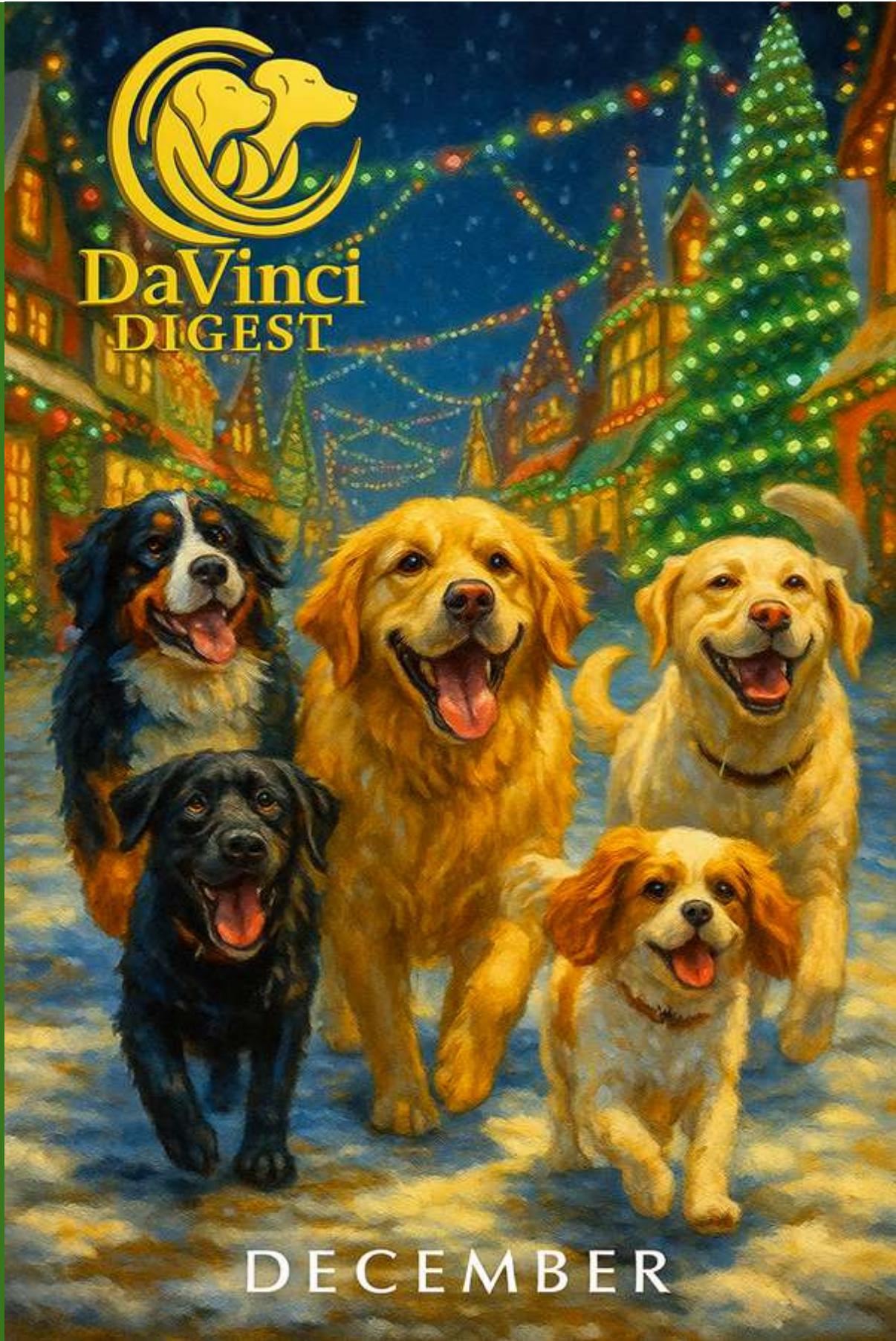


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**December 2025 | Edition 24 | Northern Virginia's Therapy Dog E-Letter**



## **MUST-READ: This Entitled Parent Tried to Pet an Anxious Dog—The Viral Confrontation Proves Why the Vest is Sacred!**

Anxious rescue dog Luna was wearing her bright vest, but one clueless parent thought the rules didn't apply! See the shocking footage of the moment he sent his child over anyway, what Luna did, and why the owner went ballistic.



