



**VETERANS
WITH DOGS**

Fact Sheet

*Helping lead
independent lives*

MATCHING

A dog is matched to a client based on the person's lifestyle, temperament and the physical characteristics required to complete the needed tasks. Once the dog has passed the initial training phase, VWD brings the Veteran and dog together in a residential environment to begin the matching and transfer. This allows the Veteran to train under supervision with our trainers and learn how to work and train with their dog.

TRAINING

At VWD we use 'bond-based option training' which means simply that the dog chooses to participate in training sessions, or indeed any interaction with their caregiver. This forms a bond of trust from the very beginning. Nurturing a healing, rejuvenating, bond between owner and dog results in a positive, non-judgemental and unconditional relationship.

RELATIONSHIPS

Our dogs can help us to widen our social networks through friendships made by meeting other dog owners. Often it is these simple introductions that can lead to long lasting friendships. Developing a good network of friends is critical when it comes to mental health.

SKILLS

Trained dogs can remind their veteran to take Medication, they can turn on lights and provide comfort during flashbacks or nightmares. They can recognise the signs of panic attacks before they even happen.

CHARITY

VWD is the first UK registered charity to directly address the needs of mental health difficulties for those former service personnel of the British Armed Forces.

HELP

Did you know we have a variety of ways you can volunteer! If you feel you have the time and energy to help in either fundraising, event planning or office support, please get in touch we would love to hear from you!

