



SAVING TWO LIVES; A VETERAN & A SHELTER DOG

Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors provides highly-trained Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma. With the majority of dogs coming from high-kill rescue shelters, this innovative program allows the K9/Warrior team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery.





Joe + Eagle

THE "HEELING" POWER OF SERVICE DOGS





Jessica + Scout



CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 2022



REPORT



Complete Mitochondrial Genomes of Ancient Canids Suggest a European Origin of Domestic Dogs

O. THALMANN, B. SHAPIRO, P. CUI, V. J. SCHUENEMANN, S. K. SAWYER, D. L. GREENFIELD, M. B. GERMONPRÉ, M. V. SABLIN, F. LÓPEZ-GIRÁLDEZ, [...] AND R. K. WAYNE

+21 authors [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 15 Nov 2013 • Vol 342, Issue 6160 • pp. 871-874 • DOI: 10.1126/science.1243650

1,535 344

CHECK ACCESS

Dog Domestication

The precise details of the domestication and origins of domestic dogs are unclear. **Thalmann *et al.*** (p. 871; see the cover) analyzed complete mitochondrial genomes from present-day dogs and wolves, as well as 18 fossil canids dating from 1000 to 36,000 years ago from the Old and New Worlds. The data suggest that an ancient, now extinct, central European population of wolves was directly ancestral to domestic dogs. Furthermore, several ancient dogs may represent failed domestication events.

Abstract

The geographic and temporal origins of the domestic dog remain controversial, as genetic data suggest a domestication process in East Asia beginning 15,000 years ago, whereas the oldest doglike fossils are found in Europe and Siberia and date to >30,000 years ago. We analyzed the mitochondrial genomes of 18 prehistoric canids from Eurasia and the New World, along with a comprehensive panel of modern wolves. The mitochondrial genomes of all modern dogs are phy-

CANINE AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS DATE BACK AS FAR AS 1,800 YEARS AGO





REPORT

f t in r w e

Oxytocin-gaze positive loop and the coevolution of human-dog bonds

MIHO NAGASAWA, SHOUHEI MITSUI, SHIORI EN, NOBUYO OHTANI, MITSUAKI OHTA, YASUO SAKUMA, TATSUSHI ONAKA, KAZUTAKA MOGI, AND TAKEFUMI KIKUSUI [Authors](#)
[Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 17 Apr 2015 • Vol 348, Issue 6232 • pp. 333-336 • DOI: 10.1126/science.1261022

31,997 414

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Gaze into my eyes

Humans bond emotionally as we gaze into each other's eyes—a process mediated by the hormone oxytocin. Nagasawa *et al.* show that such gaze-mediated bonding also exists between us and our closest animal companions, dogs (see the Perspective by MacLean and Hare). They found that mutual gazing increased oxytocin levels, and sniffing oxytocin increased gazing in dogs, an effect that transferred to their owners. Wolves, who rarely engage in eye contact with their human handlers, seem resistant to this effect.

Science, this issue p. [333](#); see also p. [280](#)

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Abstract

Human-like modes of communication, including mutual gaze, in dogs may have been acquired during domestication with humans. We show that gazing behavior from dogs, but not wolves, increased urinary oxytocin concentrations in owners, which subsequently facilitated owners' affiliation and increased oxytocin concen-





**COULD THIS INTIMATE
BONDING PROCESS
UNLEASH A POWERFUL
SOURCE OF HEALING?**





National Headquarters



PONTE VEDRA, FL



TEXAS LOCATIONS



Petco Love Center

Helotes Ranch



HIGHLY TRAINED SERVICE DOGS





CONFIDENCE



SAFETY



INDEPENDENCE



- 1. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?**
- 2. WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO YOU SITTING IN THIS ROOM TODAY?**



