

## Canine Education

On average, it takes 2 years to prepare a well selected dog for public access and learn to be a reliable partner for his or her veteran or first responder. Although we begin teaching puppies at 8 weeks old, dogs do not develop the maturity for public access (being allowed in restaurants, grocery stores, etc.) until age 2.



## Nara & Alex, Army Veteran

"While I am not physically disabled, even simple tasks can be difficult for me. Something that would slightly anger a reasonable person is often debilitating for me. With Nara, I can interact with people and be in situations that would seem impossible. It gives me a semblance of normality that wasn't possible before I met with New Life K9s."

Today, I waited in line at a gas station and made conversation with a stranger, and I was happy. When I got in my car, I couldn't help but cry. Before Nara, the thought of even looking at people would have made me panic. Every day I get a bit of my life back. **Nara has saved my life.**"

- Alex

## Transforming Lives

New Life K9s partners with state prisons, California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo and Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, where New Life Educators train prison inmates to teach our future service dogs. Each dog has two inmate handlers who are able to offer much more time and consistency in teaching the dogs than would otherwise be possible. On weekends, the dogs go home with volunteer puppy raisers for community socialization.

Inmate handlers and puppy raisers allow New Life K9s to place more dogs and save more lives, while significantly reducing costs. The positive impact on the inmates, the prison staff, and the overall prison culture is truly transforming.



Correctional Training Facility Inmate Handlers

"Being amongst the dogs as they're being taught and witnessing their unconditional love is therapeutic. For me to get to interact with them offers healing. New Life K9s provides an avenue for us to give back to the community. It gives us an opportunity to put others first. It tells me that, even though I'm a prisoner, I still have value, worth, and I still matter."

-CTF Inmate (U.S. Marine Corp)

## Warrior Support Dogs (WSD)

Some highly educated dogs do not meet the public access standards. However, they still help their veteran anywhere that dogs are allowed. Kalli is currently

serving as a WSD for her U.S. Marine Corp Veteran.



Left: Rosa, Canine Educator  
Middle: Nicole, Director of Canine Education  
Right: Courtney, Canine Educator  
Front: Hercules, Canine Director of Education

