

MAY 2026

THE PAW[®]

MAGAZINE

Jazmine - Rescued 2017

Rosie - Rescued 2009

Daisy - Rescued 2008

Kane - Rescued 2018

Bella - Rescued 2019

Honor Beyond Words

Remembering the Fallen.
Protecting the Voiceless.



www.WPP.dog

THE PAW[®] MAGAZINE

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MAY 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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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER...

This issue carries a weight that goes beyond words. As you turn these pages, you'll see stories of sacrifice, quiet resilience, and second chances—reminders that Memorial Day is not just something we observe, but something we carry. We honor the men and women who gave everything for this country, but we also remember the ones who stood beside them—the military working dogs who served without question and, in many cases, never came home. Their loyalty, courage, and sacrifice reflect a truth we hold close at Wounded Paw Project®: that honor is not limited by species, and being a voice for the voiceless means remembering all who served.

But remembrance alone is not enough. This issue challenges us to live with intention—to turn reflection into action. Whether it's fostering a dog in need, supporting rescue efforts, or simply choosing compassion in moments where it's easier not to, every decision matters. Through every WPP initiative, we see what happens when healing is given space to grow: trust is rebuilt, purpose is restored, and second chances become possible. Because the greatest tribute we can offer is not just in what we remember—but in how we choose to serve.

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



Kane- Rescued 2018

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.

They Also Served

*They served without question. They protected
without hesitation. And many never came home.*

They didn't wear the uniform.

They didn't salute the flag.

They didn't understand the politics, the strategy, or the reasons behind the war.

But they served.

With unwavering loyalty.

With courage that didn't need explanation.

With a willingness to run toward danger—because their handler asked them to.

These are the stories we don't always tell on Memorial Day.



Nemo A534

Photo Credit: Gary Sinise Foundation Facebook Page

The stories of the military working dogs—the K9s—who deployed alongside our troops, walked the same ground, faced the same dangers, and in many cases, never made it home.

They were more than tools of war.

They were protectors.

During the Vietnam War alone, **more than 4,000 military working dogs served**, and an estimated **hundreds were killed in action**. These dogs patrolled jungles, detected ambushes, and saved countless lives—often by being the first to sense danger.

Dogs like **Nemo A534**, a U.S. Air Force sentry dog deployed to Vietnam. During a nighttime attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base in 1966, Nemo alerted his handler to enemy movement. When gunfire erupted, Nemo charged—taking a bullet through the eye and jaw. Despite his injuries, he continued to attack and protect his handler until the threat was neutralized. Nemo later died from complications related to his service, becoming one of the most recognized war dogs of Vietnam.

Dogs like **Satan**, a Marine Corps war dog in Vietnam who was killed in action

while on patrol—one of many whose names were known only to their handlers and units, but whose impact saved lives that would have otherwise been lost.

And dogs like **Marco**, a U.S. military working dog killed in action in Afghanistan while supporting combat operations. Like many modern war dogs, Marco was trained to detect explosives and protect troops on patrol—placing himself in harm’s way to prevent greater loss.

And there are countless others.

Unnamed.

Unrecorded.

But not forgotten by those who walked beside them.

They detected tripwires before a step was taken.

They warned of ambush before a shot was fired.

They stood watch in places where danger lived in every shadow.

And when the moment came—they moved first.

Not because they understood sacrifice the way we do, but because they trusted.



Photo Credit: <https://togetherweserved.com>

Trusted their handler.
Trusted their training.
Trusted the bond that said: we go
together.

And many of them never came back.

War does not always leave room for
recognition.

For decades, many military working
dogs—especially those in Vietnam—
were classified as equipment. When
the war ended, hundreds were left
behind, their service unrecognized,
their sacrifice largely undocumented.

But the men who served with them
never forgot.

They remembered the patrols.
The warnings.
The lives saved.

They remembered the dogs who
stepped forward when it mattered
most.

And they remembered the ones who
didn't make it home.

Among those stories is one that reflects
the bond between handler and dog in

its purest form.

Lex, a Marine Corps military working dog, was deployed to Iraq with his handler, Corporal Dustin Lee. In 2007, during a rocket attack, Cpl. Lee was killed in action. Lex was critically wounded—but refused to leave his handler’s side.

Even in the chaos, even in pain, he stayed.

That loyalty—the kind that does not break under fire—is what defines these dogs.

On this Memorial Day, as we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to this country, we must also remember the silent warriors who stood beside them.

The ones who ran toward danger without hesitation.