This terrifying moment is the viral reminder every dog owner needs right now:  
Respect the vest, or face the consequences!

-- [cheezburger.com](https://cheezburger.com)



## Hero Dog Spotlight: Sergeant Bo



***You Won't Believe What This Dog Did After a National Tragedy:  
Meet Sergeant Bo, The True 2025 Hero Dog!***

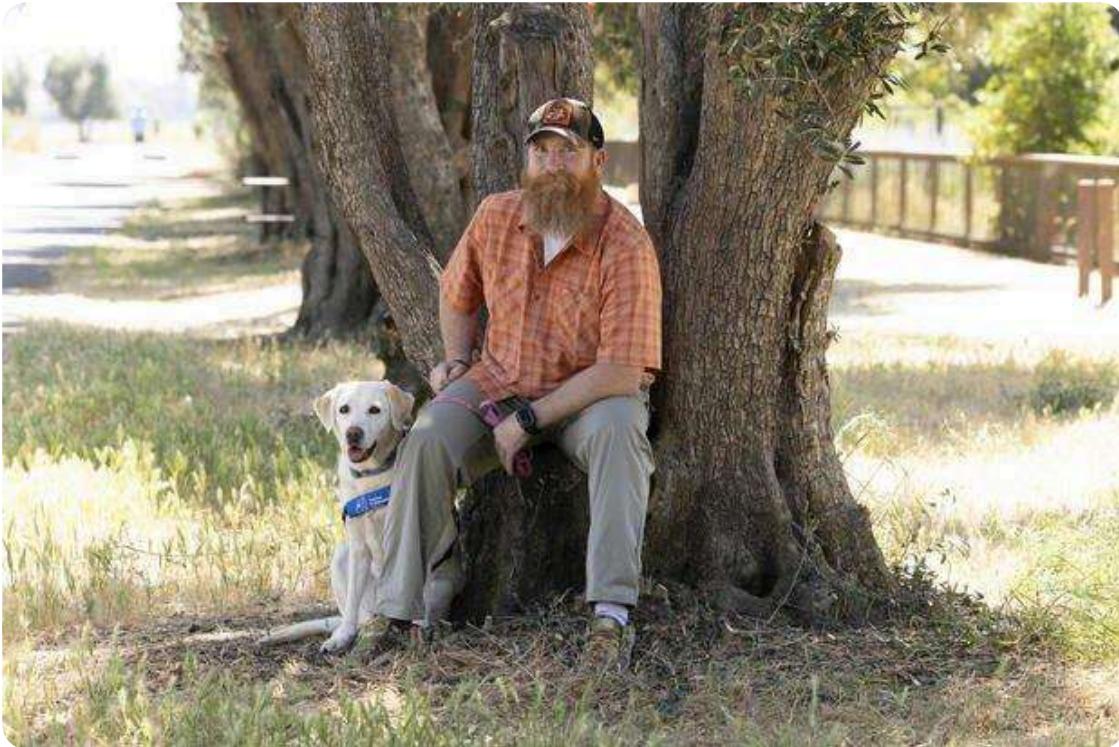
Crowned the 2025 Hero Dog of the Year, this K9 brought a nation to its knees! From trauma support to hospital snuggles, Sergeant Bo's story will **MELT YOUR HEART** and prove why therapy dogs are the unsung heroes of our time. Uncover Sgt. Bo's full heroic journey—the moment that stunned America!

[Uncover Sgt. Bo's full heroic journey—the moment that stunned America!](#)

Meet the dogs who stole America's heart — and find out who won big!



