those we are working to protect before harm ever occurs.

Kane's life reminds us why this work matters.

Because healing doesn't happen by standing still.

Because prevention is compassion in motion.

And because every step forward—every interruption of harm—creates space for another dog to walk into safety instead of suffering.



BLACKLIGHT K9

What's hidden in the dark ends here

MISSION

Blacklight K9™ is a tactical initiative of Wounded Paw Project® designed to disrupt dog fighting networks and expose the hidden criminal activities that often accompany them—including human trafficking, drug trafficking, and illegal firearms trade.

The initiative draws its name from the investigative tool of a blacklight—a device that reveals what's hidden to the naked eye. Just as a blacklight exposes concealed evidence, Blacklight K9™ reveals the underground systems that thrive on violence, exploitation, and silence.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Spot & Expose – Uncover dog fighting through tips, evidence, and intel.

Rescue & Protect – Remove dogs from danger and get them safe. **Heal &**

Train – Rebuild trust and prepare survivors for new lives.

Educate & Prevent – Inspire communities to report and protect.

See it? Report it.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

End Cruelty – Stop dog fighting and protect vulnerable animals.

Safer Streets – Remove crime tied to dog fighting operations.

Stronger Allies – Build powerful bonds with law enforcement.

Aware & Active – Inspire communities to speak up and act.



www.WPP.dog



A Counter Dog Fighting Initiative By Wounded Paw Project®

The Moment Before Harm Stops

BlacklightK9® exists to expose what cruelty depends on most: silence and shadows. As a tactical initiative of Wounded Paw Project®, it reveals the hidden networks behind dog fighting—crimes that often exist in plain sight and are frequently connected to broader patterns of violence. Dog fighting

leaves warning signs long before a rescue ever occurs, and recognizing those signs is where prevention begins.

The following page outlines ten indicators that may signal organized dog fighting, empowering communities to notice, speak up, and act.

Because healing doesn't only happen after harm—it starts the moment someone sees what others overlook.





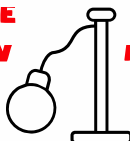
10 SIGNS OF DOG FIGHTING



1. DOGS WITH SCARRING AND MULTIPLE WOUNDS...ESPECIALLY PITBULLS



2. SPRING POLE TO HELP BUILD NECK AND JAW MUSCLES. CAN BE A RAWHIDE OR TIRE KNOTTED ROPE SUSPENDED FROM A STRONG TREE BRANCH



3. HARNESSES ATTACHED TO TREADMILLS

4. BREAKING STICKS. THESE STICKS ARE USUALLY A FOOT LONG, FLAT ON ONE SIDE, MAY HAVE SIGNS OF BLOOD AND ARE USED TO BREAK UP FIGHTS



5. FIGHTING RINGS INCLUDING BASEMENT WALLS THAT HAVE SCRATCH MARKS AND TRACES OF BLOOD



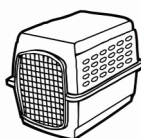
6. WASHTUBS THAT CAN BE USED PRIOR TO A FIGHT FOR HANDLEKS TO WASH AND EXAMINE THEIR OPPONENT'S DOG UNDER A REFEREE'S SUPERVISION.



7. VITAMINS, DRUGS, VET SUPPLIES TO TREAT DOGS IN ORDER TO AVOID A VISIT TO THE VET'S OFFICE



8. LARGE NUMBER OF PORTABLE DOG KENNELS USED TO TRANSPORT DOGS TO FIGHTS.



9. SEEING OTHER ANIMALS LIKE CATS AND RABBITS LOCKED UP IN CAGES. THESE ANIMALS ARE TYPICALLY USED FOR BAIT.



10. DOG FIGHTING PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS SPORTING DOG JOURNAL. OTHER TITLES INCLUDE SCRATCH BACK, INTERNATIONAL DOG JOURNAL, AND CERTIFIED CONTENDER REPORT. IT IS ILLEGAL TO SHIP THESE MAGAZINES THROUGH THE U.S. MAIL.



IF YOU SUSPECT DOG FIGHTING, CALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY OR CALL US AT 1-844-SAVAPAW TO REPORT ANONYMOUSLY

April 8th is National Dog Fighting Awareness Day



April 8th marks National Dog Fighting Awareness Day, a time dedicated to confronting one of the most hidden forms of animal cruelty.

Dog fighting rarely happens in plain view; it operates quietly behind fences, in garages, basements, and isolated properties where warning signs often appear long before violence becomes visible.

Awareness helps bring these hidden realities into the light and reminds communities that recognizing and reporting suspicious activity can interrupt cruelty before more harm occurs.

When silence is replaced with vigilance, dog fighting loses the shadows it depends on—and more dogs are given the chance to live lives defined by safety instead of survival.