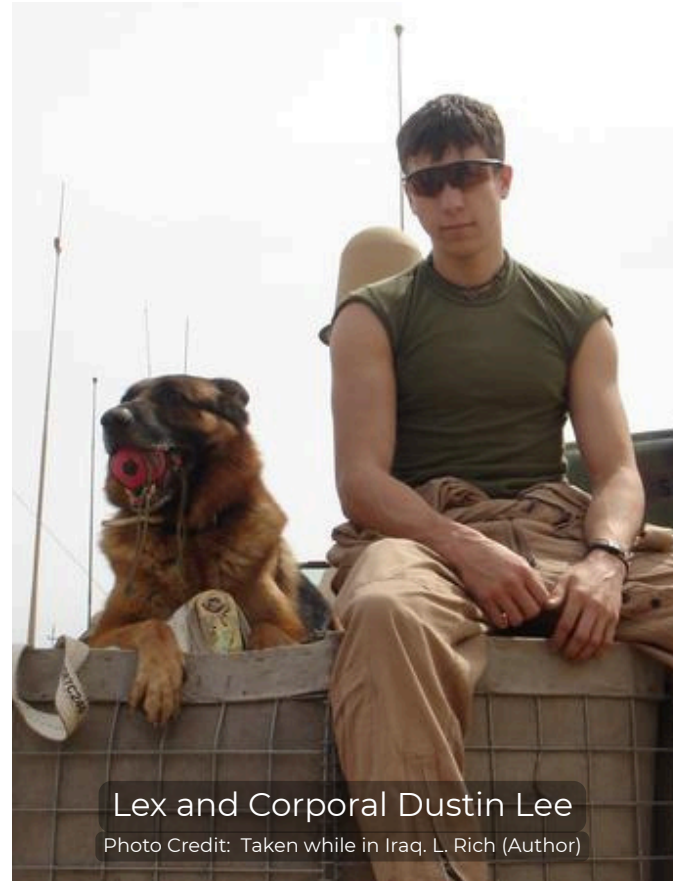
The ones who could not speak—but still protected.

The ones who gave everything—without ever asking why.

At Wounded Paw Project®, we believe being a voice for the voiceless means remembering them, too.

Because honor is not limited by species.

And sacrifice does not need words to be understood.



So today, we remember them.

The war dogs.

The protectors.

The four-legged heroes who stood the line—and never came home.

They served.

They protected.

They gave everything.

And they will never be forgotten.

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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.**





MEMORIAL DAY: MORE THAN A MOMENT

Every year, on the last Monday of May, we pause.

Flags are raised. Names are remembered. Silence fills spaces that words never could. Memorial Day is not just a date on the calendar—it is a moment carved out of time to honor those who gave everything in service to this country.

But somewhere along the way, the meaning can get lost.

For many, the day has become a long weekend—barbecues, gatherings, the unofficial start of summer. There is nothing wrong with coming together. In fact, community is part of what those we honor fought to

protect. But Memorial Day asks something deeper of us.

It asks us to remember.

Not just in passing—but with intention.

To remember the weight of sacrifice.

To remember the families who carry that loss every day.

To remember that freedom is not free—it is paid for in ways most of us will never fully understand.

And remembrance is not passive. It is active. It lives in what we do next.

At Wounded Paw Project®, we believe that honoring the fallen means more than reflection—it means responsibility. It means choosing to live in a way that reflects the values they stood for: compassion, courage, and service.

That responsibility extends beyond people. It extends to

beyond people. It extends to the voiceless.

Because service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. And sacrifice isn't only found on the battlefield.

There are quiet battles happening every day—on our streets, in our communities, and behind closed doors. Animals abandoned. Abused. Forgotten. Dogs who have known fear instead of safety. Pain instead of care.

Remembrance isn't passive—it's a choice we make with intention.

They, too, are waiting for someone to step in.

To protect.

To defend.

To give them a second chance.

In many ways, the connection is undeniable.

Veterans returning home often carry invisible wounds—



Jazmine - Rescued 2017

Healing begins.

At Pawville Farms®, that healing takes shape in simple, meaningful ways. A veteran feeding a dog in the morning. Tending to the land. Collecting eggs. Walking

Healing doesn't happen in words—it happens in what we show up for.

trauma, loss of identity, the weight of experiences that are hard to explain and even harder to release. Rescued dogs carry their own version of that burden—fear, mistrust, survival instincts shaped by neglect or abuse.

Different stories. Same need.

Safety.

Patience.

Purpose.

And when those two worlds meet, something powerful happens.

alongside an animal that, like them, is learning to trust again.

There are no loud moments.

No grand speeches.

Just quiet restoration.



