

News Release

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Nevada Humane Society Launches New G.I. Dogs Program Transforming Abandoned Animals into Service Dogs and Pets for Veterans

Nevada Humane Society is launching G.I. Dogs—a program dedicated to providing service dogs and companion pets for Nevada's military veterans. Thousands of Nevada's military personnel are returning home confronted with reintegration into civilian life at a time when our country and especially our state is facing tough economic challenges. On top of that, many of these men and women also face the burden of physical and psychological disabilities.

It has been shown that pets help decrease signs and symptoms of anxiety and depression, even decreasing the amount of medication used to control such conditions as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Science is confirming what animal lovers knew all along—people with pets live healthier, happier lives.

Nevada Humane Society's G.I. DOGS program was the brainchild of Mitch Schneider, a veteran, experienced dog trainer, and former manager of Washoe County Regional Animal Services. It will provide both service dogs and companion pets for Nevada's military veterans at no cost to the veteran. The most suitable animals will be selected for this program from the thousands of animals that are abandoned each year. Service dog requests will be made through appropriate veteran services organizations and these dogs will be trained to perform specific tasks that meet the needs of the individual veteran. Companion pets are completely free to all military veterans as well as the immediate families of active duty and fallen military personnel.

All pets are spayed or neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated; veterans will also receive free pet food and a starter kit of supplies. Veterans requesting a companion dog will be assisted in the selection of their dogs through an experienced dog trainer.

Pets help people weather stressful experiences, including loss and loneliness. This program will take these benefits to a new level—transforming abandoned animals into service dogs and pets for the benefit of our veterans. It saves the lives of homeless pets and gives veterans a chance to lead happier, healthier lives.

For more information on the G.I. DOGS program, call at 775-856-2000.

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About Nevada Humane Society: Nevada Humane Society is a non-profit, charitable, no-kill shelter creating a no-kill community. We work to find homes and provide care for homeless animals. Our work is made possible by donations.

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