## Man's Best Friend: 50 Years with Veterans



### ***A 50-Year Secret Weapon: How THESE Dogs Are Changing Veterans' Lives, and Why They're FINALLY Coming to NoVA!***

They've been quietly transforming lives for five decades! Learn the incredible story of Canine Companions and their history of pairing highly-trained service dogs with our nation's heroes. Get the inside scoop on the *massive* expansion and the new Northern Virginia center that will forever change disability support in the region!

***See how service dogs secretly saved veterans for 50 years – the proof is here.***



## December Events in NoVA

***STOP EVERYTHING! The 9 Can't-Miss Holiday Dog Events in NoVA That Will Make Your Dog's Month!***

***You're running out of time! Get your pup ready for the most festive month of the year. From the Winter Walk of Lights you can actually take your dog on, to massive holiday events, and a crucial support group—we've ranked the 9 best experiences for you and your dog this December. Click now on the ultimate Doggo Calendar and don't miss out!***



### [National Mutt Day Celebration \(Visit Loudoun\)](#)

Tue Dec 2 • Morning parks activation

National observance; local shelters & rescues highlight mixed-breed adoptions .



### [Santa Paws Yappy Hour \(Rosslyn BID\)](#)

Fri Dec 5 • Central Place Plaza, Rosslyn

Dog treats, photo ops with Santa, and twinkle-light cheer under the skyline.



### [Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade](#)

Sat Dec 6 • Old Town Alexandria • Free

Bagpipes, clans — and scores of Scotties and terriers in holiday plaid.



### [Festival of Lights and Carols](#)

Sat Dec 6 • Old Town Square, Fairfax, VA

Leashed, well-behaved dogs welcome for music, s'mores, hot cider, vendors, and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.



### [Alexandria Animal Academy – Winter Session](#)

Begins week of Sun Dec 7 • Through Jan 18

Small-group obedience & therapy-prep refreshers before the New Year.



### [Pup Nights @ Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights \(Vienna\)](#)

Tue–Wed Dec 9–10 & Mon–Tue Dec 29–30

Leashed dogs welcome on designated nights to stroll the illuminated garden trail. Nature-themed displays, food vendors, festive vibe. *Tickets purchased online.*



### [Read to the Dog @ Fairfax Libraries](#)

Sat Dec 13 • Multiple branches

Children build reading confidence with registered therapy teams.



### [Dog Adoption Fair – SPCA of Northern Virginia \(Fairfax\)](#)

Sat Dec 13 • 1–3 PM • Weber's Pet Supermarket

Meet adoptable dogs and learn more about SPCA NOVA's mission and programs.



### [FETCH a Cure – Pet Loss Support Group](#)

Mon Dec 15 • Woofie's Ashburn • 7–8 PM

A compassionate space for those mourning beloved pets (registration requested).



### [Lucky Dog Rescue Adoption Event @ Dogma Bakery](#)

Sat Dec 20 • Arlington • 12–2 PM

Meet adoptable dogs in the courtyard — holiday cookies & kisses included.



### [Santa's Wonderland @ Cabela's & Bass Pro Shops](#)

Ongoing • Through Tue Dec 24 • Gainesville, Henrico, Ashland, Hampton

Not exclusively dog-focused, but many locations allow leashed pets for Santa photos. *Check each store's pet policy.*



### [Kids & Family Festival @ Shipgarten \(McLean\)](#)

Ongoing • Through Sun Dec 28 • Pet-friendly venue

Weekend fun with live music, local vendors, and outdoor fires — dogs welcome on leash.



### [Bull Run Festival of Lights \(Centreville\)](#)

Now • Through Wed Dec 31

2.5-mile drive-through light show. Dogs welcome but must remain in the vehicle.



**Click for NoVA Events**

**Virginia  is for lovers.**

10 : 08 : 57 : 14  
DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS



## **New & Notable Reads**

*Service Dogs Take Over the Headlines – Here's Why Everyone's Talking About Them!*

Regional media is spotlighting therapy teams across NoVA, from FOX5 DC features to WTOP highlights. Add in Canine Companions' national expansion, holiday wellness tips, and new PTSD studies – and you've got a must-read roundup for dog lovers.



