



# Vets to Vets United News

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2022

## Welcome new Veteran/Dog Teams and the returning teams.

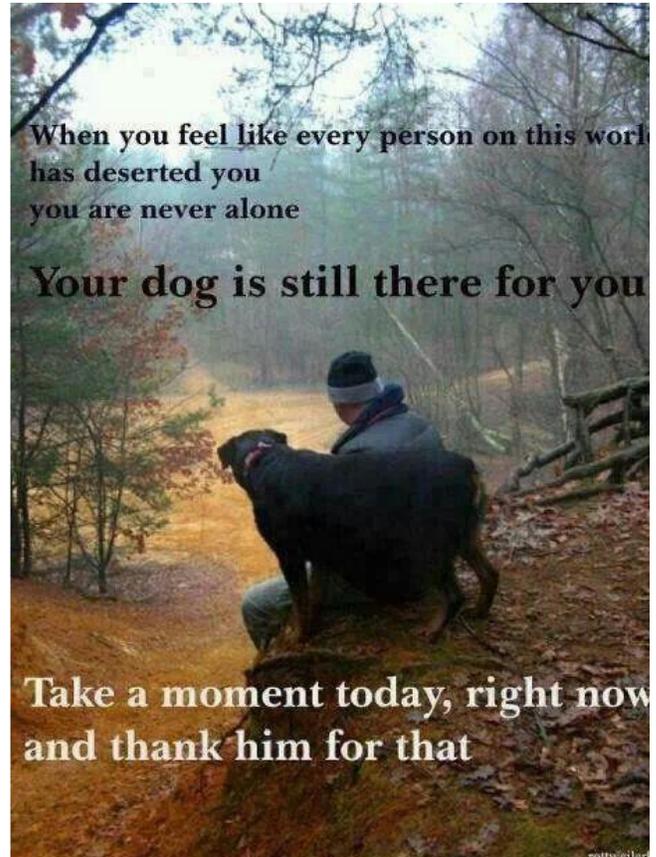
*Dr. Terry Morris, the Board of Directors, Volunteers, supporters, and trainers are excited about you and your dog learning, evolving, and becoming a strong team. All these people have only one goal, to help you succeed in your rewarding adventure. It will require hard work and dedication on your part. All the support and help you need is ready willing and able to assist you.*

*How do I know? Because I am a recent graduate of the wonderful training and support of VTVU. I was so appreciative of all of the support my boy Tank and I received that I joined the Board of Directors. Currently of the 7 Members 5 have been participants. Don't worry you don't have to join the board.*

*To have this outstanding opportunity at little or no cost to you, VTVU will need your help. There is a cost for each Veteran/Dog Team that is underwritten by the organization of approximately \$10,000 per team. Where does the money come from, donors who want to help Veterans and their dogs and fundraisers.*

*How do you help yourself? Vets To Vets United has a lot of volunteer opportunities, some may just be doing some computer work, picking up donated dog food, attending fundraisers as a Veteran/Dog Team. But you will never be asked to do something you are not comfortable with. You are expected to give back but at your pace and comfort level.*

*There is a waiting list of potential participants, please don't use a slot, if you are not ready. Your new best friend will need a lot of love and attention that only you can give. It is a big responsibility, but we believe you are ready. Tank and I are looking forward to working with you, Bill Dixon, VTVU Graduate, Vietnam Veteran.*



*Know a Veterinarian that might sponsor you and your fur baby? Many of the VTVU participants have a veterinarian to sponsor their dog's medical care. Vets To Vets United has a prepared letter of introduction about the organization and the benefits of the program and being a veterinarian sponsored organization. Ask Dr. Morris or one of the trainers for a copy of the letter and how to best present it.*

*Here is the federal government site that is offering 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. They can be ordered at. <https://www.covidtests.gov/>*

*All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us. J.R.R. Tolkien*

*Do. Or do not. There is no "try." — Yoda  
"Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," 1980*



**POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

At Lone Survivor Foundation you will find no-cost, confidential programs designed to provide you relief from the symptoms of:  
**Post-traumatic Stress - mild Traumatic Brain Injury - Chronic Pain**

Each program is led by a Combat Veteran who works alongside licensed clinicians. Together they will lead you through cutting edge techniques and tools to give you relief from invisible wounds.

