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HEROIC ROCKWALL WOMAN AND HER DOG FEATURED IN BEST-SELLING NEW BOOK

In Dogs and the Women Who Love Them, a book that was recommended in O Magazine and that Betty White endorsed, Rockwall Texas's Lori Stevens shares the story of how, with the help of her rescued black Lab Beau, she started a charity that trains dogs to assist returning disabled veterans.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 29, 2010—Lori Stevens, a Rockwall contributor to the anthology Dogs and the Women Who Love Them: Extraordinary True Stories of Loyalty, Healing, and Inspiration by Allen and Linda Anderson, has shared the story of how she and her dog Beau founded an organization that made local and national news reports. Beau, a black Lab who Stevens rescued from the streets of Fort Worth, had a remarkable ability to attract donors and demonstrate service commands. The dog's intelligence and compassion enabled Stevens to found and increase support for Patriot PAWS, a charity that trains dogs to assist disabled veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other people with mobility issues. The book has a foreword by #1 New York Times best-selling author Rory Freedman and is published by New World Library. It has been listed as a Top 100 dog book on the Amazon.com website for the month since it's November 1, 2010 release. www.dogsandthewomenwholovethem.com

When the nurturing nature of females meets the loyalty and affection of dogs, it's a match made in heaven, according to Allen and Linda Anderson. That's why the authors were delighted when Lori Stevens agreed to tell her story of the dog who made her life's work possible. Allen Anderson says, "Patriot PAWS and Beau were featured on NBC's Dallas-Fort Worth TV, NBC Nightly News, David Letterman, and Animal Planet, but this is the first time Lori has been able to personally tell Beau's full story in print. Beau went from being a frightened rescued dog to a shining star who worked with female offenders at the Gatesville prison and became a mentor for both the aspiring service dogs and their inmate trainers."

Stevens says, "Beau learned to recognize over two hundred words. I tell everybody that he would make the worst dog trainer look great. The education and love he gave me were wonderful. He was always reliable, performing on cue to demonstrate the tasks we train service dogs to do. Patriot PAWS wouldn't be where it is without him." In addition to Beau's story, in her essay for Dogs and the Women Who Love Them, Stevens also wrote about another black Lab named Archie who was named by the ASPCA in February 2009 as Dog of the Year.

O Magazine recommended Dogs and the Women Who Love Them, and it's on the Oprah.com website. Betty White, Wendie Malick, Vanessa Williams, and American Humane Association, among others endorsed the book. In this collection of true stories from women around the country, dogs serve as companions, listeners, canine children, creatures to rescue, and protectors

Additional Highlights of the Book

- Miguel, a Newfoundland-Labrador mix introduced an impoverished child to Rosanne Nordstrom, a resourceful woman who became like a mother to him; their new family became Chicago's version of the popular movie The Blind Side -- plus a dog.
- Major, an abused and neglected German shepherd, saved the life of national-award winning police dog trainer Janet Ballard while serving as her K-9 partner.
- Dagnabit, a rescued pit bull, was tortured while being trained for dogfights; his plight inspired Kim Dudek to found Dag's House in New Orleans to rehabilitate and shelter special needs dogs.
- Frankie, a dachshund in a doggie wheelchair, inspired Barbara Techel to write award-winning children's books; she designed a school campaign with Frankie to help children appreciate differences in each other.

Rory Freedman says, "This book will open your heart, warm your soul, and make you proud to be a dog-loving woman."

About Lori Stevens

Lori Stevens is a certified pet dog trainer with twenty years of experience. She holds a provisional membership in Assistance Dogs International. Lori has been employed by and has volunteered for several dog-training organizations, including Lone Star Assistance Dog Service and Texas Hearing and Service Dogs. In August 2009 the American Legion Auxiliary presented Lori with its Woman of the Year award. Lori founded the nonprofit Patriot PAWS organization in February 2006 and continues as its president. Patriot PAWS trains service dogs to perform various behaviors, including supporting patients with post-traumatic stress disorder. The organization's primary goal is to increase the self-sufficiency of people with disabilities. Patriot PAWS has a continuing commitment to match disabled veterans with dogs and to assist the vets and dogs in learning to work together as teams. www.patriotpaws.org

About Allen and Linda Anderson and the Angel Animals Network

In 1996, Allen and Linda Anderson founded the Angel Animals Network to use the power of stories to increase love and respect for all life. They have written a popular, award-winning series of thirteen animal books and have sold over a quarter-million books. In 2007 they won the American Society of Journalists & Authors Outstanding Book Award for *Rescued: Saving Animals from Disaster*. Their work has been featured in national wire service articles, *NPR*, *ABC Nightly News*, *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, *Animal Planet*, the *Montel Williams Show*, the *Today Show*, and BBC radio. They donate a portion of proceeds from their books to animal welfare organizations. Allen and Linda live in Minneapolis in controlled chaos with a rescued dog, 2 rescued cats, and a cockatiel who says, "I love you, sweet baby."



Lori Stevens and Beau



For high-resolution photos, contact Allen or Linda Anderson at angelanimals@aol.com.

**Dogs and the Women Who Love Them:
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