



Hero Dogs for veterans

Barona Whiteing-Green
DC Dog Examiner

- November 8th, 2010 7:12 pm ET

As we honor our military veterans this Veterans Day, let's not forget our wounded vets who have returned home from the war. [Hero Dogs, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit corporation located in Brookeville, Maryland. They provide service dogs only to veterans or active members of the United States Armed Forces whose disability was caused by illness or injury sustained while serving on active duty.

Hero Dogs, Inc. has chosen to serve veterans exclusively. They train dogs to meet multiple disabilities -- mobility, hearing, and/or psychiatric disorders. Other assistance dog organizations traditionally train a dog for a single purpose only (e.g., leading the blind, aiding the hearing impaired). In addition, the Washington, D.C. area is home to thousands of returning veterans with special service needs. These heroes must compete with other disabled individuals applying for a service dog via a few national-level service programs.

What does a service dog do?

A service dog helps a person with a disability achieve independence. The dog reduces that person's reliance on other people by doing tasks that the person either cannot do for him/herself or needs to ask for another person's assistance to do. A service dog can give a person with a disability the support and confidence to travel outside the home independently, (re)join the workforce, or even just accomplish the everyday tasks of living. You can read more on what a service dog does at: [What does a service dog do?](#)

How much does it cost to train a service dog?

It costs approximately \$30,000 to raise, train, and place a Hero Dog with one of America's wounded warriors. Hero Dogs depends on donations, gifts, and fundraising events to support its efforts to provide these dogs, at no charge, to our deserving veterans. You can donate at: [Please Help Hero Dogs Support Veterans](#)

FOX 5's Holly Morris of [myfoxdc.com](#) visited with the group. To see her video report click on the video on the left. [<http://www.hero-dogs.org/puppypages/hero-dogs-news/fox-5-news-holly-morris-visited-hero-dogs-in-honor-of-veterans-day>]

Hero Dogs, Inc., can be contacted at:

Hero Dogs, Inc.

P.O. Box 64

Brookeville, MD 20833-0064

hero@hero-dogs.org

1-888-570-8653

You can click the “**subscribe**” button above to receive a free e-mail notice whenever a new story by the DC Dog Examiner is published. If you have a newsworthy dog story, or an upcoming event that includes a dog, within the Washington, DC area that you would like to share, feel free to e-mail me the details at [DC Dog Examiner](#).