## Service Dogs in the Spotlight

*Watch the viral features that prove service dogs are changing lives across NOVA!*

[FOX5 DC feature | WTOP pet highlights](#)



## Canine Companions expands therapy-dog programs

*Discover how therapy dogs are taking over schools and hospitals nationwide — and why it matters now!*

[Read more](#)



## Holiday Cheer for You and Your Dog

*Holiday hacks every dog owner needs — keep tails wagging all season long!*

[The Zebra Press](#)



## Alexandria SMVF: November highlights

*Discover how Alexandria is revolutionizing veteran support — with dogs leading the way!*

[City of Alexandria](#)



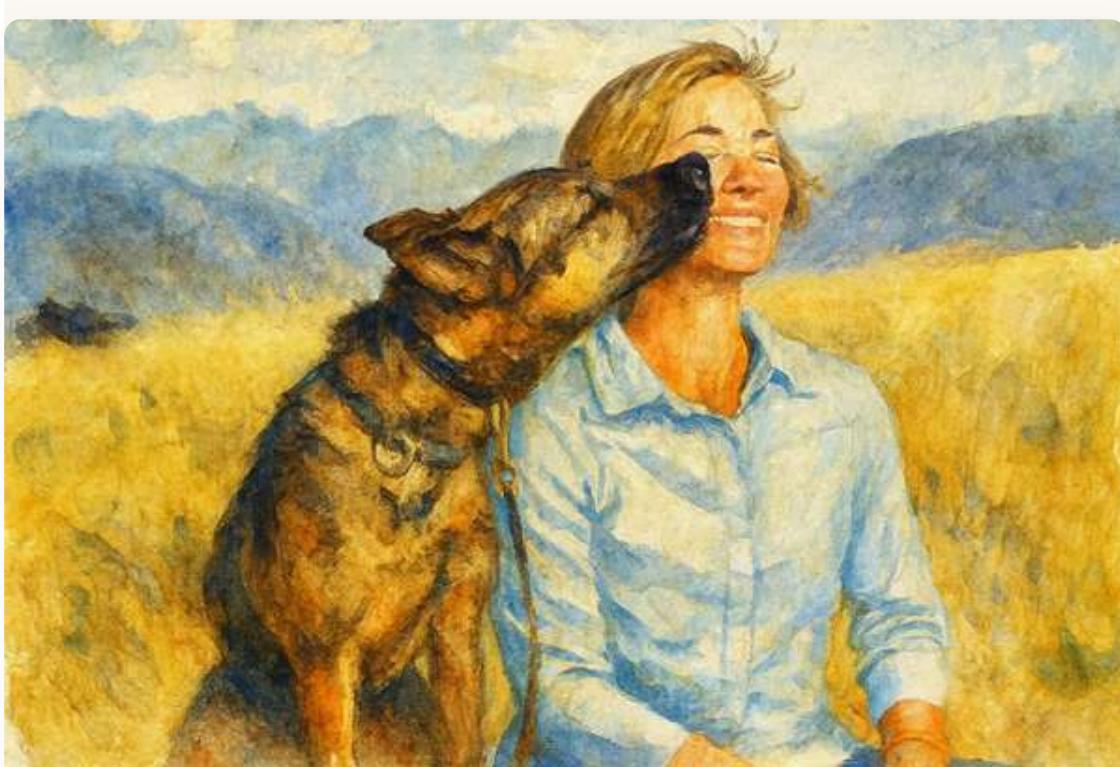
## Study Spotlight: Service dogs & PTSD

**SHOCKING RESULTS! Science PROVES Service Dogs are the #1 Defense Against Veteran PTSD Symptoms!**

*Forget what you thought you knew! The latest research is in, and the evidence is irrefutable: service dogs don't just help—they slash PTSD symptoms. See the data that will make you rethink mental health support and reveal the incredible difference a dog can make!*

