

Great Video On CBS13.com



Veteran, Activists Clash At Rally

- UCD Student Becomes YouTube Celebrity
- 5th Graders Accidentally Get Sex Tape
- 'Talking' Cat At Shelter Causing A Stir

E-mail Print Share + Comments (9)

Feb 10, 2010 11:38 pm US/Pacific

# Greyhounds Trained To Help Veterans With PTSD

More Local News



Reporting  
Neda Iranpour

SACRAMENTO (CBS13) — As the economy tumbled, many race tracks went out of business, leaving many greyhound racing dogs out of a home, but a new program is retraining the animals to help serve military veterans.

Steve Manning, a former Marine who has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), said a prescription of lithium xiproxene dithicote and Prozac can't help fix his emotional problems, but his dog Cowgirl can.

"She's calming for me and she provides a buffer from the rest of the people out there," Steve said.

Back from deployment and discharged from the Marine Corps, Steve said he is still haunted by memories of war. "I'm physically here but I'm still over there," he said.

Weeks ago, CBS13 was there as local animal lover Susan Aceves opened her heart and home to many abandoned greyhounds, and now the group Four Paws for Veterans is helping give the gentle souls a new purpose.

"Actually, they saw us because of you, your special a few weeks back, they saw it and contacted us and asked if they could take a look at the greyhounds," Susan said.

The greyhounds went through boot camp at Mather Air Field; dogs who only knew 45 miles per hour speeds now learn to simply walk with their handler, block strangers, watch their best friend's back and even calm nervous twitches.

The dogs are trained to spot warning signs for PTSD, such as scratching or twitching, and intervene by offering comfort.

War heroes who were trained to fight or die trying are finally feeling a calming in their souls with just a little nudge from a wet nose and those puppy eyes.

"She's heaven sent, that's for sure," Steve said.

More "unemployed" greyhounds will be brought to Mather Field to train, because many vets are on a waiting list for companions.



1 of 1 Click to enlarge

Former racing greyhounds are now being trained to be companions to veterans suffering from PTSD.  
CBS

### Related Slideshows



Scenes From Super Bowl XLIV



CBS13.com Mug Shot Gallery



Replay: Super Bowl Ads 2010



Caught Cheating: Celebrity Scandals



2010 Celebrity Deaths



52nd Annual Grammy Awards



Hottest Celebrity Redheads

(© MMX, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

### Add Comment

You are commenting as a guest. You may select to log in by clicking [here](#). Need a log in? [Register here](#)

Your Name

Your E-Mail  \* Will not be displayed with comment

Suggest Link  \* e.g. (<http://www.mywebsite.com>)

Your Comment

Post Comment

1024 characters remaining for comment

Type the characters in this picture:\*

[Click here to refresh with new letters](#)

Show Comments (9)