



Anderson Animal Shelter's Military Veterans' Program (MVP) supports the mutually beneficial relationship between animals and veterans. Our program offers opportunities for veterans to connect with animals through adoption, fostering, training, and volunteering.



ZANE'S MVP STORY



Life is about connections. Tony Stamper, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and Anderson's Military Veterans' Program Coordinator, received a call from the Winthrop Harbor VFW. A veteran who was going through a difficult time and needed a dog to help him weather the storm. Tony pulled together a team of Anderson staff to find just the right match and they immediately went to work.

Several states away, in rural Oklahoma, another veteran had recently passed away, leaving his dog, Zane, homeless. The veteran's family was unable to take over Zane's care, so they brought him to their local shelter. It just so happens that the shelter that received Zane was one of Anderson's Oklahoma partner shelters. We work with several Oklahoma organizations, providing second chances to adoptable dogs and puppies by transporting them to Anderson, where they are adopted by waiting families, usually within days of arrival. Zane found himself on one of these transports and made the twelve-hour trip to northern Illinois, and his new future.

Once Zane arrived, Anderson staff quickly realized that he was an ideal match for the veteran in need. His size, personality and temperament were exactly what Tony had been searching for. He wasted no time setting up the meeting.

When the two met, it could not have been more perfect. This man and this dog belonged together. Zane went home with his new owner and has settled right in. His new person said Zane was the best thing that could have happened to him.

One veteran reached out. Another raised a wonderful dog. A third brought them together. It is a connection that will heal all their hearts.



Veterans always get 50% of the adoption fee waived.

This is just one way for us to thank you for your service.

A study led by researchers in the *Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine* has shown that overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are lower among war veterans with service dogs. The pilot study was co-funded by the *Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)* and *Bayer Animal Health*.

The study was published in the February 2020 issue of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*.

Results from the study reveal that veterans suffering from PTSD exhibited better mental health and well-being on several measures if they had a service dog, including:

- Lower overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress.
- Lower levels of depression.
- Higher levels of life satisfaction.
- Higher overall psychological well-being.
- Lower levels of social isolation & greater ability to participate in social activities.
- Higher levels of resilience.
- Higher levels of companionship.
- Less absenteeism from work due to health among those who were employed.

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