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Three weeks after John had received Suzie (a beautiful brown Lab), and had already completed testing for Suzie to be formally certified as a Service Dog, the two of them sat at a table at the local Elks Lodge #2081 for a forth Friday night dinner with Veteran residents from the local VA hospital invited to join the Lodge for a free dinner (usually every forth Friday night of each month). During the evening John was asked the question- "you have only had Suzie for three weeks- have you noticed any difference in your life other than now having a new partner?" John instantly replied "Yes!" He said, "I did not know I had an anger problem before I had Suzie. I would be on the telephone in a conversation with someone. The other person would say something that triggered me and I would start yelling over the phone. Suzie, without me noticing, would run to another room and stay there until I hung up the phone. She would then run to me and shower me with kisses and hugs. This occurred a number of times until I realized what was happening- she was running to the other room because she thought I was yelling at her! My heart dropped to my feet! I would never want her to think I was yelling at her!! Realizing what she was doing, or what I was doing to her, I came to the realization that I had an anger problem and her love for me made me start to get control of my anger. My fear of hurting her by my anger made me get control of my anger!! It has worked!! She has changed me!!"

After he had Suzie with him for about six months, John's brother, who had not seen him for two years, came to visit John. After visiting with John in his home for about two weeks, his brother got in his vehicle to return home. He rolled down the window and told John he wanted to say something to him. As John drew close to the window, his brother said, "John, you are not the same man I visited two years ago. This dog has changed you into a new person- one that is at peace and with a source of endless love for you!"

At about a year after John had been with Suzie, the Kerrville Elks Lodge hosted a Texas-wide Elks mid-term convention, with Elks from all over Texas coming to Kerrville for several days and staying at the YO Hotel Resort Hotel. One of the convention evenings included a dinner for all attendees at the Kerrville Elks Lodge facility. The dinner was attended by Elks Lodge members from all over Texas, but also attended by the Texas State Elks President, the Texas State President elect, and two past National Elks Grand Exalted Rulers. After dinner, introductions and other formalities, local Elks Lodge member and past Texas Elks State President Kirk Storey gave a brief introduction and background history of VADogs, which is unique to the Elks' organization nationally. Kirk then introduced John and asked him to come to the stage with Suzie at his side. Kirk asked John to give his personal testimony about how his life had changed because of his having Suzie in his life. John gave a solemn heart wrenching story of how Suzie had saved his life and made him into a new person. He also made an announcement than he had not made to anyone before- "I am now completely off of all the medicine that the VA had prescribed to him to help him live with PTSD." He said. "The only medicine I need now is Suzie." There were few dry eyes in the crowd during the ensuing applause, but John then presented his encore. He said "I would like to read to you a letter that I have written to Suzie that came from my heart".

Here's the letter he wrote-

"10/12/2014

My Dearest Suzie,

Since entering my life on December 23, 2013, you have taught me more about love and life than I could ever imagine was possible. Thank you for that and your continual love and care.

I've had several pets in my life, but somehow, you have managed to change my life and give me hope for the future. So thank you for that also. Suzie, you can communicate better with your eyes and body language than most of us humans with God's gift of verbal speech.

All I am trying to say Suzie is that I love you beyond words I can find to express this! I have been so blessed by the gift of your care and love, it's hard to express my gratitude. Thank you for accepting me for the person I am as imperfect as I am.

Suzie, I will never move and not take you. I will never put you in a shelter and leave. I will never let you starve! I will never let you hurt! I will never desert you when you're old, nor will I leave you when you go blind! Should the time come, I will be there to hold you and console you, because I love you and you are my family.

Most sincerely, your loving partner,

John"

Again, the audience applauded but this time all on their feet. They had just witnessed a true and heart touching story of success from a Kerrville program that rescues both dogs and Veterans.

The VADogs organization hopes this story of success has touched your heart and has touched you enough that you will join them in providing more success stories like this. How can you do this? We need funds to train and feed the dogs, but, also, since we can now only provide two to four dogs per year to Veterans, we have purchased 5 acres of property on Spur 100 in East Kerrville, and we plan to build a 4,000 square foot facility that will allow us to deliver 14 to 20 dogs per year to Veterans. With a plan this significant, we need significant financial help from the public, corporations, foundations and other organizations that share our vision of rescuing dogs and Veterans.

The above story about John and Suzie gives one sample of proof that our program is successful and is greatly needed by so many Veterans returning from combat with damaged bodies and damaged minds that deserve more help than they are receiving. There are still 22 Veterans a day committing suicide across America! We believe that VADogs can make a small dent in this dreadful situation with our Veterans. They desperately need America's help and what VADogs can provide to only a small percentage. Your help is desperately needed. A simple phone call or internet contact can make you a part of our team to support this great cause. And, by the way, VADogs, is an IRS 501 (c) 3 corporation which legally allows all donations to be tax deductible. Because of IRS regulations for a 501 (c) 3 corporation, VADogs must be operated completely separated and financially separated from the Elks Lodge organization. What

is a dream of ours?- some philanthropic organization or individual comes forward and says they will fund our facility- for that we would boldly show on the face of the building the name of our facility to include that organization's or individual's name as (for example)- "The XYZ Kerrville VADogs Training Facility".