DR. MAGGIE O'HAIRE

Associate Dean for Research | Professor

College of Veterinary Medicine

University of Arizona



College of
Veterinary Medicine



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY







875+

Warriors graduated

2,000+

dogs saved from high-kill shelters



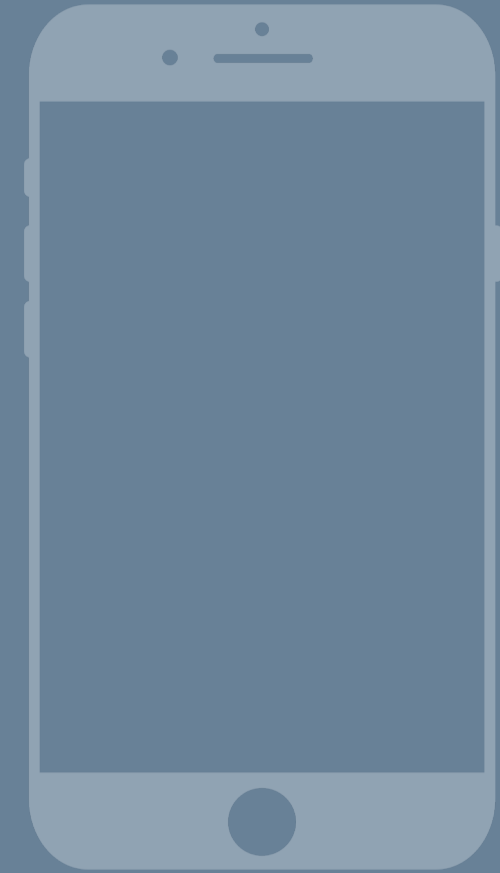
WHAT HAVE WE FOUND SO FAR?



