



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PATTERSON FOUNDATION AWARDS \$30,000 GRANT TO AMERICA'S VETDOGS

October 30, 2014 (St. Paul, MN) – The Patterson Foundation recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to America's VetDogs® – The Veteran's K-9 Corps®, toward the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible van that will allow clients with mobility issues to be matched with service dogs and to attend training classes at the America's VetDogs training facility in Smithtown, N.Y. In the past, students who are wheelchair users arranged their own transportation to the campus or accessible vans were rented. America's VetDogs is a nonprofit organization that trains assistance dogs for injured veterans who need help with daily living activities. Since 2003, America's VetDogs has placed over 250 assistance dogs with our nation's wounded veterans.

The Patterson Foundation awards grants four times each year to nonprofit organizations serving in the areas of animal health, oral health and occupational and physical rehabilitation, representing the three business units of Patterson Companies, Inc. (Patterson Veterinary, Patterson Dental and Patterson Medical). The Patterson Foundation is a private, charitable foundation that is separate from Patterson Veterinary and Patterson Companies business operations.

"America's VetDogs is extremely grateful to the Patterson Foundation for their generous grant to purchase a para-transit van," said America's VetDogs CEO Wells Jones. "This van will be invaluable to our students who are wheelchair users as they train with their new assistance dogs. Generous donors such as the Patterson Foundation enable us to change the lives of veterans with disabilities."

The purchase of the wheelchair-accessible van will enable America's VetDogs to serve clients who are wheelchair users currently on a waiting list and numerous clients into the future. Transportation to and from the America's VetDogs training facility and for off-site training will no longer be a barrier for veterans with mobility issues.

Patterson Veterinary President George Henriques, who sits on the Patterson Foundation board and has visited the America's VetDogs training facility, said, "America's VetDogs and the assistance dogs they train for injured veterans of all generations are helping our veterans in so many important ways. Veterans have paid a high personal sacrifice through their courageous service for our country and the Foundation is honored to support America's VetDogs in their continued efforts to improve the quality of life of these special and appreciated women and men."

The Patterson Foundation also awarded a grant to America's VetDogs in 2011, toward training facility capital renovations that improved accessibility for veterans paired with assistance dogs.

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About the Patterson Foundation

Patterson Foundation is a private grant-making foundation that focuses resources on human services and education programs related to oral health, animal health, and occupational and physical rehabilitation, especially programs in which healthcare professionals in these fields volunteer their services to disadvantaged people or individuals with special needs. The Foundation also awards higher education scholarships to children of Patterson Companies employees. The Patterson Foundation is funded primarily by current and former employees of Patterson Companies, Inc. Visit www.pattersonfoundation.net for more information.

About America's VetDogs

America's VetDogs (www.VetDogs.org) serves the needs of veterans with disabilities from all eras who have honorably served our country. VetDogs trains and places guide dogs with individuals who are blind; service dogs for those with other physical disabilities; and physical and occupational therapy dogs to work with service members in military and VA hospitals. It is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and the International Guide Dog Federation. America's VetDogs is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded by the Guide Dog Foundation, and relies on voluntary contributions to fund its mission. It costs over \$50,000 to breed, raise, train and place one assistance dog; however, there is never a charge to the individual.

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