



# Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs  
For Veterans*

## Scrapbook

2024

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# DECEMBER



# New Puppy Joins the Team

M E R R Y  
*Christmas*



*look what Santa brought!*



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# NOVEMBER



# At Vista Royale for Veteran's Day





# **Veteran's Day Breakfast at Maison Martinique**













# Veteran's Benefit Brunch at Creperie

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH**

**Dogs  
For Life**  
*Training Assistance Dogs  
For Veterans*

**VETERAN'S BENEFIT  
BRUNCH**

*at Creperie*



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**MEET  
VETERANS & THEIR  
SERVICE DOGS 8AM-1PM**

Raising money for Service Dogs for Veterans who live in Indian River and St Lucie Counties to assist their veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post Traumatic Stress (PTS).

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# OCTOBER



# Hurricane Milton Support Groups





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# SEPTEMBER



# Orchid Island Tree Service Helps Out





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# AUGUST



# ADI Conference



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Dogs For Life

## Keynote Speaker Sponsor



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## Bronze Sponsors



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# Celebrating International Assistance Dog Week



**Joan  
&  
Minnie**



**Assistance Dogs**  
INTERNATIONAL

**#LifeChangers**



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# JUNE



# Mary Snyder Memorial Golf Tournament





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**MAY**

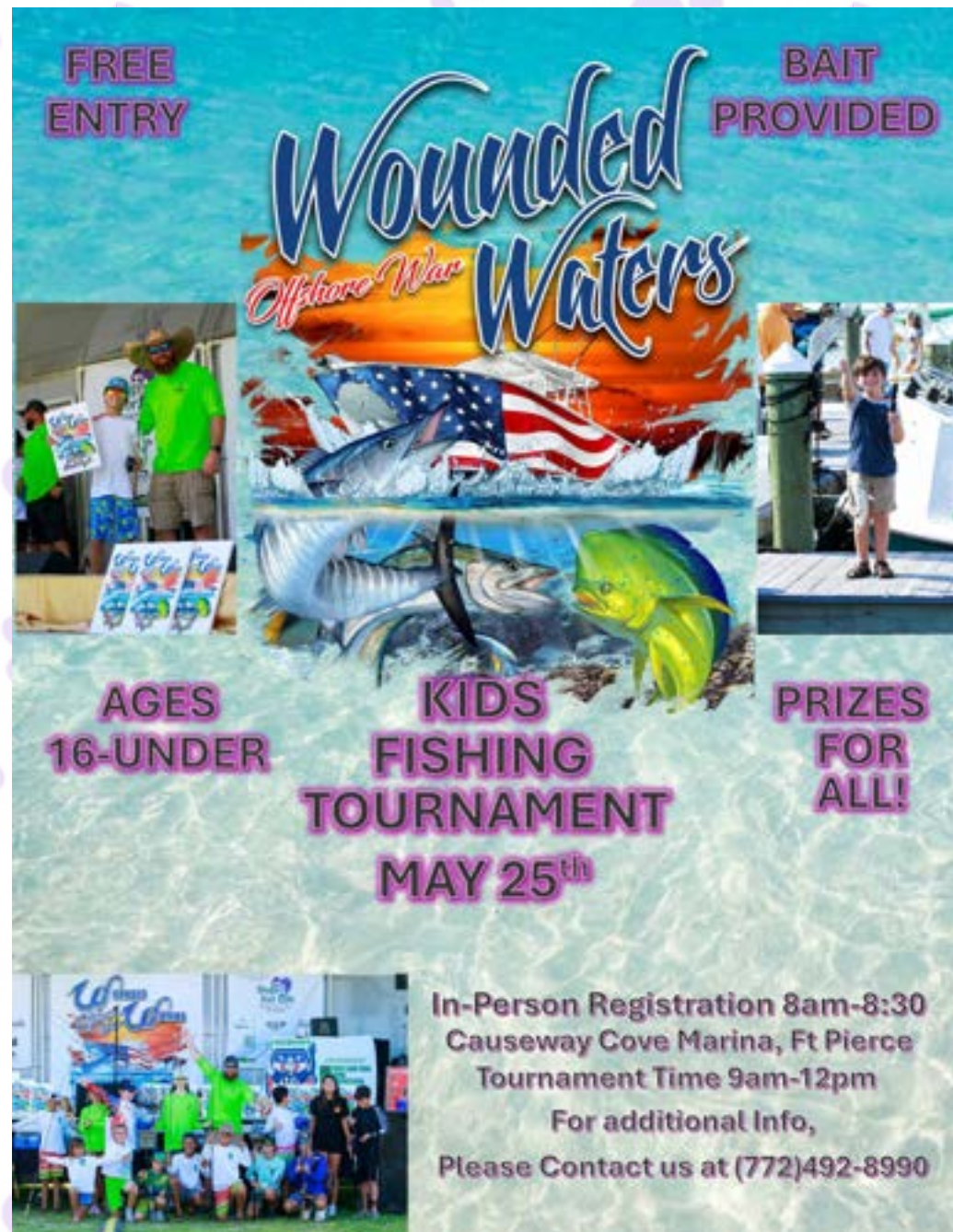


# USA Warrior Stories Sits Down with DFL Grad Sean





# DFL with Wounded Waters





# Treasure Coast Jeep Club Fundraiser









# DFL Award Ceremony & Graduation

















# USA Warrior Stories

## DFL Highlight





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# APRIL



# Treasure Coast Quilts for Veterans













# Patriots for Puppies in Vero News



30 Vero Beach 32963 / March 28, 2024

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly™

## PEOPLE

### Patriots for Puppies: Affectionate salute to vets' 'best friends'

BY SAMANTHA BOHLING BATA  
Staff Writer