**CLINICAL
SURVEYS**

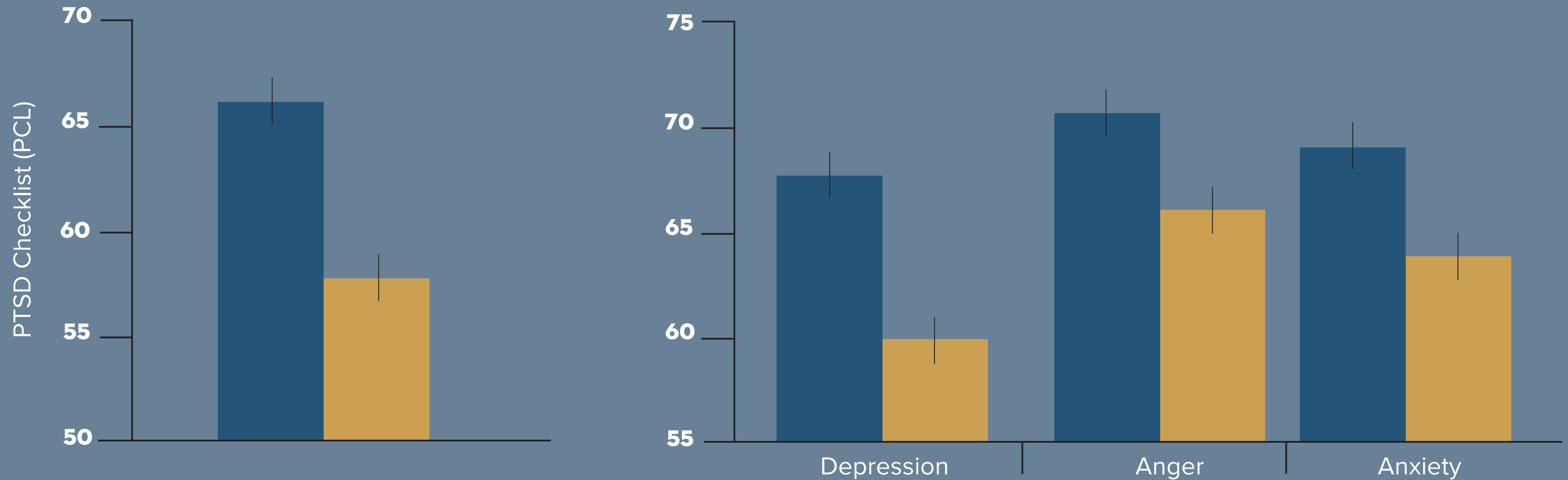


**BIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES**

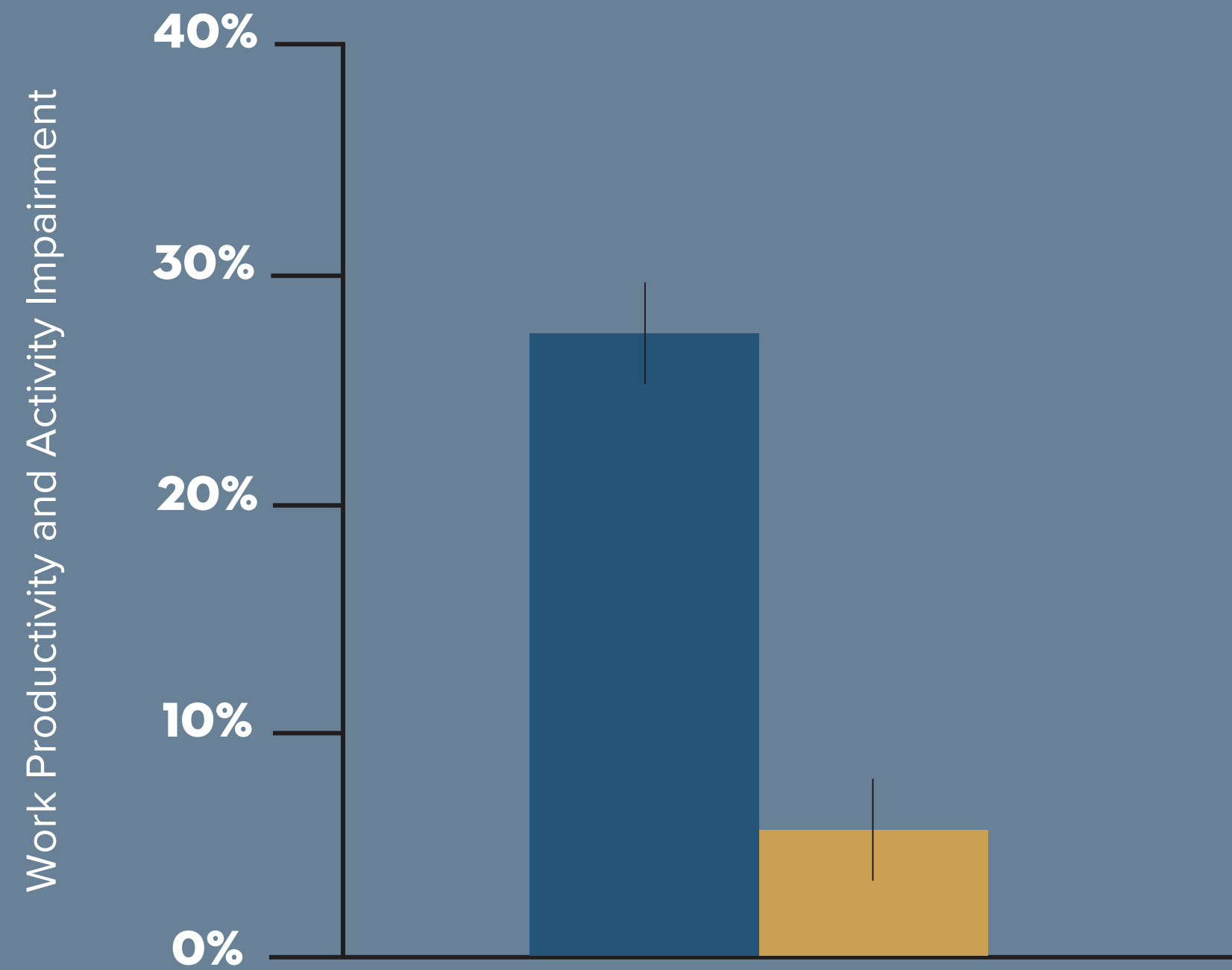


**SMARTPHONE
+ DOG COLLAR**

VETERANS WITH A **SERVICE DOG** REPORTED BETTER MENTAL HEALTH



VETERANS WITH A **SERVICE DOG** REPORTED LESS ABSENTEEISM FROM WORK DUE TO HEALTH



WHAT HAVE WE FOUND SO FAR?



