

The Brigadoon Barker

The Newsletter of Brigadoon Service Dogs - We change lives one partnership at a time by *offering a helping paw!*

Fall 2019



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Letter from Julia Clifford Development Director

Brigadoon would like to welcome our newest staff member, Julia Clifford!

Julia is Brigadoon's new Development Director. She brings with her over twenty years of experience working with non-profits like Cancer Lifeline and YouthCare in Seattle, Allied Arts of Whatcom County and Animals as Natural Therapy. During her time as a Pickford Film Center board member, she raised money to help buy the building. She also was bitten by the film bug after taking a film class at Northwest Film School. Her first full length documentary, "Children of the Civil Rights", has been distributed into high schools and universities around the country and even aired on PBS! Julia joined Brigadoon Service Dogs Board of Directors a year ago and served as Secretary. She loves our mission so her transition into Development is a natural fit. Now Julia spends half time working on her next film and half time helping Brigadoon Service Dogs build an even healthier financial base to operate from. During her down time, Julia paints florals and landscapes and illustrates children's books. We are glad to have her here at Brigadoon.



Welcome Julia!

Newsletter edited by Celeste Macevicius

Welcome, Emma!

Emma Hreljanovic has just joined the Brigadoon Service Dog team as a Kennel Technician. She was born in New York, but has been living in Seattle for the past four years. She decided to move to Bellingham in August 2019. In Seattle, she was working as a Home Care Aide and Martial Arts Instructor. For six months, Emma was volunteering with Brigadoon and is excited to now be here and involved in an inspiring mission. In addition to Service Dog training, Emma is enthusiastic about sustainability, farming, and bird watching.



A very warm welcome to Emma!

Follow us on Social Media!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see event announcements, news updates, and tons of super cute puppy photos.

Facebook: [BrigadoonServiceDogs](#)

Instagram: [Brigadoon_Service_Dogs](#)

In the Community



Christina, Brigadoon's puppy raiser coordinator, at Shootout for Soldiers

Brigadoon has been busy this summer, attending Luke Day, the Echo Glen Wine Event, Paws for Claws, Zoo for All: Honoring those who Serve, and Shootout for Soldiers. We are so lucky to be part of such an active community. Thank you to the event hosts, and all the participants, who supported us this summer. We couldn't do it without you!

To check out where we will be next, follow us on Facebook or go to the "events" tab of our website.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Hellen Keller

A Very Special Gift

This summer Brigadoon welcomed Cree, a Chinook dog, from Ginger Corley. On her Facebook page, Ginger wrote the following about her decision to donate to Brigadoon:

I think all of us want to be remembered when we leave this earth for what we've given back. I've had a lot of opportunities given to me in my life: good parents, a great education (I sucked up nine years of college thanks to scholarships, government grants, and later, my employers subsidizing my graduate degree and certificate programs), and more medical resources than any person should ever have to need.

I was able to give back a bit this week when I donated one of the pups I raised to a wonderful organization. Brigadoon Service dogs (www.brigadoondogs.org) of Bellingham, Washington trains Service Dogs for veterans, children, and adults with physical, developmental, and behavioral disabilities. It was a bit sad for me and my other dogs when eight-month-old Cree left on Thursday, and the house is oh so quiet now that I only have five- to ten-year old dogs in residence. But I know that he's going to have a great life and do wonderful things, presuming that he passes their rigorous training requirements. I got to know the Founder and Director, Denise Costanten a few years ago and she has been wanting to get one of my Chinooks into her program for a long time.

I have donated dogs to other groups in the past. In 1997 I donated a pup to Fidos for Freedom of Maryland (www.fidosforfreedom.org), a group that a friend was involved with. Just twelve weeks old at the time, he went into the home of a puppy raiser and ended up spending his whole life there when his hip x-rays turned out to not be of high enough caliber for the program. Later I donated a two-year-old champion show dog to Summit Assistance Dogs (<https://summitdogs.org/>) of Anacortes, Washington. Klickitat went on to be the Service Dog for a woman in Maryland with MS named Florence. For nearly ten years, Tat Tat was at Florence's side every minute of every day until Florence passed away. After that Tat stayed with Florence's family until her own death. Because of her, Florence had the opportunity to get out and travel, both with and without her husband, and to enjoy a life far more enriched than she had before. It had made me feel good to know that the puppy I raised from nine weeks old to two years, that I trained in basic obedience, had gone on to do something wonderful.