Elvis - Rescued 2022



Lola - Rescued 2023

Routine replaces chaos.
Connection replaces isolation.
Purpose replaces emptiness.
This is how we honor the fallen—not only by remembering their sacrifice, but by living lives rooted in service. By continuing the work of protecting, caring, and showing up where it matters most.

Memorial Day is not only about looking back.

It is about looking forward—with intention.

It is about asking ourselves:

How will I carry this forward?
Who will I serve?
What will I stand for?

At Wounded Paw Project®, our answer is clear.

We stand for those who cannot speak for themselves.

We serve through action, not words.

We honor sacrifice by creating second chances. Because the greatest tribute we can offer is not just remembrance—
It is the life we choose to live because of it.

MAY 23RD IS NATIONAL DOG FOSTER DAY

Be the Voice For The
Voiceless® by fostering a
dog.

National Dog Foster Day highlights the life-changing impact of opening your home to a dog in need. Fostering provides more than temporary shelter—it offers stability, safety, and the chance for dogs to decompress, heal, and rediscover trust through everyday care and human connection.



Roxie - Rescued 2024

For many dogs, the journey from rescue to adoption is not immediate. They arrive carrying fear, confusion, and sometimes the weight of past trauma. A foster home becomes the bridge that helps them transition—where routines replace chaos, patience replaces fear, and trust is rebuilt one small moment at a time. In these environments, dogs are given the opportunity to show their true personalities, making it easier for them to connect with the right forever family.

At Wounded Paw Project®, fostering reflects the heart of our mission—Be The Voice For The Voiceless®. Every foster home becomes part of something bigger: a network of compassion that turns

uncertainty into hope. By opening your door, even temporarily, you are not just saving a life—you are shaping a future where every dog has the chance to be seen, valued, and loved.





SADIE

SAYS

LET THEM SNIFF EVERYTHING.

It sounds chaotic, but letting your dog explore the world through scent is actually one of the most important things you can do for their mental health. Sniffing isn't just curiosity—it's how dogs process their environment, reduce stress, and build confidence. Giving your dog time to sniff is a simple way to support their well-being and let them decompress in a way that feels natural to them.

HISTORY MEETS HUMOR. INNOVATION MEETS PAWS.

PAWS OF PROGRESS™

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



THOMAS EDI-PAW



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*Every Life
Deserves
A Second
Chance.*



Daisy - Rescued 2024

Roxie - Rescued 2024

Be The Voice For The Voiceless®

Why This Mission Matters

Some voices are never heard.

Not because they have nothing to say—but because no one is listening.

They don't speak our language.

They don't tell their stories.

They endure in silence.

And too often, they are forgotten.

At Wounded Paw Project®, we exist for those voices.

The abused.
The abandoned.
The neglected.

The ones who have known fear
before they ever knew safety.

Because being voiceless does
not mean being without value.

More Than Rescue

Rescue is often where the story
begins—but it is not where it
ends.

Saving a life is only the first
step.

The real work is rebuilding it.

It is earning trust from an animal
that has learned not to give it.
It is replacing fear with stability.
It is showing, day after day, that
safety is no longer temporary.

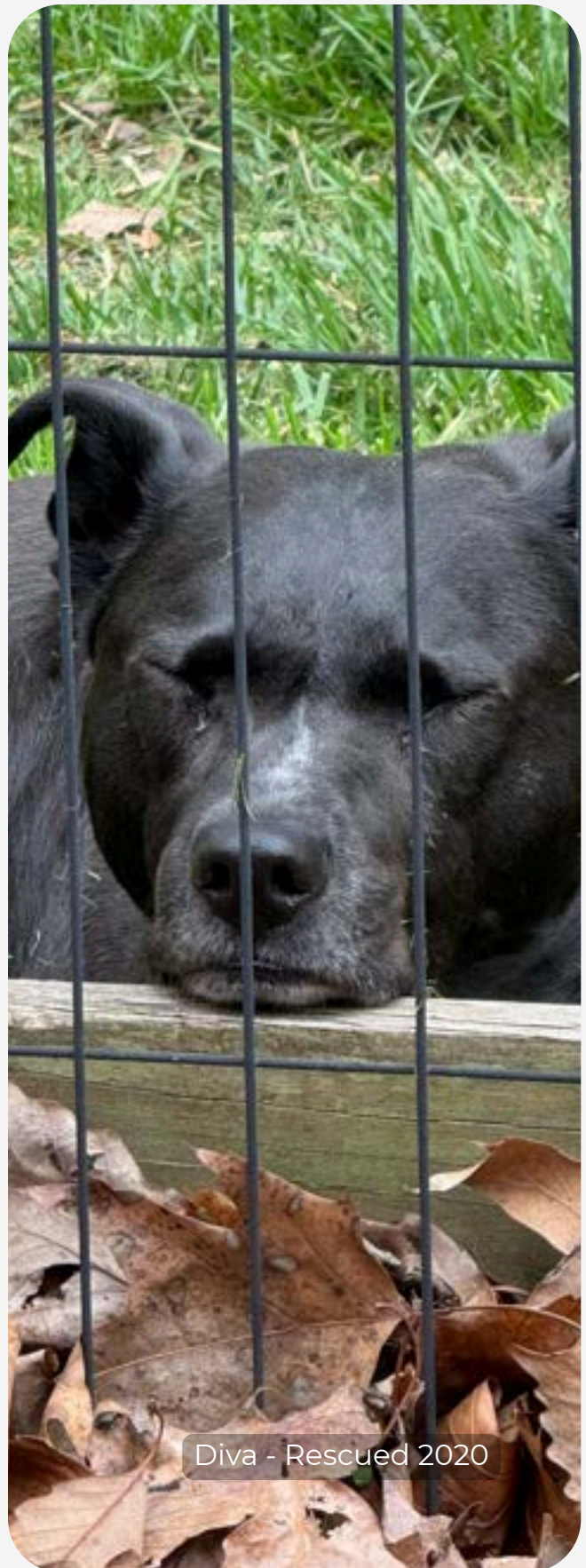
This work is not fast.