**CLINICAL
SURVEYS**

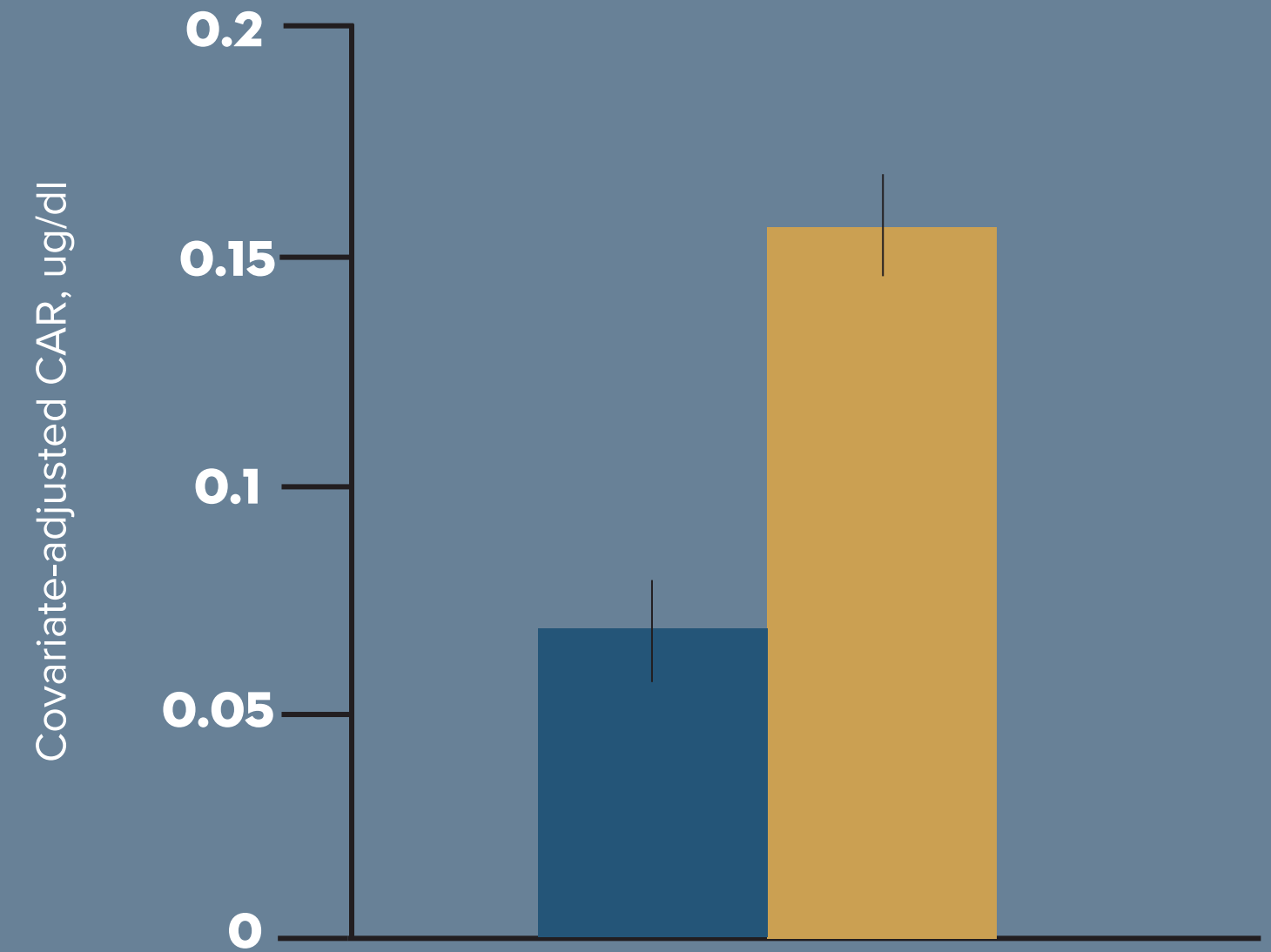