SADIE

SAYS

**STRANGER DANGER GOES
BOTH WAYS**

Just like people, dogs can feel uncomfortable around strangers—especially dogs who have been rescued from shelters or difficult situations. Approaching or petting an unfamiliar dog without permission can cause fear or defensive behavior. Giving dogs space and asking the owner first respects the dog’s boundaries and helps prevent bites, stress, and misunderstandings.



Roxie - Rescued 2024

REBUILDING CONFIDENCE

**HELPING RESCUE
DOGS REDISCOVER
COURAGE**

Not every rescued dog arrives with a known history.

Some come from situations where abuse was documented and visible. Others arrive at shelters with little information about what they experienced before they were found. Their past may be a mystery—but their behavior often tells a story. A dog who startles easily, hesitates to approach new people, or seems unsure in unfamiliar environments may be

carrying memories we cannot see.

For many rescue dogs, confidence must be rebuilt slowly. Whether a dog survived trauma, instability, or simply the stress of moving through shelters and unfamiliar homes, the transition into a safe environment can still feel overwhelming.

Confidence doesn't appear overnight. It grows through small successes, patient guidance, and opportunities for dogs to rediscover curiosity about the world around them.

S M A L L W I N S B U I L D B I G C O N F I D E N C E

Confidence often begins with very small victories.

For a dog adjusting to a new life, everyday experiences—

walking through a doorway, exploring a room, or approaching a new person—can feel uncertain at first. When dogs succeed in navigating these moments without pressure, they begin to learn something important: the world can be safe.

Caregivers can encourage these early successes through simple, low-pressure activities that allow the dog to move forward at their own pace. This might include guiding a dog with a treat into a new area, introducing a toy to investigate, or taking a short walk in a quiet environment.

Each positive experience becomes a building block. Over time, these moments accumulate, gradually replacing hesitation with curiosity and trust.

The goal is not perfection. It is progress.

LET CURIOSITY LEAD THE WAY

One of the first signs of returning confidence is curiosity.

Dogs are naturally curious animals, but stress and uncertainty can suppress that instinct. Shelter environments, transport, and major life changes can temporarily overwhelm even well-adjusted dogs.

Allowing dogs to explore safely can help curiosity return.

Slow “sniff walks” are an excellent way to encourage this process. Rather than rushing a walk, allow the dog to stop, investigate scents, and move at their own pace. Exploring through scent gives dogs time to process their surroundings and build familiarity with their environment.



Roxie - Rescued 2024



Sadie - Rescued 2016



Jazmine - Rescued 2017

Exploration can also happen indoors. Safe objects such as blankets, boxes, or new toys can provide opportunities for investigation and discovery. When dogs choose to approach something unfamiliar on their own terms, they are practicing confidence.

Curiosity is often the first step toward courage.

ENRICHMENT THAT BUILDS CONFIDENCE

Mental engagement can play a powerful role in helping rescue dogs adjust to their new lives.

Interactive enrichment activities give dogs opportunities to solve problems independently and experience success. When a dog discovers they can interact with their environment and achieve a positive outcome, their sense of control begins to grow.



Activities that support confidence-building include:

- Puzzle feeders that reward exploration and problem solving
- Scent games where treats are hidden for the dog to locate
- Food scatter games that encourage natural foraging behavior



- Gentle training games that reward participation and curiosity

These activities help dogs rediscover their natural abilities while reinforcing a sense of accomplishment.

For dogs who may have spent time in shelters or uncertain environments, learning that the world contains opportunities for success can be deeply empowering.



C E L E B R A T E P R O G R E S S — N O M A T T E R H O W S M A L L

Adjustment takes time, especially when a dog's past is unknown.

A rescue dog may appear confident one day and cautious the next. Changes in environment, new visitors, or

unfamiliar sounds can temporarily bring uncertainty back to the surface. This is a normal part of adaptation.

What matters most is recognizing and celebrating the small moments of progress along the way.

The first relaxed tail wag in a new space.

The moment a dog chooses to approach someone on their own.

The quiet decision to explore instead of retreat.

These milestones represent important steps forward for a dog learning that their new world is safe.

Confidence grows through repetition, patience, and encouragement.

A NEW STORY BEGINS

Every rescue dog arrives with a story—even if parts of that story remain unknown.

Some have endured clear hardship. Others have simply experienced instability or loss before finding their way to safety. What they share is the opportunity for a new beginning.

With time, supportive experiences, and opportunities

to succeed, many rescue dogs begin to rediscover the confidence that uncertainty once overshadowed.

Curiosity returns. Playfulness emerges. A hesitant step forward becomes a confident one.

And in those moments, something remarkable happens: a dog who once faced an uncertain past begins writing a new future—one small, courageous step at a time.