<p><b>VIRTUAL PROGRAMS</b></p> <p>These programs take place by phone or video conferencing.</p> <p>For a listing of our current Virtual Programs, visit <a href="http://lsfprograms.org">lsfprograms.org</a></p> <p><b>POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH PROGRAM</b></p> <p>A 6-day, no-cost program for Service Members or Veterans, their significant others, and their children. The programs are held in Texas and North Carolina.</p> <p>For more details visit: <a href="http://lsfprograms.org">lsfprograms.org</a></p> <p><b>CHECK-INS</b></p> <p>30-minute phone call with a Counselor or Yoga Instructor to discuss coping tools, strategies, &amp; resources to help with PTS, mTBI and chronic pain symptoms.</p> <p>For more details visit: <a href="http://lsfcheckin.org">lsfcheckin.org</a></p> <p><b>APPLICATION PROCESS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-Complete the eligibility questionnaire at <a href="http://lsfprograms.org">lsfprograms.org</a></li> <li>2-Check your email. If eligible, you will get an email requesting a DD214 or Proof of Service</li> <li>3- We will contact you to discuss further details and scheduling.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <p>All service eras and US branches are welcome</p> <p>A diagnosis or service-connected disability through VA is <b>NOT</b> required</p> <p>You must be able to interact in a group environment and be willing to have a roommate for in-person programs.</p> <p>You must be able to administer your own medication(s) and self-care for in-person programs.</p> <p>If substance abuse has been an issue, you must have been in recovery for at least six months prior to attending.</p> <p><b>CONTACT US</b></p> <p><a href="http://lsfprograms.org">lsfprograms.org</a>        1414 11th St., Suite 1   Huntsville, TX 77340        936-755-6075  <a href="mailto:programs@lonesurvivorfoundation.org">programs@lonesurvivorfoundation.org</a></p>  <p><b>1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1</b></p>
--	--

In future issues we will talk with our fantastic volunteer trainers and why they are giving VTVU and you their time and expertise

**Vet Centers**

*Life isn't always easy. That's where we can help. We offer confidential support for Veterans, service members, and their families at no cost in a relaxed, non-medical setting. Our services include counseling for needs such as depression, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma (MST). We can also connect you with more support at the VA and your community. All services are strictly confidential. What happens at Vet Centers stays at Vet Centers. This area has an outstanding one out by Brier Creek.*  
919-361-6419

**Homes for Our Troops (HFOT)** a privately funded 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that builds and donates specially adapted, custom homes nationwide for severely injured post 9/11 Veterans. Veterans choose the community where they wish to focus on recovery and rebuilding their lives. Since inception in 2004, HFOT has built 325 homes in 42 states, with an additional 72 projects underway!

We are excited to announce that **Homes for Our Troops** is starting the building of a specially adapted custom home in Durham, NC for Marine Corporal (Cpl) Derrick Sharpe. We are holding a special event to celebrate the building and groundbreaking of his new home on **February 12, 2022 10:00 a.m. Location Immanuel Baptist Church, 3610 Hillendale Road, Durham 27705.** The event will be a public event for the Community of Durham. The event will last approximately an hour to an hour and 15 minutes, and Vets To Vets United will attend the ceremony to welcome Corporal Sharpe and his family to the City Of Durham. This event will serve as an opportunity for the community to honor Corporal Sharpe's years of service and sacrifice for his country and welcome him and his family to their new Community.

