

Hounds for Heroes

Our mission is to provide specially trained assistance dogs to injured and disabled men and women who served or are serving in the UK Armed Forces and Emergency Services. We aim to provide help and practical support leading to an enhanced quality of life.

Damian faced paralysis after slipping two discs whilst making an arrest. Damian explained, "My back took all the shock and I slipped two discs. I was out of action for a few weeks and couldn't get out of bed."

Two years after the injury his condition worsened and he began to lose feeling in his feet and legs. A scan revealed that the two discs had burst and were compressing his spinal root nerve. Damian was faced with potential paralysis.

In 2009 he underwent a discectomy and a Spinal Cord Stimulator device was implanted in 2015. Consequently, the device has improved his condition and his children call him 'RoboCop'.

Damian's life was transformed after partnering initially with a Hounds for Heroes Labrador Retriever assistance dog, named Trooper. Damian now has a successor assistance dog, named Gibson.

Disability and injury appear to attract so many

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negative connotations, so it's inevitable that many of those affected just want to 'get on with life' without having to provide explanations or excuses. Damian is back to work in the 'Greater Manchester Police, and raising awareness for disabled police officers, and the vital work of Hounds For Heroes' wherever possible.'

He is often mistaken for being blind because of his assistance dog and feels that awareness and understanding from colleagues towards disabled officers is imperative. He believes in greater emphasis on operational risk assessments and tougher sentencing to deter offenders from assaulting police officers.



My daughter once wrote 'it's not just about him fetching things because he also helps on the inside'. From the outset, Trooper and now Gibson, looked out for me with thoughtfulness and consideration, and I soon learned to do the same with them. He has become a member of my family and my best mate.

To apply for a dog, volunteer or donate please visit: <https://houndsforheroes.com/>