The beautiful Pointe West clubhouse was radiant with red, white and blue, and the buzz of conversation and music filled the air, as the 100-plus attendees of the third annual Patriots for Puppies fundraiser – dogs and humans alike – mingled and mingled in support of Dogs for Life.

The Vero Beach-based nonprofit is dedicated to training and providing service dogs to assist with hearing, mobility and PTSD to veterans and individuals with disabilities in Indian River and St. Lucie counties. They also provide therapy dogs for first responders and school resource programs and offer veteran PTSD recovery and support groups, including one for female veterans and first responders.

Among the guests, as a heartwarming example of what DFL has accom-



Mike and Danielle Lay with Olla.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL A. KUBER

plished since its founding in 2008, were uniformed active and retired members of the military with their DFL-provided service dog partners, as well as others who have benefited from DFL service dog training, and volunteers escorting puppies still in various stages of training.

Lt. Col. Don Peterson (U.S. Army, Ret.), a volunteer puppy raiser with wife Meg, stood in the parking lot, patiently holding the leash of 3-month-old Dallas as he took a little potty break. The boisterous black Labrador retriever, a service dog in training, soon headed to the entrance to eagerly join his brother and classmate Austin, accompanied by Meg, and 10-week-old golden retriever Ranger, accompanied by Laurie Beebe. The three adorable puppies served as the event's official greeters.



Richard Keller and Gigi.

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32 Vero Beach 32963 / March 28, 2024

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly™

## PEOPLE



Brittney and Travis Richmond with Jonathan and Brooke Herd.



Tori and Stephen Hume.



John Michael and Carla Matthews.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30  
carried throughout, from the centerpiece flowers topped with American flags to the colors of Old Glory worn by

many of the guests for the occasion. Entertainment was provided by Touchdown DJ Productions, who kept flags to the colors of Old Glory worn by

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Miriam Repels, Laylene Collins, Bonnie Clark, Beth McDowell and Jason Palmer (far right).



Cheryl Marshall (holding Austin), Meg Peterson (holding Dallas) and Laurie Beebe (holding Ranger).



PEOPLE



Shelly Finger with Darlene and Art Short.



Annela Morgan, Kim Morgan, Delores Mori and Patti Carter.