Diva - Rescued 2020

STAY™

SUICIDE TAKES **ALL** of YOU™

**Not just your pain.
Your honor.
Your brothers.
Your family.
Your dog.
Your future.**

Dial 988- Press 1

**FOR THE ONES WHO
WOULD NEVER RECOVER
IF YOU LEFT.**



A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a light-colored hoodie over a green t-shirt, is gently petting a brown and white dog through a chain-link fence. The dog is looking towards the woman. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the fence and some indistinct shapes.

Helping Without Adopting: How You Can Still Stand Against Animal Abuse

Not everyone can open their home to a rescue animal—and that's okay. The fight against animal abuse isn't carried by adopters alone. It depends on everyday people who choose to stay aware, speak up, and take action in ways that fit their lives.

If you've ever thought, *"I want to help, but I can't adopt right now,"* you're still an important part of protecting animals.

Awareness Is Where It Starts



Animal abuse isn't always obvious. It can look like neglect, isolation, or lack of basic care happening quietly. Pay attention to signs like underweight animals, untreated injuries, lack of food or water,



or dogs constantly chained without shelter. You don't need to investigate—you just need to recognize when something isn't right.

Speak Up—Even If You're Unsure

Many cases go unreported because people hesitate. You don't need proof to report suspected abuse—just concern. Animal control and local authorities will handle the investigation. Your voice could be the reason an animal gets help.

Support Those Doing the Work

Rescues and shelters are often overwhelmed but committed to giving animals a second chance.

You can help by donating supplies, contributing financially, sharing posts, or volunteering your time. Even small actions can make a real difference.

Fostering Saves Lives

If adoption isn't an option, fostering provides a powerful way to help. Temporary homes allow animals to decompress, heal, and learn to trust again. It also frees up space so rescues can take in more animals in need.

Use Your Voice and Choose Compassion

Advocacy starts with simple conversations. Educate

others, support stronger protections, and promote responsible pet ownership. Small everyday choices—like respecting a dog’s boundaries or teaching kindness—help create a culture where abuse is no longer tolerated.

Every Action Matters

You don’t have to adopt to make a difference. Whether you report a concern, share information, donate, or foster, you are part of the solution.

Because in the fight against animal abuse, **every voice matters—and every action can save a life.**

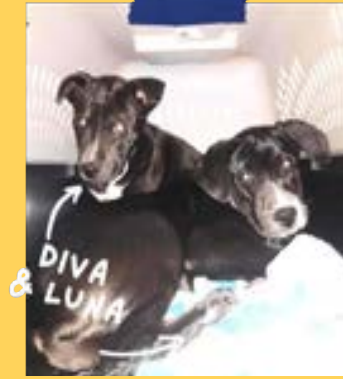




From Landfill to Loved: Luna & Diva's Story

Learn how your home loan can help save a dog's life.

HELP SAVE A LIFE



Luna and Diva were discovered in a landfill, barely alive — traumatized, clinging to each other, after watching their siblings crushed by heavy machinery.



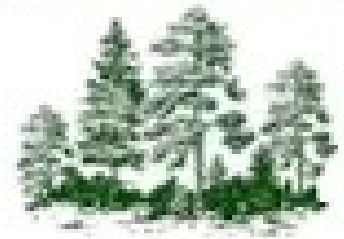
Wounded Paw Project® pulled them from the wreckage and rushed them into emergency care. Today, Diva and Luna are thriving with warm beds, full bowls, and humans who treasure them.

