

Clarissa Black Video

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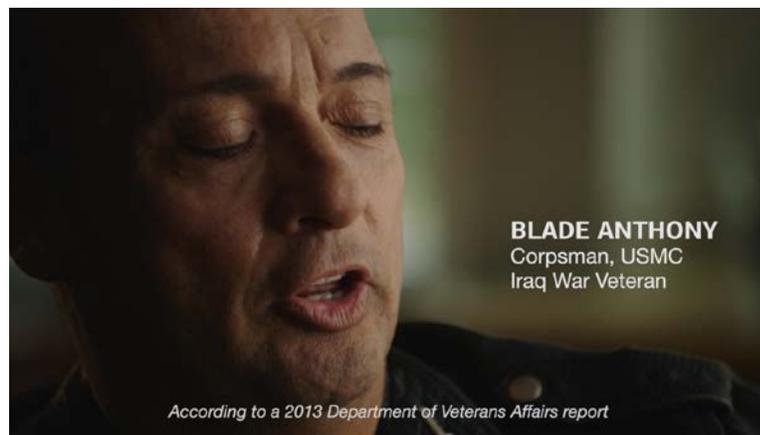
GRAPHIC TITLE: (white type over black background)

**Sometimes, one person with a vision
Can help the lives of many**

Lower third:

Blade Anthony
Corpsman, USMC Iraq War
Veteran

Graphic subtitle appearing in lower portion of the frame:
According to a 2013 Department of Veterans Affairs report



BLADE ANTHONY:

There's 22 people who are gonna die today. Twenty-two of my brothers and sisters that are gonna take their own life because they can't deal with stuff. And I was almost one of those. Had it not been for Clarissa and her organization and my dog, DeDe.

CLARISSA BLACK:

Every year approximately four million animals are being euthanized in shelters across the country.

2nd Graphic subtitle:

According to SPCA statistics

Lower Third:

Clarissa Black
Founder, Pets for Vets
And Merrill Lynch Client



CLARISSA BLACK:

And so that inspired me to think, why can't I find the right shelter dog to help these veterans with what it is that they're going through.



MATT DUPUIS:

Watching Clarissa Black start this organization from scratch and seeing the immediate impact she's had on individual's lives is contagious. And there's no doubt in my mind that we're going to look back in a very short amount of time and Pets for Vets will be a household name.

CLARISSA BLACK:

Pets for Vets is a nonprofit organization that matches shelter dogs to returning veterans to help them with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, depression.



CLARISSA BLACK:

We actually really get to know our veterans. What it is that they're looking for, what they need. Then we go out and we find a dog that's gonna fit seamlessly into their life.



And on top of that we actually provide each of the dog's training to help them fit with that particular veterans' PTSD.



BLADE ANTHONY:

When I used to get really mad (De De) would come up to me and then it would make me less mad. I would calm down. When I would cry or be afraid she would be there to make me not cry any more. Feel better.

CLARISSA BLACK:

Working with Blade I discovered that he really had not had a good night's sleep in, since he had returned home.

So we trained DeDe to actually recognize wrestling and moaning of a nightmare in order to wake Blade up at night and because of that it actually started to reduce the number of nightmares that he had and he was able to get a good night's sleep.



ADAM RENTERIA
Sergeant, US ARMY
Iraq War Veteran



ADAM RENTERIA:

Before I'd gotten Rakkasan I wanted a much bigger dog I come from that type of, that warrior mentality. I wanted a warrior-type dog.

CLARISSA BLACK:

And that feeling of having this very large dog, I didn't think was going to help him in what he told us he was looking for.

ADAM RENTERIA:

I was looking for a void to be filled rather than a process to be healed. And so Clarissa through the assessment, through her evaluation, understood this.

B-roll – Adam and Clarissa at the fountain – *“I’m in sync with him as much as he’s in sync with me.”*

Adam, Clarissa and Rakkasan walking together

CLARISSA BLACK:

After the, the match our veterans actually become part of our Pets for Vets family. And I think that’s really important also// for healing with PTSD is feeling you’re part of a community.



CLARISSA BLACK:

It’s just incredible the community that we have built not only as a Pets for Vets family but all the volunteers giving their time because they believe in Pets for Vets but they also want to help veterans and help rescue animals.



FA, MATT DUPUIS:

Clarissa and Pets for Vets have chapters in 19 states and I don’t think she’s going to stop until she has all 50 states.

I surely hope that most people have the opportunity to do something like this in life and to look back and say you did something bigger than yourself and you made a difference

BLADE ANTHONY:

When Pets for Vets rescued De De, she was pretty bad off. She had scars on her face like I do. So, she probably has PTSD like I do.

BLADE ANTHONY:

And now, we're together... healing both together.

Graphic: **For more information about Pets for Vets and how you can pursue your own goals visit ml.com**

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