Bene Lutz and Jay Lutz.

ighted to report that this year's fund-raiser was the most successful yet, bringing in \$830,000, principally through the generosity of the 42 sponsors. The success of the silent auction, said Fenger, was "the icing on the cake, with each and every one of the 177 items sold - from diamond stud earrings to a one-of-a-kind patriotic quilt." For more information, visit [DogsForLife.org](http://DogsForLife.org).



**ZUDANSEYE SURGERY**

ARE CARROTS GOOD FOR YOUR EYES? WELL, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A RABBIT WEARING GLASSES?

Dear Valued Patients,

While carrots are indeed packed with nutrients beneficial for eye health, there's more to maintaining clear vision than just munching on carrots. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food."

Did you know that what you eat can significantly impact the progression of eye diseases like age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, dry eye, and diabetic eye disease by reversing metabolic syndrome? It's true! The same diet that improves overall health, slows aging, and reverses chronic metabolic diseases is even more critical for your eye health and visual cognition.

So, what does the proper eye-healthy diet look like? It's a ketogenic diet, where 70% of your calories come from healthy fats and 25-30% from protein. Healthy fats and protein sources include all animal products including meat and dairy; eggs, butter, olive oil, avocado, coconut oil, and nuts. Carbohydrates should be limited, with most coming from complex sources like dark green leafy vegetables—think spinach, kale, collard greens, and turnip greens. Dark green leafy vegetables are rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, pigments that deposit in the macula and protect against oxidative damage. And say goodbye to simple carbs like bread, rice, pasta, cereal, and especially sugar!

But that's not all. Avoid toxic seed oils like canola, corn, and vegetable oil, as they can harm your eyes and overall health. Don't eat anything that comes in a bag or a box.

Remember, your eyesight is precious. Feed them right with the proper diet! It is always easier to prevent disease than treat it.

Warm regards,  
Val Zudans, M.D.

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Richard Keller and Linda Barber.



Maureen Turner, Dr. Nancy Kichner, and Dr. Daniel Hays.

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SHEILA CASE, AUD

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Kay Barthal and Bob Gibson.



Gabrielle Espino and Rhonda Martin.



Paulie Sparto and Nick Easterling.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32  
the music upbeat and danceable, and performances by the popular oldies trio The Dolls, who elicited more than a few tears with their heartfelt rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Shelly Fenger, Dogs for Life founder, CEO and director of training, was de-

PEOPLE



Bill Dugley, Chris Cardenas, Bob Morris, and Linda Barber, with Mary Beth and John McGee.



# CLEARANCE

ON ALL IN STOCK  
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Cory and Victoria Kerkela.

PEOPLE


Other pooches and their humans in attendance included: U.S. Marine veteran Richie Keller with golden retriever Gigi; Maureen Turner with mini-poo brothers Angus and Grady; U.S. Navy veteran Jim Hyde with Labrador retriever Oti; Daniel Lay with retriever;

corgi mix Ollie; Dr. Nancy Kichner with Labrador retriever Stryker; Phil Tettilson with Labrador retriever Sully; and first responder Tim Barnes with Lab mix Gypsy. The red, white and blue theme was


CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Shelly Eric Flowers and Carole Jean Jordan.



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# MARCH



# Ingrid & Chance

## Vero Beach Magazine







PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Actually, she says, the stress of going out in a convoy to provide humanitarian aid five to six days a week for almost 18 months—and never knowing if she would return—also contributed to her condition.

**"He's like having a weighted blanket. It's the best feeling."**

—INGRID HERNANDEZ

Ingrid and Victor Hernandez and their children, Isabella, Sebastian, and Marcelo, enjoy down time in the backyard when Chance isn't needed in his capacity as a service dog.



constantly to secure a Chance Dogs for Life has trained veterans for Life. It explains its Florida Internat



thinking to make sure the house and her family is not in danger.

Chance came to Hernandez through the Vero Beach nonprofit that she and provided service dogs to veterans at no charge, since 2015. Dogs for Life and CEO Shelly Ferger say it is one of five organizations worldwide by Assistance Dogs

member of ADL, Dogs for Life obtains two to three dogs a year from a breeding co-op for service dog bloodlines.