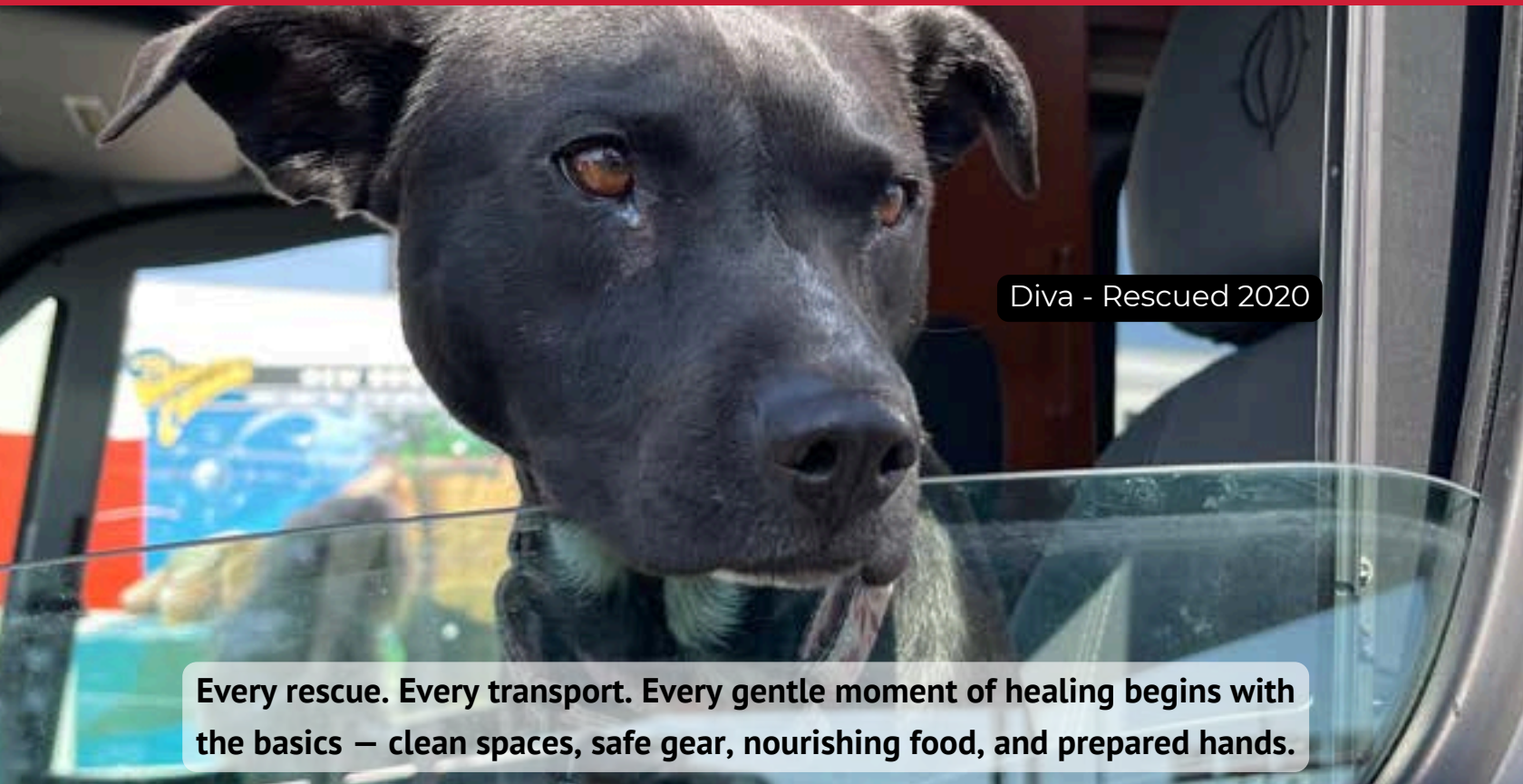
You can help dogs like Diva and Luna when you get your mortgage through Capital Bank Home Loans, a local bank committed to helping animals and veterans alike.

For every loan closed, **Capital Bank will donate \$1,000 to Wounded Paw Project¹** to help rehabilitate and rehome dogs in need.

GET STARTED TODAY

Our mission is stronger because of partners like you. Together, we are creating safer futures for animals in need.





Diva - Rescued 2020

Every rescue. Every transport. Every gentle moment of healing begins with the basics – clean spaces, safe gear, nourishing food, and prepared hands.

When you donate tangible supplies to Wounded Paw Project®, you're doing more than giving items. You're freeing critical funds for medical care, emergency response, and rehabilitation – where they're needed most.

Supplies That Fuel the Mission

For Pawville Farms®:

- Dog-safe cleaning supplies
- Chicken feed & bedding
- Gardening tools (hand tools, gloves, durable hoses)
- Storage bins & weatherproof totes

For WPP Rescues & Transport:

- Collars, slip leads & harnesses
- Crates & transport carriers
- Blankets and towels
- First aid supplies (vet wraps, gauze, saline)
- Gas gift cards for transport volunteers

Giving is simple – and every item makes an immediate impact.

Email us at donations@woundedpawproject.org and tell us what you'd like to donate, and we'll guide you through next steps.

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The PAW® Magazine - Straight to Your Inbox

Every issue of **The PAW® Magazine** tells the stories that matter most—rescued dogs, second chances, healing in motion, and the people who stand up for animals when it matters most.

Now you can receive every digital issue for free, delivered directly to your inbox.



**SCAN QR CODE TO
JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST**



This is what a second chance looks like.

The ride that changes everything.



Kane didn't always know what freedom felt like. He came to Wounded Paw Project from Washington, D.C., having survived a life no dog should know. Today, what you see in the mirror isn't his past-it's his future. Vehicle donations help make journeys like this possible. They support rescue, rehabilitation, and the road forward for dogs like Kane-and the people who walk beside them. Turn your vehicle into a second chance.
woundedpawproject.org/vehicle-donations



From shelter to riding shotgun.