Vets To Vets United, Volunteers and Veteran/Dog Teams that will attend please notify VTVU volunteer Mary Senica at [mary@eirionthera.com](mailto:mary@eirionthera.com)



**Maddie's Fund**

#ThanksToMaddie

Vets To Vets is very thankful to Maddie's Fund for the generous funding to help improve the lives of our Veterans and their rescue service dogs. Maddie's Fund is a family foundation established by Dave and Cheryl Duffield in 1994. Their mission is to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals. They are committed to keeping pets and people together, creating a safety net of care for animals in need and operating within a culture of inclusiveness and humility. Thank you!!!! Together, we are making a difference!!! #ThanksToMaddie

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check out Vets To Vets United's weekly events email and get with your trainer for training dates and time. Please be considerate if you set up a time be there or give plenty of notice that you can not be there. They are giving you their time and experience, respect it!

We will begin planning for our **annual VTV 5K9 Dog Jog in Feb 2022. The date will be on Sept 25, 2022**, however, it takes a lot of time to put this all together, as we found out last year. We need to get started early to make sure things run smoothly with as little stress as possible.

We are seeking committed volunteers to serve on the planning committee for our event. We need you!! Please contact Larry Netzer ([lincolnlander@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnlander@gmail.com)), chairman of the committee ASAP to sign up to help us so that we can put our committee together.

Our first 5K9 Dog Jog was a HUGE success this year. It was soooo much fun for everyone. We are looking forward to 2022

### Spreading the Love opportunities for Veteran/Dog Teams.

**\*Feb. 10: Visiting Seniors at Senior Community Care Center.** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Not required to have passed Pet Partners evaluation. 1-2 PM at Senior Community Care of NC, 4022 Stirrup Creek Drive, Durham.

**\*Animal Assisted Therapy Visits. Golden Heritage Adult Day Care Center.** Please set up your own time with Mr. Van Coleman at 919-451-3776. Pet Partners Qualifications will be required with shot records.

**\*Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: Homes for Homes for Our Troops** groundbreaking for wounded Marine. See page 2 for details.

**Mar. 12: Working with Youths. Durham Police Department** with special presentation and training in the parking lot. All levels of VTVU teams and participants invited. 10AM-12PM at Durham Police Headquarters 602 E. Main St. Durham. Visitor Parking Lot

**Mar.17, 18, 19: Veterans Benefits Live**, see page 4 for details.

**April 2: Aberdeen Dog Fair.** Set up time; 9AM; Event 10AM-2PM at South Sycamore St. in downtown

**Nam Knights of America MC**  
**Coastal Plain Chapter's Poker**  
**Ride**

April 23rd 2022  
 Start/End: Big Boys Truck Stop  
 595 Bagley Rd, Kenly, NC 27542

**\$20 per person**  
**Registration 10am-11am**  
**KSU 1130am**

Last Bike in by 2pm

\*Raffle drawings after ride  
 \*50/50 Raffle  
 \*Chance to trade up to 2 cards  
 Prize for best and worst hand

POC: NK McLovin 9102320612  
 (text is best)

PORTION OF ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
 VETS TO VETS UNITED INC



**April 10: Unleashed's Annual K9 Spring Fling.** Set up 9AM; Event 11AM-3PM. NC State Fairgrounds, enter at Gate 9 off Trinity Road, event in the Heritage area by the lake.

Keep in mine to sign up for Carolina Football concessions at home games contact Linda Watson: [lwatson603@gmail.com](mailto:lwatson603@gmail.com)

Please sign up with Mary Senica for all events you will be attending with VTVU other than football. [mary@eirionthera.com](mailto:mary@eirionthera.com)

