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Service Dog Training Program for Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress in Service Members

2/17/2020

Critique Article 2

This article dives into the instigation and progression of service dog programs offered for Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Yount et al. 2012). Since the Iraq and Iran war, roughly 40% of returning soldiers experience some form of PTSD. Rick Yount, Co-author of the article “Service Dog Training Program for Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress in Service Members” was a former military member and decided to form a service dog foundation that focuses on the research and training of service dogs and their effectiveness as a non-pharmacological treatment method for PTSD (Yount et al. 2012). The success of treatment service dogs have had on PTSD have increased demand for trained service dogs at military treatment centers across the United States. In fact, in 2010 Ricks Warrior dog training program was number 2 on the priority list for veteran funding programs (Yount et al. 2012). Clinical trials of the service dog required students to journal their activities of daily livings. Candidates reported having better sleep, they feel more capable of showing affection, they had a better control of impulses and emotions. Overall, the treatment of service dogs as a non-pharmacological method has been proven to be effective amongst Veterans with PTSD. This Journal proves to show that going forward, knowing the treatment is effective, proper training and breeding programs need to be broadened and funded so that more Veterans have affordable access to animals they could need.

Works Cited

Yount, R. A., M. D., & Lee, M. R. (2012). Service Dog Training Program for Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress in Service Members. *U.S. Army Medical Department Journal*, 63-69.