It is not easy.

And it is not always visible.

But it matters.

Because every life restored is a



life that was once at risk of being lost.

Why This Work Matters

In many ways, the voiceless reflect something deeper about the world around us.

They remind us that compassion is a choice.

That protection is a responsibility.

That how we treat those who cannot defend themselves says everything about who we are.

At its core, this mission is not just about animals.

It is about accountability. It is about stepping into spaces where harm has occurred—and choosing to do something about it.

Not later.

Not when it is convenient.

But now.



A Different Kind of Service

On a day like Memorial Day, we are reminded of sacrifice—of those who gave everything in service to others.

That spirit of service does not end with remembrance.

It continues in how we choose to live.

At Wounded Paw Project®, service means standing for those who cannot stand for themselves.

It means intervening when there is no one else.

It means protecting without recognition.

It means doing the work whether anyone is watching or not.

Because the voiceless do not need attention.

They need action.

The Power of a Voice

Being a voice for the voiceless does not require a title.

It does not require a uniform.

It requires a decision.

A decision to care.

A decision to act.

A decision to refuse to look away.



Elvis - Rescued 2022

That voice can take many forms:

- Speaking up against abuse
- Supporting rescue efforts
- Providing care, time, or resources
- Choosing compassion in moments where it is easier not to

Every action matters.

Because every action has the power to change a life.

Why It Matters Now

There is no perfect time to begin this work.

There is only the moment you decide it matters.

Right now, there are animals waiting.

Waiting for safety.

Waiting for care.

Waiting for someone to step in and say, this life matters.

That is what this mission is about.

Not recognition.

Not attention.

But impact.

A Commitment That Lasts

At Wounded Paw Project®,
“Be The Voice For The
Voiceless®” is more than a
tagline.

It is a commitment.

A commitment to show up.

A commitment to protect.

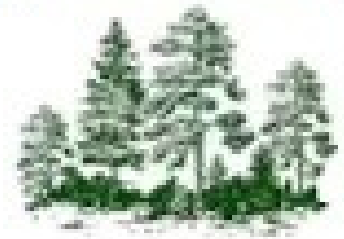
A commitment to act—again and again, for as long as it takes.

Because the voiceless are still out there.

And they are still waiting.



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





How to Honor the Fallen This Memorial Day

Memorial Day is not just something we observe.

It is something we carry.

It is a day set aside to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to this country—but remembrance is not meant to be passive. It is meant to shape how we think, how we act, and how we choose to live.

Honoring the fallen does not require grand gestures.

It requires intention.

Here are simple, meaningful ways to honor those who gave everything:

Pause With Purpose

- Take a moment of silence.
- Not out of routine—but with intention.
- Reflect on the lives given, the sacrifices made, and the cost of freedom.

Remember a Name

- Learn about one service member who died in service.
- Say their name.
- Share their story.
- Because remembrance becomes real when it becomes personal.

Visit a Place of Honor

- Go to a cemetery or memorial.
- Place a flag.
- Leave a flower.
- Small actions carry lasting meaning.

Teach the Next Generation

- Take time to explain what Memorial Day truly means.
- Help others understand that this day is about sacrifice—not celebration.

Live With Intention

- Honor the fallen through how you live:
 - Act with integrity.
 - Show compassion.
 - Stand up for what is right.
- Because service continues beyond the uniform.