"We provide foster care and train the puppies until they are about a year old and then offer the dogs to vets or other individuals with PTSD or hearing or mobility disabilities," she says. "After we place the service dog, we train the dog and owner together for six months to a year

on specific tasks." The cost to Dogs for Life is approximately \$35,000 for the lifespan of the service dog. This includes training, certification, veterinary care, and insurance.

In addition, Dogs for Life offers an off-leash dog park on its 4½-acre location at 1230 16th Ave., which includes a 2,400-square-foot service dog training center. Donations, grants, and fundraisers support the organization. Patriots for



Dogs for Life founder and CEO Shelly Ferger introduces Ranger, a service puppy in training.

Puppies, a military-themed event, is its major fundraiser. This year, it was held February 10 at Pointe West.

Chance and Ingrid were matched in January 2023. "Because of his personality, he is the perfect dog for her," Ferger says. "And when I learned of her sleep issue, I told her she would never open another night in fear that someone was going to break into her house, because his instinct is to bark—and loudly—at a strange sound." Hernandez agrees: "Now I sleep like a baby."

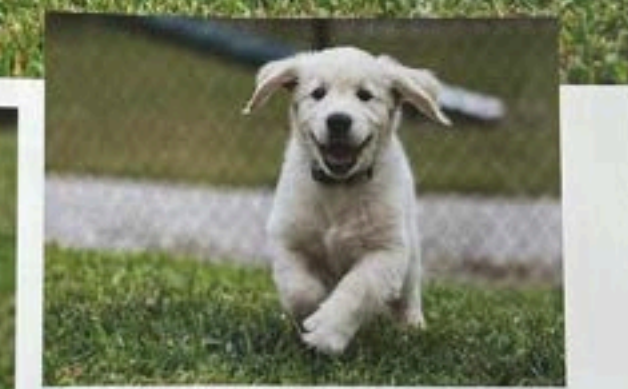
She adds, "I feel protected when he is with me. When I take him out in public and people get too close, he stays right there next to me. He is trained to watch for people coming up behind her, which, according to Ferger, is a common concern for PTSD sufferers.

Chance is in tune with his owner's emotions and knows when she is in a stressful situation. "He presses against me, like a hug, or nudges me. And if I come home after a bad day, he will lie on the couch with me, and he's like having a weighted blanket. It's the best feeling."

A service dog is trained to focus on its owner and is not meant to be a pet. Hernandez says her family have worked this out. "It's been amazing," she says of her 10- and 11-year-olds. "They know Chance is a service dog. When I'm home, Chance will sit with me. If I need him. But when I release him, he can go and play with the children."



Hernandez still participates in group training with Chance at the 2,400-square-foot service dog training center at Dogs for Life.



and veteran is grateful for all the ways who brought Chance into his life. The way who brought Chance into his life, the people who foster the dog, train him alone, and train the owner together. So much time and very deep."

"I encouraged veterans with PTSD to get a service dog. I never realized I needed him until I got him. We are able to deal with PTSD, and Chance is a blessing." •

Above: Ranger and Austin are two of three puppies that Dogs for Life has currently in foster care with volunteers, training to be service dogs for veterans. Right: Chance is trained to pay attention to Hernandez's moods at home and in public.





