



FARMERS  
BRANCH

# Animal Adoption Center: Veteran Volunteers

---

Steven A. Cohen Foundation

# Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- PTSD is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat.
- People suffering from PTSD suffer long term from upsetting memories, feeling on edge, and/or have trouble sleeping. The world feels unsafe.
- For many Veterans, memories of wartime experiences can be upsetting years after serving in combat.
- \* Information from the Veterans Administration

# Animal Shelter – Veteran Volunteer

- Approached by Dallas County; desired to facilitate a partnership between the Farmers Branch Animal Adoption Center and the Steven A. Cohen Foundation at Metrocare
- Steven A. Cohen Foundation selects the veterans that qualify for the program:
  - Non suicidal risk
  - Not under indictment
  - Have no history of drugs or dependence
- The City has the right to follow any internal protocol to ensure the applicant is acceptable
- The City establishes the rules and regulations for the veterans volunteering at the shelter

# City Review of Program and Next Steps

- Animal Services staff contacted neighboring shelters to inquire if they were or have participated in the program.
- None of the shelters contacted are using this veteran program.
- Staff has developed levels of volunteer duties (applicable to any volunteer)
- Met with Dallas County regarding the program
- Next step: Implement the program by the end of May
- If there are significant or persistent issues, the City can terminate the program.
- We look forward to a successful partnership with the Steven A. Cohen Foudation!



**Questions?**