Be The Voice For The Voiceless®

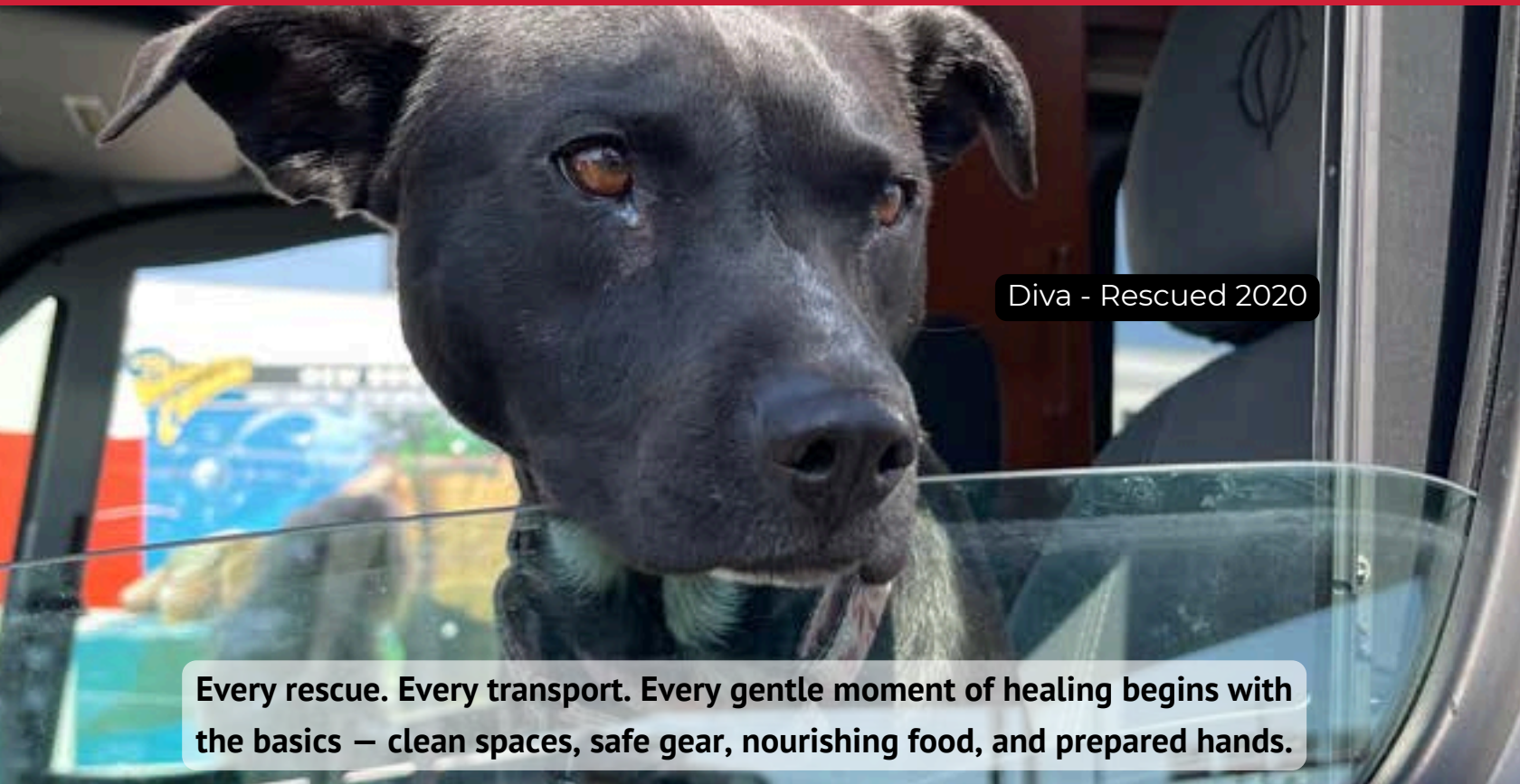
- Carry forward the spirit of service by protecting those who cannot protect themselves.
- Support animals in need.
- Speak out against abuse.
- Choose not to look away.

At Wounded Paw Project®, we believe this is how we continue the mission—through action, compassion, and responsibility.

Do Something That Matters

- Volunteer.
- Give your time.
- Support a cause that protects and serves others.
- Because honoring sacrifice means making an impact.

**Memorial Day is not just about remembering the fallen—
It's about how we choose to live because of them.**



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.

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HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE



They Gave Their All for Our Freedom

*Memorial Day
May 25, 2026*



WOUNDED PAW PROJECT®

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