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Media Contacts:

**Cathy Zemaitis**

NEADS

Cell: 978-257-0567

Office: 978-422-9064 x 36

Email: [czemaitis@neads.org](mailto:czemaitis@neads.org)

Bob Schwartz

Boston Duck Tours

OfficePhone: 617-267-6327

Email: [Bob@BostonDuckTours.com](mailto:Bob@BostonDuckTours.com)

## **NEADS Service Dogs & Handlers on Tour!**

Service dogs for veterans & survivors get a ride aboard Boston's most popular tour.

**Boston, MA** (September 25, 2016) - NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans will be treating their handlers and service dogs on a complimentary tour of Boston compliments of Boston Duck Tours. This special tour will depart on Sunday, September 25 at 1:00 PM from the Museum of Science.

NEADS has worked with Boston Duck Tours (BDT) since 2012 when Boston Duck Tours CEO, Cindy Brown, approached NEADS with the idea that BDT would support their Service Dogs for Veterans Program through the sale of rubber ducks in camouflage. Since that time, BDT has donated over \$11,000 in financial support through donations, silent auction prizes and various BDT employee raffles.

After the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, Boston Duck Tours was a lead donor to the NEADS Pawsitively Strong Fund and held a companywide contest to actually name that fund. This fund was founded to bring NEADS Service Dogs to qualified bombing survivors, who sustained a permanent physical disability as a result of the bombing, and could benefit by the assistance of a Service Dog.

In 2018, the Pawsitively Strong Fund will open to qualified victims of violent crime from Massachusetts who have suffered permanent physical disabilities as a result of that crime.

NEADS CEO Gerry DeRoche stated that "Boston Duck Tours is continuing its tradition of support for our organization. Our Partnership with BDT is integral to the success of our Service Dogs for Veterans Program and we couldn't be more thankful."

Boston Duck Tours has also had the pleasure of naming one of the NEADS Service Dogs in Training, *Kilroy*, who is housed and trained by an Inmate Handler at JJ Moran Medium 1 in Rhode Island. This tour will give BDT staff the opportunity to meet Kilroy for the first time!

This appreciation event will allow NEADS volunteers and Service Dogs in Training to experience Boston's most popular tour while also allowing the dogs to become accustomed to being in social settings involving large crowds.

NEADS would love for media to come and cover this great event. The organization assists our military and survivors alike and would love to teach the public more about their local efforts to supply those in needs with a best friend to help them work through their daily struggles due to PTSD or due to permanent physical disability.

NEADS is a Princeton, MA based organization that raises, trains and matches Service Dogs nationally. NEADS welcomes support from donors, corporate sponsors and volunteers alike. Visit [www.neads.org](http://www.neads.org) for more information.

**Where: Museum of Science**

**When: September 25, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. (Media opportunities are welcome beginning at 12:30 P.M.)**

**Contact Cathy Zemaitis: 978-257-0567**

**Why: To thank all of the wonderful NEADS volunteers and Service Dogs in Training.**

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