War Dogs Making it Home
a 501c3 organization
History of War Dogs Making it Home

- Founded in 2010 by Elana Morgan
- Dog trainer for 30 years
- How War Dogs Making it Home came about
- Received 501c3 status in 2011
- 2013 Eva Braverman, our Executive Director came on board
FIGHTING

PTSD
Isn’t about what’s wrong with you, it’s about what’s happened to you.

Creative Pictures By Larry Vanh

PTSD
flashbacks
anxiety
hypoervigilance
trauma

PTSD symptoms:
- Flashbacks
- Intrusive thoughts
- Avoidance
- Negative mood
- Hypervigilance
- Distress in response to trauma

PTSD treatments:
- Medication
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Exposure therapy
- Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR)
- Support groups

PTSD risk factors:
- Personal history of trauma
- Genetic predisposition
- Psychological resilience

PTSD triggers:
- Reminders of the trauma
- Stressful events
- Emotional reactions

PTSD diagnosis:
- DSM-5 criteria
- Medical examination
- Psychological assessment

PTSD prevalence:
- Approximately 7.7 million adults in the U.S.
- Men and women equally affected

PTSD impact:
- Emotional distress
- Loss of function
- Economic burden

PTSD help resources:
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health services
- Support groups
- Online therapy platforms

PTSD cognitive processes:
- Memory consolidation
- Stress response
- arousal
- hypervigilance
- anxiety

PTSD prevention strategies:
- Early intervention
- Stress management
- Social support
- Mental health education

PTSD research:
- Neuroplasticity
- Gene expression
- Brain function

PTSD outcomes:
- Recovery
- Resilience
- Chronicity

PTSD long-term effects:
- Chronic pain
- Sleep disturbances
- Substance abuse

PTSD intervention:
- Comprehensive care
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Integrated therapy

PTSD trajectory:
- Acute
- Chronic
- Resolved

PTSD future:
- Continued research
- Innovative treatments
- Public awareness

PTSD myths:
- It’s just post-traumatic stress
- It’s a weakness
- It’s a choice

PTSD benefits:
- Increased empathy
- Enhanced sensitivity
- Improved relationships

PTSD challenges:
- Social isolation
- Emotional numbness
- Physical health issues

PTSD success stories:
- Overcoming adversity
- Finding hope
- Thriving after trauma
Saving Two Lives

- 22 Veterans a day lose their lives to suicide
- 35 Hundred Animal Shelters in the U.S.
- 2.7 Million Adoptable Animals are euthanized EACH year.
War Dogs Making it Home’s Program

- We pair rescued dogs with combat veterans
- Two-year program
- Trained in basic obedience & symptoms & stressors associated with PTSD/TBI
- Examples
A New Family
First Hand Story of Danny & Ezra
“The vet saves the dog, and the dog saves the vet!”