[NAMI Northern Virginia](#)





*Featured in*

# BUSINESS INSIDER

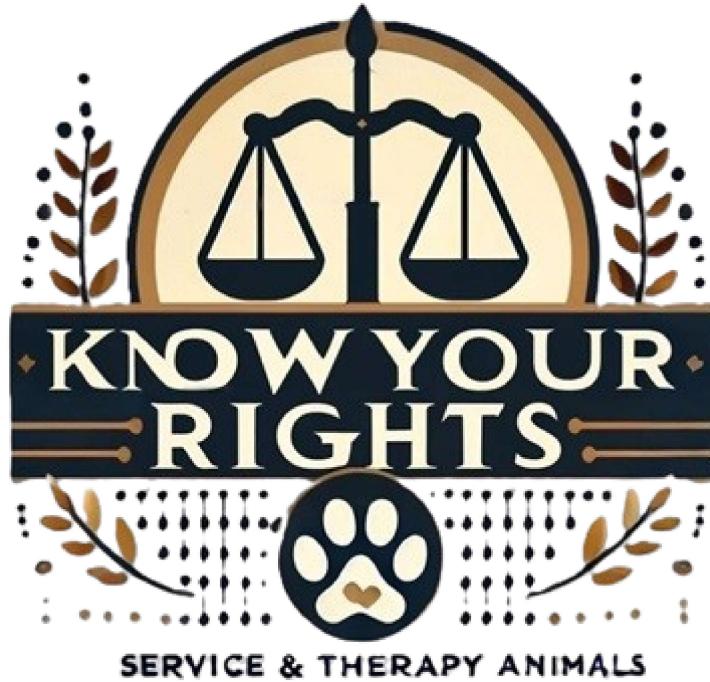
## From Fear to a \$175,000-Per-Dog Empire

She once avoided dogs. After becoming pregnant with twins, she chose to face that fear — learning behavior, training, and resilience. Today she breeds elite protection dogs valued at **\$175,000 each**, and has built a thriving, purpose-driven business that helps families and changes lives.

[Read the Story on Business Insider →](#)

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## Know Your Rights: Service vs. Therapy vs. ESA

*Think Your Pet Is a Service Animal? The Rules Might Shock You!*

ADA, HUD, DOT — the alphabet soup of animal policies can be confusing. This quick guide breaks down the differences between service animals, therapy dogs, and ESAs, so you know exactly what's allowed in housing, flights, and public spaces.

- *Confused about service animal laws? These official guides reveal the truth — don't get caught off guard,*



### **ADA National Network — Service Animal Hub**

Clear definitions, where service animals are permitted, and the two questions staff may ask.



### **U.S. DOJ — Service Animals (Overview)**

Federal ADA overview for public accommodations. Housing and air travel use different rules.



### **HUD — Assistance Animals in Housing**

Emotional Support Animals may be accommodated in housing under the Fair Housing Act —separate from ADA rules.



### **U.S. DOT — Service Animals on Flights**

Airline-specific forms and federal definitions for flying with a service animal (ESAs are not recognized for air travel).



## ESA Services (Commercial—verify policies):

CertaPet | Pettable | US Service Animals

**THE TRUTH IS OUT! Are ESAs Really Service Animals? What You NEED to Know to Avoid a Major Fine!**

Stop getting scammed! The laws around service animals are changing, and misuse is costing people thousands. We expose the truth about Emotional Support Animals vs. True Service Animals and give you the essential, up-to-date links to the official ADA guides. Don't get caught off guard!



## In Gratitude

***The Secret Ingredient Behind Every Wagging Tail: YOU!***

The Digest closes with heartfelt thanks to readers, volunteers, and therapy-dog teams. Your kindness keeps tails wagging and spirits bright across Northern Virginia.

Don't keep this joy to yourself — share the Digest and brighten someone's day.

## DaVinci Digest Archive November



***Missed last month's stories? Relive the highlights that had tails wagging across NoVA!***



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