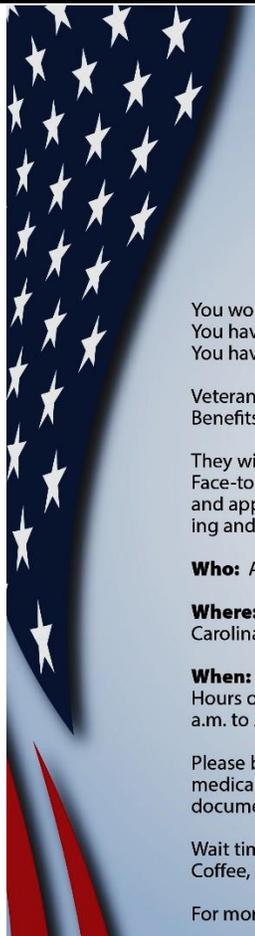


### The Patriot Fund

Thank you from Vets To Vets United for making them an Operational Partner. Through a partnership with **The Patriot Fund**, non-profit Veteran-focused organizations can be part of the life changing impacts that provide positive futures for our local Veterans and their families. The strategically selected Operational Partnerships we currently have are made up of qualified charities, all who have a central focus which is to aid the Veteran Community in many unique ways.

Once made an Operational Partner, The Patriot Fund grants these organizations the donations raised so that through their own distinctive work they can go out and change Veterans lives. Thus, the shared missions of helping our Veteran community comes full circle for both The Patriot Fund and all our partners.

<https://patriotfundinc.org/>



## VETERANS BENEFITS LIVE VA IN MY TOWN CARY, NORTH CAROLINA.

FORMERLY THE VEAC

### YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT

Should any of the following apply :

You would like to file a new claim with the VA.  
You have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled.  
You have questions about VA Healthcare.

Veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team including Veterans' Benefits and Health Administrators, Vet Center, and Veterans' Service Officers.

They will assist with the following:  
Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filing new claims, and accepting all claims-related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefit related VA programs.

**Who:** All veterans and family members of veterans

**Where:** Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Avenue, Cary, North Carolina 27513

**When:** 17th, 18th, 19th of March 2022.  
Hours on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please bring with you the proper documentation about your case: DD 214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian, and dependency documents if new or not already provided to the VA.

Wait times may be long, please be patient.  
Coffee, water, and snacks provided free of charge.

For more information contact Richard Spyrison at [CaryVEAC@gmail.com](mailto:CaryVEAC@gmail.com)

**Are you a Veteran or do you know a Veteran that is having challenges with a VA claim?** This event could be the answer. In the past events Veterans from across the United States have traveled to this event and walked away with their claim adjudicated or know what they need to get it done. There is no guarantee, but Veterans with claims 4 to 5 years old have had it settled at this event. The VA will be bringing in their staff from Winston Salem that can make the decisions there on the spot. The last event here saw 1,400 Veterans in the three-day event.

**Vets To Vets United will have a display at the Veterans Benefits event. Help spread the word about VTVU.**



**Newly named Petco Love, changes lives,** with an investment, in Vets To Vets United, Inc. to support service/working therapy animals for disabled Veterans. Since 2012, Petco Love has invested more than \$16 million to support the life changing work of Helping Heroes-

Animals that are trained to become heroes who will help us with a focus on supporting those organizations who train shelter pets to become service, therapy and working animals. This could be service dogs that support our nations Veterans, search and rescue dogs who help disaster relief efforts, or therapy animals that provide comfort at hospitals or senior living centers.

**“Petco Love is proud to support Vets To Vets United, Inc.** as one of nearly 100 organizations receiving a Helping Heroes grant this year,” said Petco Love President Susan Kogut. “Petco Love focuses on supporting organizations that find pets in animal shelters and transforms them to become pet heroes who improve the lives of others, highlighting the true potential of shelter pets and the impact they bring to their communities.

**Petco Love:** is a nonprofit changing lives by making communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since their founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, they have empowered animal welfare organizations by investing \$300 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. They've helped find loving homes to more than 6.5 million pets in partnerships with Petco and organizations nationwide. Today their love for pets drives them to lead the with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and their more than 4,000 animal welfare partners to drive lifesaving changes alongside them.

**Is love calling you?** Visit [petcolove.org](http://petcolove.org) or follow at Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to be part of the lifesaving work they are leading every day. #petcolove

