

AHEPA PAW PATROL

February 14, 2023

A Happy Valentine's Day Love Story

Courtesy of Our Sponsor Irene C.

"From the moment I arrived at the K9s campus I was immediately impressed with the most caring and dedicated staff that truly make a difference everyday. The state-of-the-art facility is something that everyone should see for themselves in person if they have the chance. I'm most thankful that I got to spend some one-on-one time with Steven and Patrick. There truly is no better feeling than rescuing a shelter dog and helping a veteran and his family. We shared stories and exchanged contact info so that we could keep in touch. I'm happy to share the following update.

Patrick successfully made the long flight to Hawaii and did great! The entire family absolutely loves and adores Patrick. He sticks to Steven's side, and Steven takes him everywhere. They're the perfect pair! Patrick knows comfort, and if he has a choice between the ground or a soft spot, he knows how to make himself comfortable. Patrick has multiple puppy beds to choose from and has a dog door to his big yard. Patrick has also been enjoying puppy play dates and playing with the kids. We love seeing his personality blossom. One quirk about Patrick is that he is a ball magnet. If there is a ball around, he will find it.

I am super impressed with and appreciative of the non-profit and all those that make it possible. Patrick has been a blessing! He's incredibly loving, gentle, and easy to love. Everyone absolutely loves and adores him wherever he goes".

A Big Valentine's Thank You Irene for Sharing Your Adventures with Steven and Patrick AHEPA

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How are Service Dogs Processed

1. Sponsor sends a check and [Completed Sponsor Form](#)
2. Check and form are processed
3. Payment sent to provider
4. Updates provided at the following milestones:
 - 2 -month puppy letter and certificate with photo
 - 6-month puppy letter update letter
 - In for Training letter and certificate with photo
 - Graduation letter and certificate with photo

Timeline of breeding, raising, training, and placing a service dog:

- 2 months: Puppy Named and sent to be raised with a raiser or prison program
15-16 months: Dog brought back to campus for formal training
18-20 months: Dog completes formal training
21-22 months: Dog is matched and trained with veteran and graduates

AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Updates
Welcome New Sponsors

Angel Warriors, Janis Thomas, Paulette Cope.
AHEPA Chapters 438, 453, 39.

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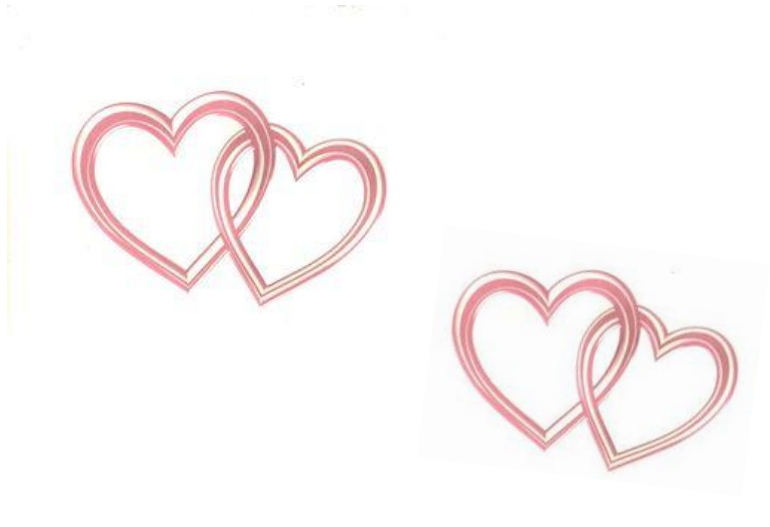
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Tommy AHEPA

Hey Tommy AHEPA, here! It has been cold here at Camp K9, or at least compared to usual! My trainer Syd says I get super spunky during the cold weather. She has been setting up playgroups almost every day where I can play with my friends here in the campus yards. I have a lot of friends that I like to play with, but my new friend Mickey is my favorite. Once my play time is over, I get right back to training. My training has been going well, just trying to recover from the zoo. The zoo was tiring, there was so much to see!

