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People and Places | Terri hogan

A new canine hero

There's a new hero in town.

Jennifer Lund, founder and president of Brookeville-based Hero Dogs, which provides service dogs for veterans wounded or disabled while serving in the armed forces, said Radar O'Reilly is its newest service dog candidate.

Radar is an 8-week-old Labrador retriever donated by a local breeder.

He joins five other puppies, all named after real or fictitious military heroes, already in training.

Radar will spend the next 12 to 14 months living with a volunteer puppy raiser and learning basic manners and obedience, and will then spend an additional six months learning specialized skills with a Hero Dogs trainer before being placed with a wounded warrior.

The dogs can be trained to serve multiple disabilities — mobility, hearing and/or psychiatric disorders.

"It's a rigorous training process," Lund said. "Not every dog is suited to the demands of being a service dog, but those that graduate from the program can bring life-changing independence to their veteran partners. It's our way of giving back to our troops."

Founded in 2009, Hero Dogs is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. For information, visit [www.hero-dogs.org](http://www.hero-dogs.org) or call 888-570-8653.