

PAW PRINTS

The All American Pet Resort Review



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A GREAT DOG STORY Part 2

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Part 1 Review. We left our story of a young man who had adopted a Lab from the local shelter. He and the dog were having difficulty bonding – to say the least. In fact, he had planned to return the dog to the shelter. However, when he started gathering the dog's belongings, he noticed the unopened letter, which was to be read by the dog's new owner. Part 2 begins with the letter.

To Whoever Gets My Dog,

Well, I can't say that I'm happy you're reading this. I told the shelter that it was only to be opened by Reggie's new owner. You see, I have packed up his pad and toys before and set them by the back door but this time... it's as if he knows something is wrong which is why I have to go to try to make it right.

So let me tell you about my dog Reggie. First, he loves tennis balls. Sometimes I think he's part squirrel, the way he hordes them. He usually has two in his mouth, and he often tries to get a third one in there too. Maybe you've already discovered that he knows all the basic commands — sit, stay, come and heel. He also knows some hand signals. For instance, when you put your arm straight up he knows to turn around and go back and if you put your hand out straight, he knows to sit.

He also knows words like ball, food, bone and treats. Nothing opens his ears like little pieces of hotdog. He likes to eat twice a day and isn't picky about his food. He's up on his shots. The 9th Street Vet Clinic knows him and will update his information regarding his new home. Be forewarned though, he hates going to the vet. Good luck getting him in the car. I don't know how he knows when we're off to the vet, but he knows.

Give him time. I've never been married, so for all six years of his life, it's only been him and me. He's gone everywhere with me, so please include him in your daily routine as much as you can. He loves to ride in the car, doesn't bark and doesn't complain. He just loves to be around people and me most especially. Which means that this transition is going to be hard for him.

Finally, the last piece of information for you is that his name is not Reggie. I just couldn't bear to give the shelter his real name. For me, that seemed so final. Handing him over to the shelter was as good as admitting that I'd never see him again. And, if I do come back, I want my dog back. But if someone else is reading this, well... it means that there is a new owner and the new owner should know his real name. It'll help you bond with him and if he's been giving you trouble, it might even change in his demeanor.

His real name is Tank because that is what I drive. If you're reading this and you're from the area, maybe my name has been on the news. I told the shelter not to make "Reggie" available for adoption until they received word that I was not returning. My only real request of the Army upon my deployment to Iraq, was that they make one phone call to the shelter in the "event" to tell them that Tank could

be put up for adoption. Luckily, my colonel is a dog guy, too. He said he would personally notify the shelter. So if you're reading this, then he made good on his word. I hope and pray that you make him part of your family and that he will adjust and come to love you the same way he has loved me.

Unconditional love from a dog is what I took with me to Iraq as an inspiration to do something selfless, to protect innocent people from those who would do terrible things... and to keep terrible people from coming to our country. If I had to give up Tank in order to do it, I am glad to have done so. He was my example of service and of love. I hope I honored him by my service to my country and comrades. All right, that's enough. I deploy this evening and have to drop this letter off at the shelter. Good luck with Tank. Please give him a good home and an extra kiss goodnight every night from me.

*Thank you,
Paul Mallory*

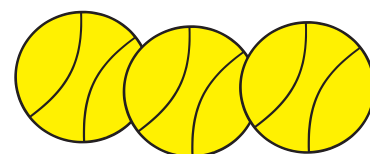
I folded the letter and slipped it back into the envelope. I had heard of Paul Mallory. Everyone in town knew him. Local kid, killed in Iraq a few months ago and posthumously earning the Silver Star when he gave his life to save three buddies. Flags had been at half-mast all summer.

I leaned forward in my chair and rested my elbows on my knees, staring at the dog. "Hey, Tank," I said quietly. His head whipped up, his ears cocked and his eyes showed brightly. "Come here boy." He was instantly on his feet. He sat in front of me, his head tilted.

"Tank," I whispered. His tail swished. I kept repeatedly whispering his name. Each time, his ears perked, his eyes softened, and his posture relaxed as a wave of contentment just seemed to flood over him. I stroked his ears, rubbed his shoulders, buried my face into his scruff and hugged him.

"It's me now, Tank. Just you and me. Your old pal gave you to me." Tank reached up and licked my cheek. "So what do you say we play some ball? His ears perked again. "Yeah? Ball? You like that? Ball?"

Tank tore from my grasp and disappeared in the next room. And, when he came back, he had three tennis balls in his mouth.



US WAR DOGS

Now, dogs in military roles are used rarely in front-line operations unlike their ancient predecessors. The most common breeds used have been the German Shepherd.



However, in recent years there has been a shift to smaller dogs with keener senses of smell for detection work and to more resilient breeds such as the Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherd and even the Labrador Retriever used primarily for patrolling.

All dogs in use today are paired with a single individual handler after their training. Prior to 2000, older, returning war dogs were required to be euthanized. But thanks to a new law, these dogs may now be adopted.

There is one notable case that happened on July 9, 2011 whose handler was killed in Iraq.

Go to www.uswardogs.org to read more about how dogs assist our troupes and branches of law enforcement as well.

THANK YOU FOR NAMING OUR MASCOT

Many thanks to everyone who helped us name our mascot. The winning name is All Star the All American Dog. Watch for All Star on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.



STUDY: DISEASES THAT KILL DOGS TEND TO AFFECT SPECIFIC BREEDS.

Findings could help vets make diagnoses earlier.

USA Today

Researchers at the University of Georgia investigated data to establish breed-specific causes of death in 74,556 dogs that died while being treated at 27 veterinary hospitals in the US from 1984-2004. Here are just a few of the published results. Some are surprising!

Burmese mountain dogs, golden retrievers and Boxers, all known for a propensity for cancer, were confirmed to die of that disease. The Bouvier de Flandres, not previously regarded as a high cancer risk actually had the fourth-highest death rate and the Scottish Terriers had the third highest.

The five breeds with the highest death rate from bloat are – Great Dane, Gordon Setter and Weimeraner, no surprise but Akita and Shar-Pei - surprise!

Breed with the highest proportion of cardiovascular related deaths were Newfoundland, Maltese, Chihuahua, Doberman and Fox Terrier.

Another surprise - Afghan Hounds and Vizslas had a high propensity for respiratory disease.

Knowledge of breed-specific mortality patterns is often critical to an accurate diagnosis and prompt, informed treatment experts say.

This is great work by the Canine Health Foundation.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FRANCHISE?

Plenty! Three new locations will open in 2012. All American Pet Resorts of North Brunswick, NJ and All American Pet Resort of Ft. Myers, FL are ready for development. There will be photo-journals available on Facebook so that you can follow along with their build-outs. Go to [Facebook.com/AllAmericanPetResorts](https://www.facebook.com/AllAmericanPetResorts), go to Find a Location and click on the Facebook icon. We have also added the third franchise location for Metro Detroit, Michigan. Congratulations to our newest franchisees, Chris and Megan Masson.



How about liking us on Facebook?

[Facebook.com/allamericanpetresorts](https://www.facebook.com/allamericanpetresorts)

An independent survey of pet owners conducted by the American Pet Products Association states that Americans spent \$45.5 billion on their pets in 2009 and \$48.3 billion in 2010.



Is it time to look at a franchise for you and your family? If you think you might qualify for a license, call 941-661-1175 today.