In other exciting news, last week I went off campus with my favorite caretaker, Devon. This was to see if the transferability sessions I have been working through on campus will transfer off campus as well. I had a successful training session with Devon and did great! My trainer Syd said she was super proud of me. She can't wait to see my progress continue to move forward. Well back to training I go! Can't wait to update you all next time! Tommy AHEPA



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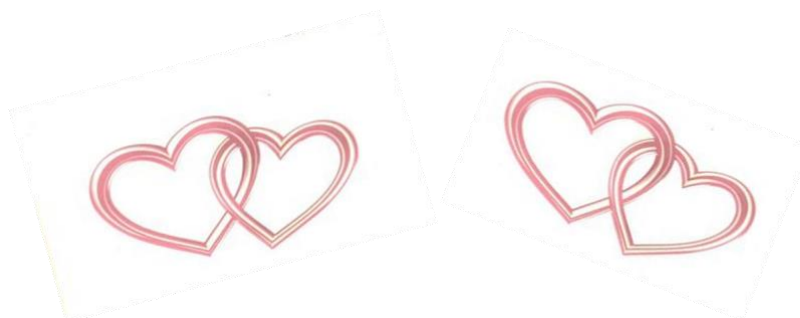


Lucky AHEPA

Hey, it's Lucky AHEPA here, proudly reporting that I got to go off campus! We went to a park with a playground and kids and ducks. I have seen kids before but need practice being comfortable around them. My trainer was so proud of me because I handled myself with confidence! We settled at a bench and I did a little sun bathing while I watched the weird duck creatures waddle around. We walked to the edge of the pond and I saw them swimming and flapping their wings. They looked strange but I held my composure and was able to focus on my trainer. Back at camp, we are working on settling without needing attention. Sometimes, I get pig ears to help me work through it. My trainer and I have kennel sessions where I get all the loving! I wish the whole day could be cuddles and pets!

Last week after my park visit, I primarily stayed on campus and worked on my social skills by playing with a variety of dog friends. Some I liked and others were a bit too much for me; I had to tell them to give me space! I am also working on my service skill "stand." This is when I come horizontal in front of my trainer and calmly stand in place. This important skill will help my future Warrior create space between them and another person because I am acting like a barrier. Sometimes, I like to sit when I am supposed to be standing. But with lots of treats and practice, I have been getting better! My trainer is super proud of me. On another note, I really enjoy getting groomed because of all the attention. I am quite the diva.

The last thing I want to share is that this week I got to go off campus to a place called the Avenues Mall. This is an inside mall that has lots of shops and a food court. In the parking lot, I got to see some firefighters practicing their skills. I sat and watched the high-pressure hose spew water with so much force that 2 people were handling it! The sound was loud but I didn't let it distract me from my sit cue. I went upstairs to the second floor of the mall. It was nerve racking to see people on the bottom level walking around. It took me a minute to adjust, but then it was no big deal. Going to the mall also allowed me to practice my "stand" in a new and distracting environment. Progress for sure! I will be going on more adventures to expose myself to different situations to build up my confidence. Can't wait to see where I head off to next week! Until then, Lucky



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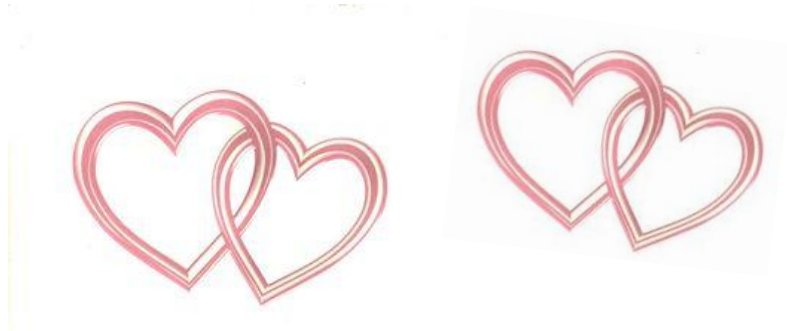
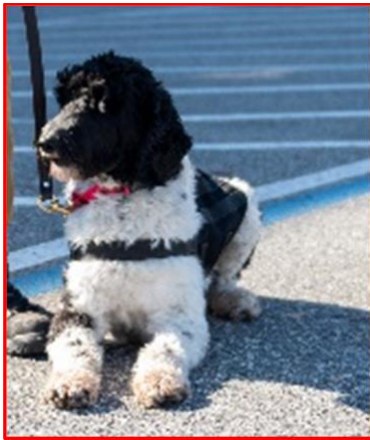
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Molly AHEPA

Hey everyone, it's Molly checking back in from campus! Since my last pupdate, I revisited some familiar places like Publix grocery store. It has so many smells, my favorite being the chicken from the deli! I also went back to Academy Sports & Michael's, both of which were quieter this trip. I've been enjoying socializing more with different dogs so I'm able to figure out which play style I prefer. So far, I've found three dogs that I really enjoy playing with!