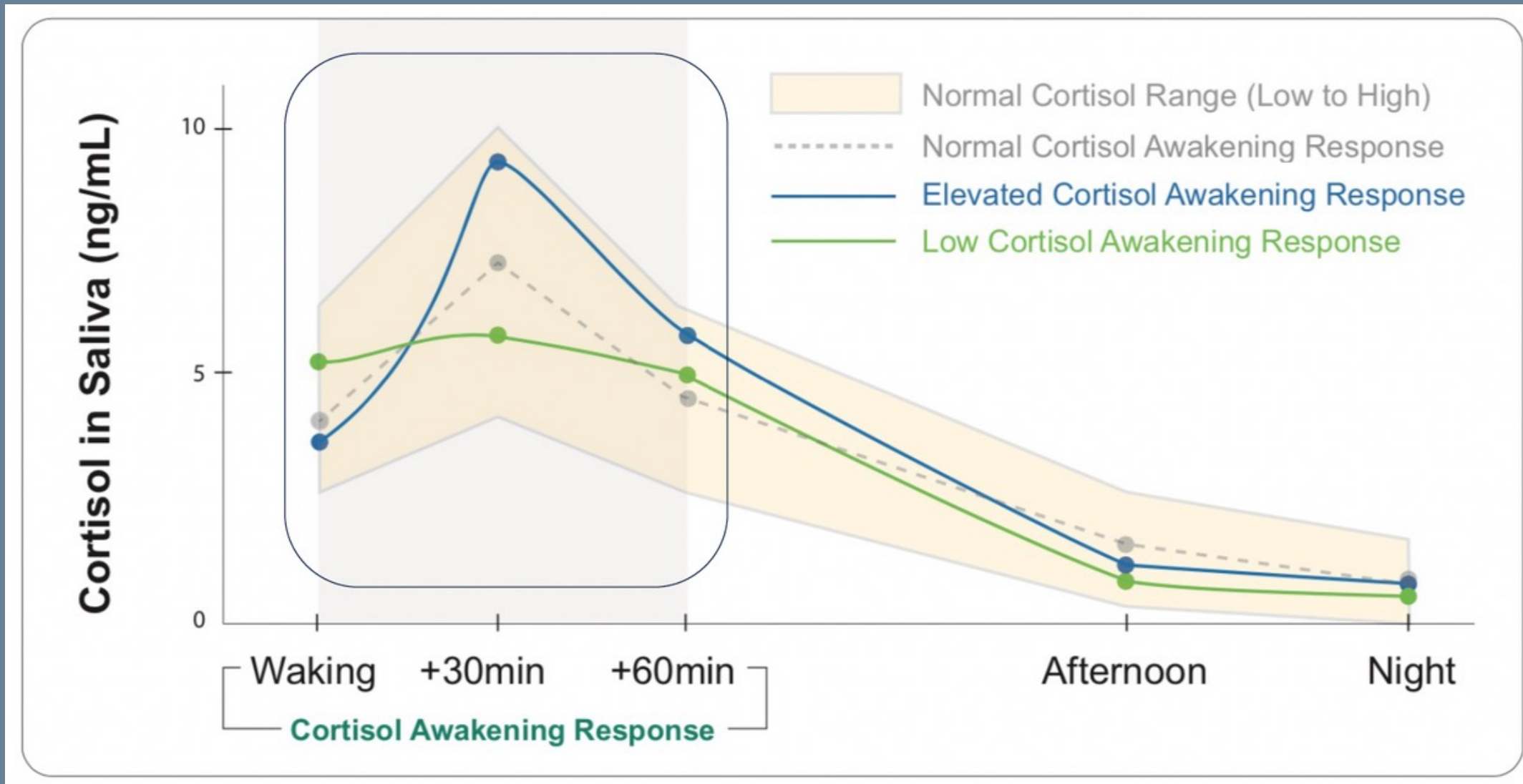


**BIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES**



**SMARTPHONE
+ DOG COLLAR**

THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF STRESS



HOW DO WE MEASURE IMPACT?



**CLINICAL
SURVEYS**

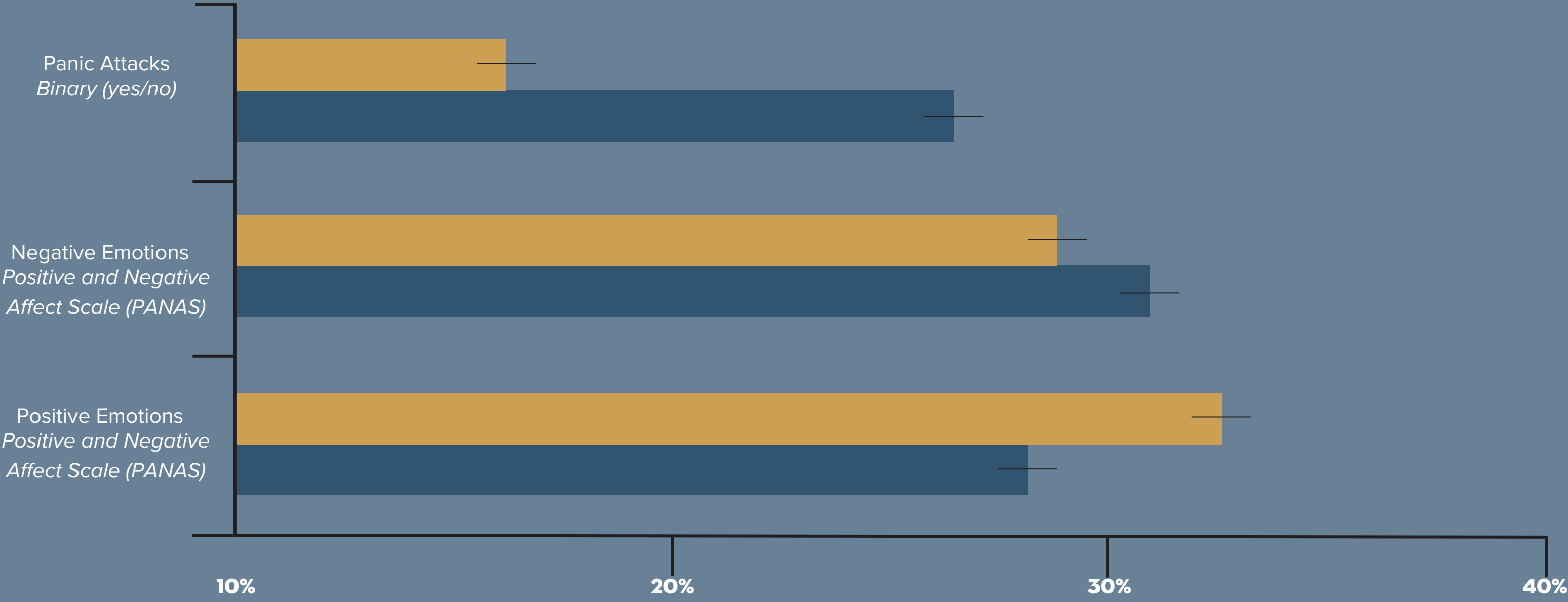


**BIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES**



**SMARTPHONE
+ DOG COLLAR**

VETERANS WITH A SERVICE DOG REPORTED BETTER DAILY EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

