



About K9 c.a.r.e.s.:

K9 c.a.r.e.s. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Westminster, Colorado providing therapy dog services to individuals in the Denver Metro and outlying areas through client organizations such as police departments, courts, libraries, hospitals, family shelters and child advocacy organizations. K9 c.a.r.e.s. has a specific focus on the 17th Judicial District because of its geographical location (Westminster, CO). K9 c.a.r.e.s. actively engages with local government organizations, nonprofit organizations and civic organizations within the Denver Metro area. Fees are not charged to individuals or organizations for direct services provided.

The mission of K9 c.a.r.e.s. is to develop and operate therapy dog programs utilizing registered therapy dogs and their qualified volunteer handlers to provide therapy dog visits to people in a variety of venues. The services provided and populations served range from providing comfort and support to victims, witnesses and family members as they go through law enforcement agencies, child advocacy centers and criminal justice processes to other venues such as safe houses, acute care facilities and literacy programs.

K9 c.a.r.e.s. has specific expertise developing programs supporting crime victims, their families and witnesses for law enforcement agencies and courts. This expertise has been the focus of several recent articles in local newspapers, national magazines and in a book (Animals and the Kids Who Love Them: Extraordinary True Stories of Hope, Healing, and Compassion) which was released in November 2011. K9 c.a.r.e.s. was also featured in a 2 1/2 page article and cover photograph in the October/November 2011 issue of Mile High Dog magazine, "Local Hero: Dog Magic... Believe It!." The latest article, "Offering a Paw to Ease the Pain", was published in the Northglenn Sentinel on July 12, and featured a closing quote from Krista Flannigan; "If you have ever seen them work with the victims, the work has just been phenomenal," said Krista Flannigan, an Adams County District Attorney's Office spokeswoman. "It has just been very beneficial for victims, and they seem to be very appreciative of the services as well."

On the morning of Friday July, 20 K9 c.a.r.e.s. was pressed into service supporting the families of the theater shooting victims at University of Colorado Hospital with 2 therapy dog teams. These 2 teams are qualified victim advocates who are also part of the Dr. Dog program at University of Colorado Hospital. Many people were positively impacted as result of bringing in therapy dog teams to serve the families who were in the midst of severe emotional trauma.

Therapy animals promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional and cognitive functioning. Therapeutic benefits include increased motivation, empathetic support, improved focus, improved rapport and emotional safety, nurturing and uncomplicated acceptance, mental stimulation, psychological benefits (even lower blood pressure), non-threatening physical contact/touch, overall positive distraction from stressful situations and for some people a spiritual connection.

The K9 c.a.r.e.s. program continues to receive high praise from the 17th Judicial District, District Attorney, Women in Crisis Domestic Violence Safe House and the Westminster Police Department staff. The Executive Director of K9 c.a.r.e.s., Carolyn Corbett, received the 2012 Marjory Ball Mental Health Advocacy Award in April 2012 for her work as a major advocate for individuals living with mental health challenges.