Also, last week it finally warmed back up so I enjoyed all the sunbathing opportunities. I have also been testing some of my more advanced skills in stores, like "stand" which will come in handy in social scenarios. I recently learned it, so I am still fine tuning, but I think I am getting the hang of it. I have a test coming up soon so I will let you know how it goes! Also, I went to Winn-Dixie and the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville. There was so much to see at the museum and so many displays! At times I was tempted, but I didn't brush up against the exhibits and my handler was so proud of me that she let me sniff around and discover the garden area outside! In Winn-Dixie, I got a little distracted by the shoppers that stared at me. But after I was able to get used to everybody staring at me, I performed my cues and gave my handler attention. I look forward to what next week will bring us, I'm sure I'll bark it out of the park! Until next update, Molly



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Delphi AHEPA

Hey guys, Delphi here with my pupdate! First things first, I moved to this new place called Ponte Vedra, FL. It's really cool, and I have this new trainer, T.J. He's been showing me around Camp K9! We have been bonding and just kinda chillin' out and getting' to know each other. The coolest thing, two of my friends from Arizona are here too, and T.J. made sure we got to get in the yards together today! It was so refreshing getting to see familiar friends in this new place. My training and skills with T.J. are doin' well, I still feel a little nervous in a new place but I am doing so much better now that it has been a few weeks and everyone is so welcoming!

Last week T.J. took me to the beach; man, I loved it there. Laying in the sand, strolling along the beach, all the smells and sounds, it's awesome! I could spend the whole day there! We also went to the mall and visited some restaurants. I took an elevator ride which was reeeally cool. Have you ever been in an elevator before? You just float to a different place, it's so cool! We also went to this place called a food court which was very neat, I relaxed and took a nap while T.J. had a bite to eat. As far as my skills go, I have learned cues such as side, stand, and look, which will help my Warrior while in public. "Look" tells me to sit at my Warrior's opposite side and watch their back. "Stand" is a great cue to help my Warrior feel comfortable, where I stand in front of them to create a buffer between them and the rest of the world. "Side" is a helpful cue which tells me to sit at my Warrior's left side. Then I relax, allowing them to carry on without any stress from me. That's about it for this week, wishing y'all the best! Wags and kisses, Delphi



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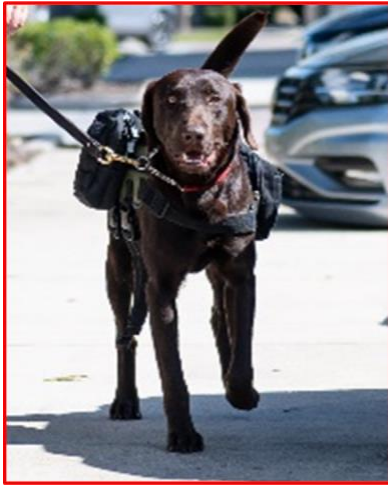


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Uncle Buck AHEPA

Well, hi! My name is Uncle Buck AHEPA. I'm a lovely lean chocolate Labrador Retriever with hazel-colored eyes. I've been at K9s for a few weeks now, and I'm starting to catch onto my skills well! I excel at walking in a heel! At first it was tricky but my handler, Hannah, showed me the ropes. I haven't made any doggie friends yet, but I hope to soon. Today I went to a coffee shop nearby and I focused on Hannah and walked with her well in the parking lot, but when we got closer to the patio area I started to get really distracted. We decided to settle down at a few different benches so I could get the lay of the land. I got pretty bored with that though, so I started looking for something else to do! Hannah and I agree that I should stay on campus for a while and practice more settling and impulse control before we go out again. I can't wait to see where I get to go next! Talk soon!



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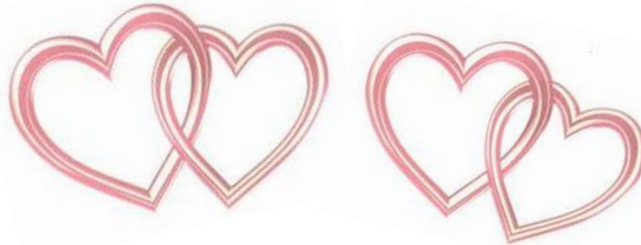


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Scotty AHEPA

I hope you all had a wonderful month of January! My move to Texas has been incredible. There are so many new people to love on and play with! Since getting to Texas my new trainer has been working with me on being calm and even took me to this giant place with all these stores called a "mall." Have you ever heard of that before? I also got to explore a massive park and go for a swim. I have been enjoying the cooler weather this week and the rain is amazing; every time I go out, I can find a puddle and mud to play in! I am looking forward to continuing my training as I get closer to becoming a Service Dog!



