

Untethered Paws: A Grief Sanctuary for Senior Dog Caregivers

Tagline: R-U-Ok? We are here.

Mission Statement

Untethered Paws provides honest, gentle resources for senior dog end-of-life care and pet loss grief — because the final gift you give your partner should not be faced alone.

Who We Are

Untethered Paws was founded by a service dog handler who lost both of her working partners within eleven months: Miko (2009–2025, 16 years of service) and Jiraiya (2011–2026, 15 years of service). After experiencing the silence, the phantom leash, and the crushing weight of losing not just a pet but a medical alert system and emotional anchor, she created the platform she wished she had found.

We are not veterinarians. We are not therapists. We are fellow travelers on the hardest road any pet parent walks — and we refuse to let anyone walk it alone.

Our Philosophy

- Grief is not a problem to fix. It is a country to move through.
- You are not weak for needing help. Reaching out is survival, not failure.
- There is no right way to grieve. Silent witness or community anchor — both count.

We do not use guilt, pressure, or scarcity tactics. We do not shame euthanasia or the relief that sometimes follows it. We do not say "just get another dog."

What We Offer

- R-U-Ok? Grief Framework – Free PDF + 20-page workbook (\$9)
- The Crossing Planner – Final days guide (\$12)
- Palliative Care Checklist – Free with email
- The Grief Circle Forum – Private adult community (donation-based, \$5-\$25/month)
- 5-Day Grief Email Course – Free
- Organic Tinctures – Gift for donors (not sold online)

The R-U-Ok? Framework

R – Recognize / Acknowledge your pain
U – Unfold / Express your feelings
O – Organize / Reinvent your routine
K – Kindness / Seek support

? – Question / Reconnect with community

Our Reach

Website: untetheredpaws.com

Social Media: @UntetheredPaws on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Reddit

Email: the1schuster@proton.me

Phone/Text: (505) 480-3529

How to Support Untethered Paws

- Purchase digital resources on our Shop page
- Join the Grief Circle Forum (donation-based membership)
- Share our resources with someone who is grieving
- Email us to volunteer

100% of proceeds go toward website hosting, free resources, and sliding-scale memberships for those unable to pay.

Final Words

"Miko and Jiraiya are still working. They are just working through me now."

Untethered Paws is not a large organization. We are one person, a few digital products, and a fierce commitment to showing up for people who are hurting. We do not have all the answers. But we have a hand to hold, a framework to lean on, and a community that says:

You are not alone tonight.

Media & Partnership Inquiries

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"Grieving is a journey. Do it your way."