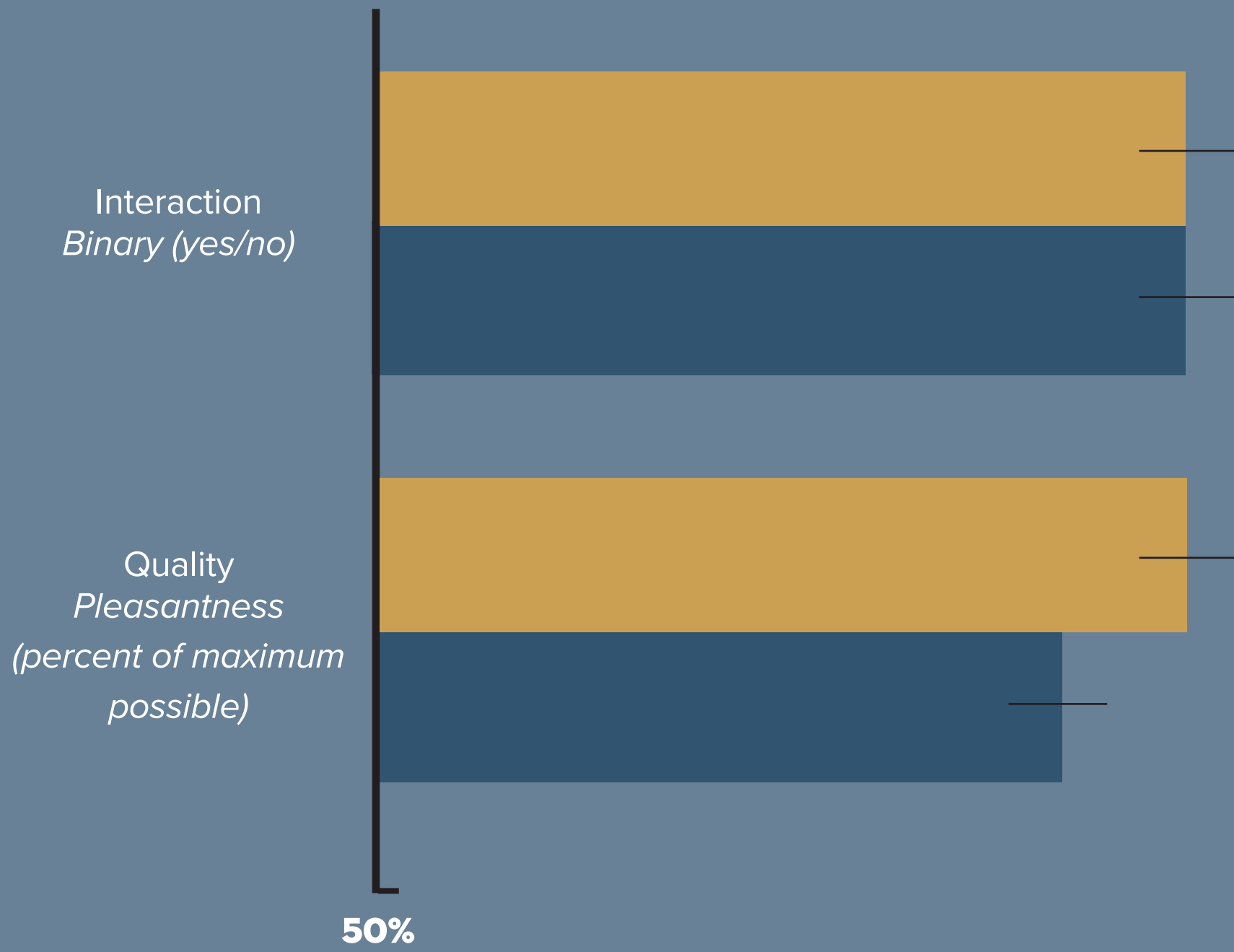


Leighton, et al. (under review)



VETERANS WITH A SERVICE DOG REPORTED NO DIFFERENCES IN NUMBER OF SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

but more pleasant interaction quality



Leighton, et al. (under review)



VETERANS USED EACH TASK **3X PER DAY** ON AVERAGE



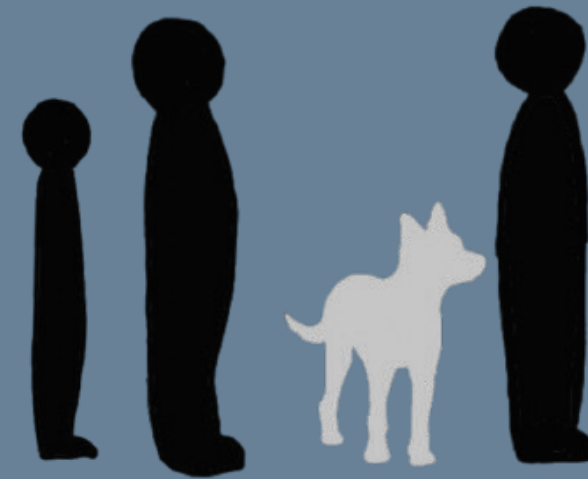
INTERRUPT/ALERT
TO ANXIETY



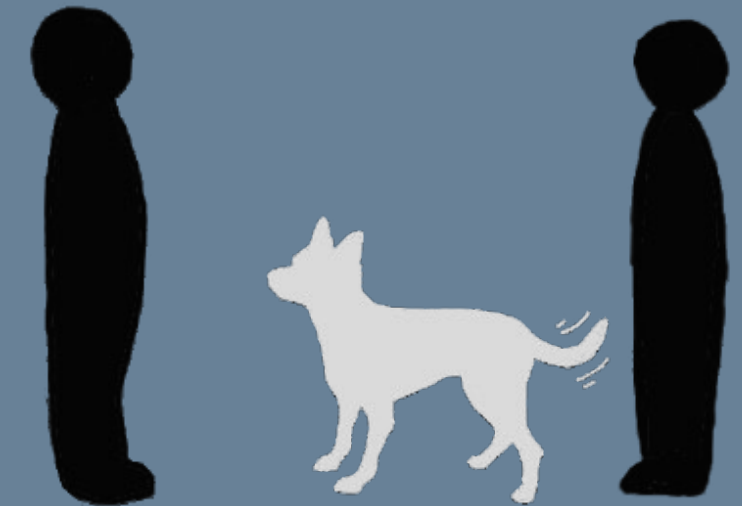
CALM/COMFORT
FROM ANXIETY



LOOK
(WATCH BACK)