Pericles AHEPA

Hi howdy friends!! I am a movie reviewer now; I am adding that to my repertoire of tasks I can help my future Warrior with. I got to see the new cat movie and I have to say... 10/10. I loved watching the cats and the meowing and the movement on screen, however, I feel like they could have had more dogs in it. So okay, maybe 9/10. Anyway!! I am going on more walks and enjoying my time out and about with some really cool people. I am excited to see what I get to do next!



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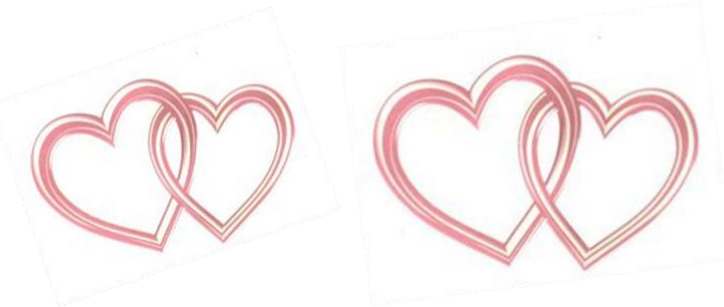


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Ricey AHEPA

Hey there! Something about this weather and this time of year with Valentine's Day coming up makes me feel all lovey and cuddly. My trainer must know I'm in a loving mood because this week she taught me "my lap." This is a cue that allows me to prop onto her lap and get loved on. One day it will be used to help my Warrior feel calm and grounded. I really enjoy the opportunity to cuddle while we're training. Who knew I could be such a softy? My trainer took me on a movie date and I did pretty darn good! I did get a bit startled at the end when I remembered there were other people in there with us, sometimes you forget that when your trainer makes you feel like you two the only people on Earth. Anyway, I gotta keep working and being the most charming Service Dog in town. Talk soon!



Zois AHEPA

Brr, it is cold and wet. I am not sure if I am liking it! Oh! But guess what! I went to Barnes and Noble! The amount of books; they smelled so good. At first I was pretty nervous about... well, everything. But I got a little more comfortable as we went on, and I will keep working on it. It really is a big world, but me and my human are having fun, which makes it all easier! She gave me a pup cup for dessert, and after that, I couldn't fear anything! I think I am being a brave and strong boy. I get to meet so many people and I love it! Maybe one day I can meet you too!



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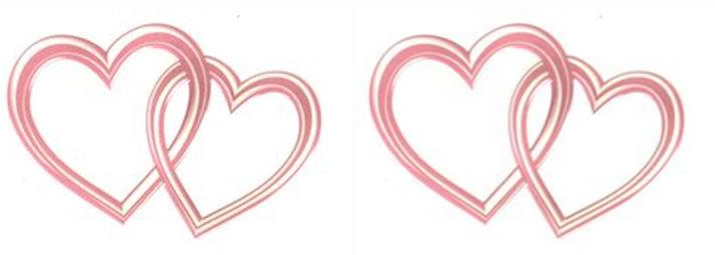
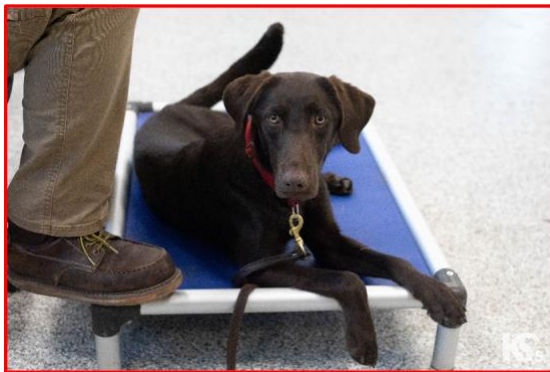


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Beacon AHEPA

Beacon here! It's so great to meet you! I'm a little new here at Camp K9, and my trainer has been very patient helping me learn to communicate. I love to sniff around and explore things, but I'm learning to focus more on my training, and I've already got a couple of skills under my belt! I love being sharp and quick when my trainer asks me for a behavior, and I get delicious snacks for doing a good job! I can't wait to tell you about all of our training adventures to come. Stay tuned!



Updates from America's VetDogs

- Private George K AHEPA has returned to campus for formal training.
- **Kathy AHEPA**, 1st birthday fast approaching. Formal training is anticipated between 14 and 18 months
- **Casey AHEPA**, 1st birthday fast approaching. Formal training is anticipated between 14 and 18 months
- **Sam AHEPA**, 1st birthday fast approaching. Formal training is anticipated between 14 and 18 months

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