

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet...Recruiting, Interviewing & Monitoring Foster Home Care

According to Marge Janiak, Tennessee Volunteer Director for Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet, they are a nonprofit public charity corporation, based in Arkansas, organized to support our military service members, veterans, their beloved pets and to promote patriotism.

The need arose after an article appeared in the Sentinel Record about a January 2005 deployment in Georgia, where 19,000 soldiers were deployed to fight the war on terror and many had to leave their pets behind, with no one to care for them. The local animal control officers picked up 321 abandoned animals, 119 had to be euthanized because homes could not be found to take the pets in.

GASP was founded to help our military by finding temporary homes for their pets while they are deployed. It's one less thing they'll have to worry about, while dealing with the heart-breaking relinquishment of their ownership by either turning the beloved pet over to a local animal shelter or a humane society (which are already overflowing), or being deployed so fast, they are forced to leave it behind with no one to care for them.

Because of the dedicated efforts of GASP, their beloved pet will be waiting to welcome them home, after their safe return.

Initially Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet established their program/service within the state of Arkansas. Since the majority of those deployed Arkansas military service members were in the process of



Cpl. W. A. White & his dog, Shelby, from Jacksonville, NC. Cpl. White was deployed, so G.A.S.P. found a foster home caregiver to care for his pet while he was gone. He has since returned & been reunited with Shelby.

returning to U.S. soil and based on the requests coming in from military service members, it was determined that they needed to expand the availability of this program/service to other states. One major objective was to form "affiliated" chapters in other states. Tennessee is fortunate to have its own local chapter headed up by Marge Janiak.

Ms. Janiak suggests how we can help. Open your home to a military service member's pet as a Guardian Angels Soldier's Pet "Foster Home Caregiver". There are other opportunities to help too. You can become a Foster Home Coordinator/Interviewer, Volunteer, Sponsor or you can make a donation (Via check, money order or PayPal at their

website. Information on all these options is also available at www.guardianangelsforsoldier-spet.org. All donations are fully tax deductible.

This is such a worthy mission and it's only one small step, but it's an excellent way to help repay our Military who serve our country well. Just imagine the gratitude in the returning soldier's heart when they reunite with their little furry friend. It could make all the difference in the world to the both of them...and you.