VILLAGE SHOPS



SAT 10 TO 5



11

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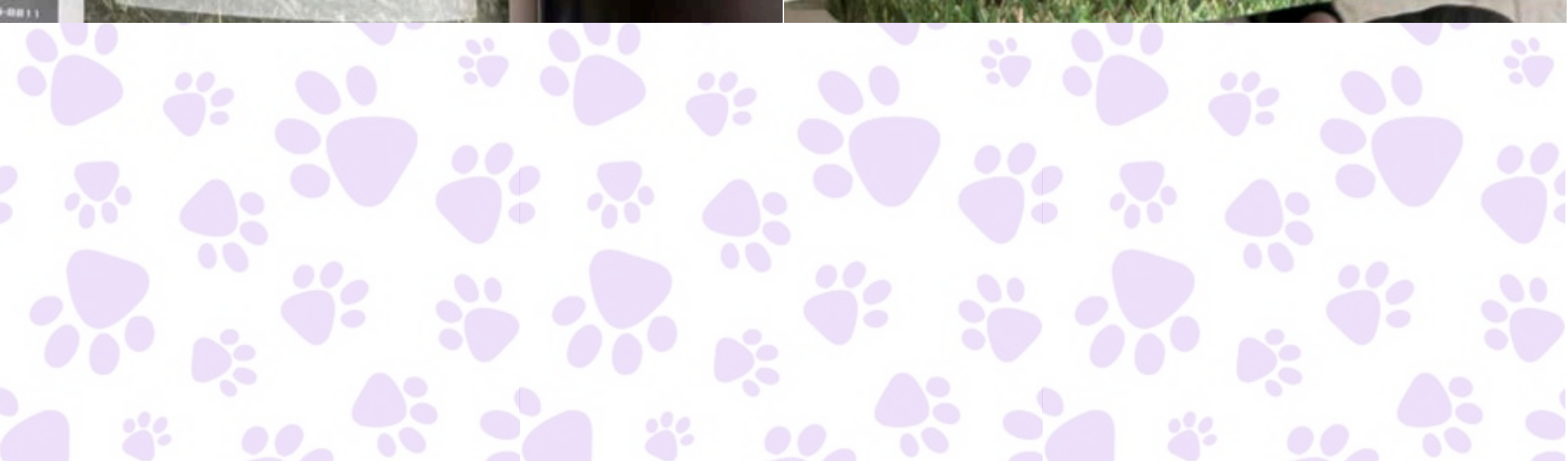


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"I feel protected when he is with me."

INGRID BERNANDEZ

"Chance of a Lifetime" p. 108





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# FEBRUARY



# DFL Visits VBPD With Gifts From Luaa and Her Mom





# 3rd Annual Patriots For Puppies



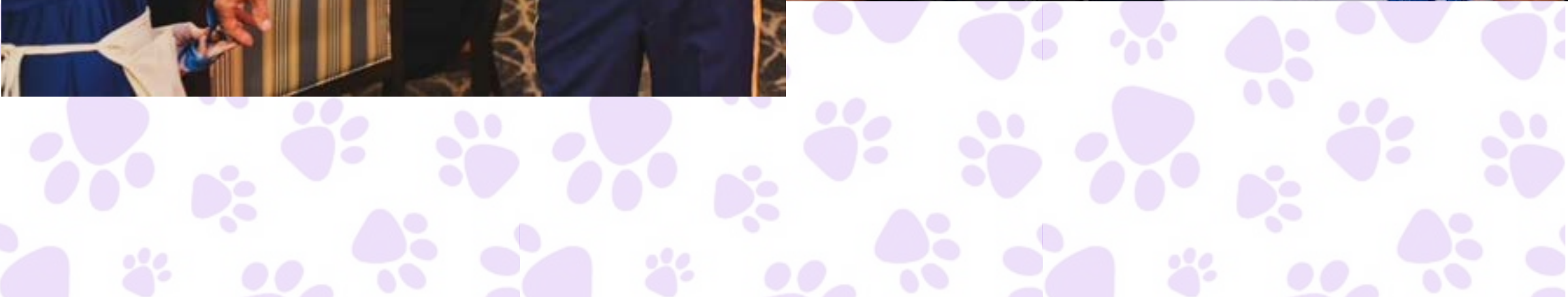












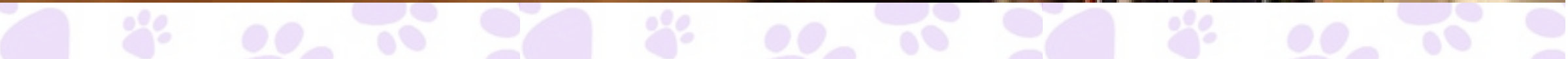














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# JANUARY



# Meet Dallas, Ranger, and Austin





# New Puppies Growing Fast









# Dyer Subaru Generous Support





# New Pups Headed to Foster Families





# New Pups Coming Soon





