

## Petition to the Government of Canada

### Incorporating Service Animals into Veterans Affairs Canada Programs

#### Whereas:

- For over 15 years, Veterans have been asking for service animals to be fully incorporated into Veterans Affairs Canada's mental health and other rehabilitation programs;
- In some cases, removing barriers such as accessing or paying for Animal-Assisted Human Services is a matter of life and death;
- The published National Standard of Canada, CAN/HRSO – 500.01 – 2022 "Development of a Management System for Animal-Assisted Human Services", is voluntary and needs to be enshrined in legislation to become mandatory;
- Once this National Standard of Canada becomes mandatory a third-party assessment could confirm whether an Animal-Assisted Human Services Provider meets the Standard and is eligible to apply for Veterans Affairs Canada funding to serve veterans and their families; and
- The development and implementation of a framework to enhance Veterans Affairs Canada's provision of Animal-Assisted Services to veterans and their families would promote collaboration and harmonization with the provinces and territories, facilitate awareness, and improve access to Animal-Assisted Human Services across Canada.

We, the undersigned, **citizens or residents of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Veterans Affairs** to introduce legislation developing and implementing a framework to enhance Veterans Affairs Canada's provision of Animal-Assisted Services to veterans and their families.

<b>Signature</b> ( <u>Sign</u> your own name. Do not print.)	<b>Address</b> (Just city and province, OR postal code)

We, the undersigned, **citizens or residents of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Veterans Affairs** to introduce legislation developing and implementing a framework to enhance Veterans Affairs Canada's provision of Animal-Assisted Services to veterans and their families.

[illegible]

We, the undersigned, **citizens or residents of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Veterans Affairs** to introduce legislation developing and implementing a framework to enhance Veterans Affairs Canada's provision of Animal-Assisted Services to veterans and their families.

[illegible]

We, the undersigned, **citizens or residents of Canada**, call upon the **Minister of Veterans Affairs** to introduce legislation developing and implementing a framework to enhance Veterans Affairs Canada's provision of Animal-Assisted Services to veterans and their families.

[illegible]

## **Guidelines**

1. Must have at least 25 original signatures with valid addresses (we recommend 30+ to be safe);
2. Must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it;
3. Must have at least 3 valid signatures and addresses on the first page after the full text of the petition (again, more is better if they can be fit);
4. Must include the prayer line (the request) of the petition on each subsequent page;
5. The text must not be altered or have any text added on any of the pages;
6. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition;
7. Should contain signatures of residents of Canada only;
8. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition;
9. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself;
10. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy; and,
11. Petitions can be either double-sided or have a blank back page.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6