

January 2022

Exciting news on TITAN

The team at Canon Medical, you are truly pawesome and thanks to your support, **TITAN** has now **GRADUATED!**

We are so pleased to share this exciting news with the Canon Medical team. **TITAN** has successfully completed his Advanced Training and has recently been placed with a client living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in South Penrith, NSW. We are proud to advise Titan has Graduated as a fully qualified **PTSD Assistance Dog**.

He has come such a long way since he began his learning journey in Puppy Education at just 8 weeks old. He has transformed from cute, cheeky puppy into a strong, handsome and highly skilled Assistance Dog.

Your continued support and generosity made Titan's learning journey a reality. All of us involved in his journey, both staff and volunteers, thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts. We really could not be prouder of the truly special dog Titan has become.

While completing Advanced Training, prior to placement, Titan was nicknamed "Old Man" thanks to his gentle and calm nature, for his age, compared to his bouncier companions. With that nature and his skillset in mind, Titan was paired to a military veteran living with PTSD from events that happened during his time in the army.

His mental health means that it can be difficult to regulate his anxiety and emotions in crowded areas, traffic and in face-to-face interactions. This affects his ability to comfortably function socially and also affects his confidence and motivation to go out. Having a dog that is so calm in public areas, helps the client regulate his emotions as well as using Titan's skills to assist with his mental health exercises and techniques. The client lives with his daughter and her young children and the love, to and from Titan, is definitely mutual.

Titan performed exceptionally well on his 10-day Placement Course on all aspects of his skills, affection and behaviour.





This Titan of a dog, was not known for his affection in the kennel environment and upon his first meeting with the client, he immediately claimed the client's lap as his spot and rarely left it!

Match made in heaven.

Thanks for being so Pawesome!








MORE ABOUT ME

-  I am calm but serious by nature and I love learning
-  I love my new teammate and we get on so well - I know I can help him manage his PTSD and live a full life
-  I have passed all my final tests and am now a fully qualified PTSD ASSISTANCE DOG
-  We couldn't be prouder of this handsome boy!



Aside from companionship for his client, Titan's main tasks include:

-  VISIT - where Titan puts the weight of his head onto his handler's lap - this physical contact generates a feel good hormone in the client and helps to ground him if anxious
-  LAP - where Titan puts his front paws on his handlers lap which provides deep pressure and also helps with grounding and helps regulate emotion (this skill has proved to be a favourite for the team throughout the course and ongoing :)
-  NUDGE is where Titan nudges his partner's leg to draw the client's attention back to the dog and redirects him from wherever he was mentally that was causing him angst
-  FRONT, POST, HEEL and SIDE are all positions Titan will use to keep a social buffer and create personal space for his client in crowds or busy environments. This activity is so important as it creates a feeling of security and directly helps to alleviate triggers. It is also paramount for this client to have stability and space in crowds as he also has physical injuries to manage
-  Dogs provide the best SOCIAL SEGWAY for easing interacting with members of the public.

We will miss this big boy's calm, serious nature at the kennels - he was always willing to learn as he took his skills very seriously! He is loved by all the staff and other dogs alike. Titan is an amazing dog and we could not be prouder of how his skills and personality will enable him to make such a difference in this client's life, every single day. This new team are already VIP members of the Penrith Panthers and will now, more comfortably, attend games and events and mix with the stars!

The outcome for this client is incredible, and all the team at Canon Medical should feel very proud of your part in Titan's Assistance Dog journey.

All of us, within the ADA community, know that every single Assistance Dog is a hero. Behind every hero Assistance Dog are champion supporters like you, who believe in making the world a better place. **Thank you** for being there and for helping us to guide Titan and set him up for his amazing and life-changing role.




From this very grateful Military Veteran, his family and All of us at Assistance Dogs Australia



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