



## The MiliDog Fund Programme

*“This is hand down the coolest job in the military. We have a bond with these dogs that are as attached to us as we are to them. I have gone to war with this dog and I would do it again in a heartbeat. I will go to the end of the world and back again for this dog, and I know he would do the same. He knows how I feel about him, and he shows me as well. It's more than just a working relationship. And we do have those times when he knows it's okay for him to be a dog.” –*

*Air Force Staff Sgt. Joel Townsend, describing his relationship with A-Taq, a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois.*



Like cancer care for people, cancer diagnosis and treatment for pets has made remarkable advancement through the years. As with any life-saving treatment, this level of advanced care has its costs. When a person faces cancer, there are numerous costs associated with care and treatment. Yet in veterinary medicine, less than 5% of our pets have health insurance. Until that percentage changes, a majority of these costs are carried by the pet owner.

The MiliDog Fund is being created to fill an existing to provide financial assistance for retired military working dogs. These elite warriors are expected to work in the most austere of environments and face conditions that most human beings cannot survive. The K-9 units are vital in ensuring the success of every mission and operate in all conditions. Our mission is to ensure that every single elite warrior has a chance in the fight against cancer.

In 2015, fundraising will begin for the creation of The MiliDog Inn. This will be a facility providing temporary lodging for families and their pets receiving cancer treatment in the Washington, DC area. The MiliDog Inn is a pilot project.



## Program Benefits

- Financial Assistance for Retired Working Military Dogs (cancer care)
- Consult (online) with Guillermo Couto, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)  
The purpose of this consultation is to prepare you for your visit with the veterinary oncologist in your area.
- Through the Tag Along Program, you may choose to have one of our volunteers accompany for your first visit with a local veterinary oncologist. If you choose to have your primary veterinarian treat your dog, Dr. Couto can work closely with him to ensure your dog receives the very best treatment.
- You will receive one online pamphlet: Canine Cancer (nutrition) and an online book: Help Your Dog Fight Cancer. We anticipate being able to provide a phone consultation with Monica Segal, the author of the canine cancer pamphlet.
- 24/7 Hour Hotline Support and an individualized packet of information.

### Biography:

Dr. Couto, former professor of Internal Medicine and Oncology at The Ohio State University, is an internationally recognized expert in the fields of veterinary oncology, hematology, and Greyhound medicine. Guillermo received his DVM from Buenos Aires University in Argentina then completed a veterinary oncology residency at the University of California at Davis. Guillermo is a double board certified specialist in Veterinary Internal Medicine and Oncology but is probably best recognized for his accomplished 30 year teaching career at Ohio State and his reputation as a pioneer and expert in Greyhound and Sighthound Medicine. Dr. Couto was the director of the Greyhound Health and Wellness Center, the Transfusion Medicine Service and Blood Bank at Ohio State before his retirement.