STAND
(MAKE SPACE)



MAKE A FRIEND

VETERANS USED EACH TASK **3X PER DAY** ON AVERAGE



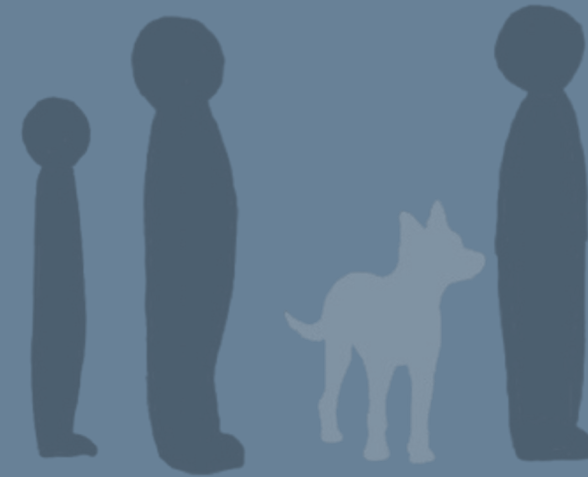
INTERRUPT/ALERT
TO ANXIETY



CALM/COMFORT
FROM ANXIETY



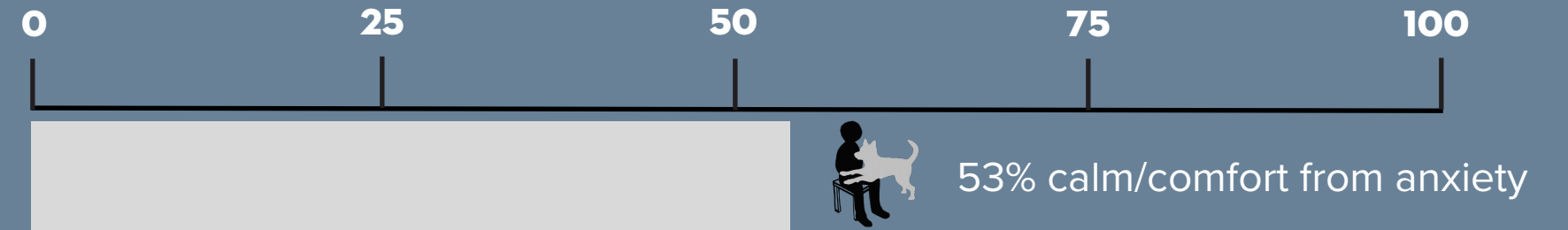
LOOK
(WATCH BACK)



STAND
(MAKE SPACE)



MAKE A FRIEND



RANDOM CONTROL TRIAL (RCT)



SERvice Dog and **V**eteran **E**xperiences **S**tudy



SERVICE DOGS WORK, THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR VETERANS

[Home](#) / [Vets Experience](#) / [#VetResources](#) / How service dogs can help Veterans with PTSD



How service dogs can help Veterans with PTSD

K9s For Warriors rescues the dog. The dog saves the Veteran.

April 17, 2023

By K9s For Warriors

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

A randomized trial of differential effectiveness of Service Dog pairing versus emotional support dog pairing to improve quality of life for veterans with PTSD.



Office of Research and Development
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC
January 5th, 2021

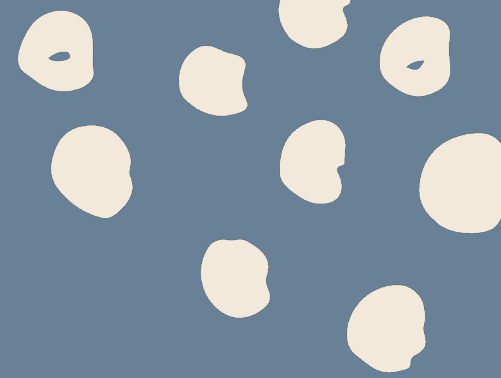
**SERVICE DOGS
DON'T INTERFERE
WITH PRIMARY
TREATMENT
MODALITIES**







FOSTER POWERFUL HEALING



Key Takeaways

Follow the science

Meet clients where they are

Recognize the healing world of engagement Service Dogs can open up to your client, true relief from suffering

Guard against black/white, either/or thinking



Heather + Wolfman





Thank you!