Cree as a puppy – courtesy of Ginger

A Very Special Gift (Continued)

It was that memory that led me to think of Brigadoon Service Dogs when I was thinking of what job Cree could take on in his life for he certainly needed a job beyond raiding my lunch bag, eating all the Tupperware he can steal out of the kitchen sink, rearranging the dog beds in the house, and stealing my bath robe to drag it into his crate and sleep on it when I'm not looking. (The dogs often take advantage of my hearing loss when I'm working in my office and use that time to get away with murder.) Cree is as loving as his mom, my Elizabeth, and as smart and easily trained as his dad, my friend Susan's dog Dylan, so I knew he was capable of great things. I stopped by to visit Brigadoon one day when I had him along and they were impressed with him. We arranged that he would come to them when they had graduated some of the dogs they had in residence, so I took him back home for another month. The night before he left, I bought a load of soup bones at Safeway, a dog's version of a wild party.

Cree will now be in training with Brigadoon service Dogs for 12 to 16 months. The first part of the training will be there with them at their facility east of Bellingham. Then, if he is judged good enough to continue, he'll move into one of the prison programs they support, where he'll live with a prisoner 24 hours a day. He'll then come back to Brigadoon for his final phase of training so he can get more exposure to the real world.

Cree is going to be a big dog, easily 80 pounds at maturity, and with his sled dog heritage I can see him as a mobility assistance dog for a young, on-the-go person. He's very lovable, wanting to climb up into my lap (granted, only his front half fit) every evening for some cuddling and affection.

I'll be following his training via updates and should anything happen that he doesn't make it, he'll come back to me. But I think he has the makings of a great Service Dog in him and that he'll be able to help someone someday. And in my own small way, I'm helping someone too.

Who knows? Later this winter there may be more pups here and perhaps there will be another future Service Dog in the bunch. You just never know.

How much do you know about service dogs? Take this fun BuzzFeed [quiz](https://tinyurl.com/servicedogquiz) and find out!

<https://tinyurl.com/servicedogquiz>



Good Boy, Tango

By Vikki, who recently was partnered with Tango

Last night, Tango and I were watching TV around 8pm & Tango started nipping at my shirt. At 7am this morning, I woke up with a burst blood vessel in my right eye. I think Tango knew that this was going to happen before I did. We had to stay quiet all day per MD orders. Tango & I enjoyed time out in the grass & out in the courtyard. We also enjoyed some snuggle time.

After only being together for 14 days, it is amazing to me that Tango knew what was happening with my eye. He stayed by my side throughout the day & continually checked on me. He is responding amazingly well. In many ways, he reminds me of Sierra and how quickly he alerted to a problem. But just like Conner, he is my happy go lucky boy. With time and patience, our bond will only get stronger. He is wanting to rub up against me and snuggle. He is definitely as attached as I am. THANK YOU for allowing this boy to come home!

Back to School!



Looking for books for school projects? Or maybe just for fun? Here is a list of children's books about service dogs:

Picture Books

- 🐕 **Tuesday Tucks Me In** by Luis Carlos Montalván – A day in the life of a PTSD dog
- 🐕 **Prison Puppies** by Meish Goldish – Non-fiction about prison programs training service dogs
- 🐕 **Looking Out for Sarah** by Glenna Lang – Sarah and guide dog Perry go about their day
- 🐕 **My Buddy** by Audrey Osofsky – The bond between a boy and his service dog
- 🐕 **Anna and Natalie** by Barbara H Cole – Anna hopes to be part of the wreath-laying team (with Natalie the dog at her side)
- 🐕 **Service Dog Heroes** by Linda Bozzo – Non-fiction intro to service dogs
- 🐕 **The Right Dog for the Job** by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent – Ira the dog's path from guide dog to service dog
- 🐕 **Rescue and Jessica** by Jessica Kensky – Rescue the dog is partnered with Jessica
- 🐕 **Guide Dogs: From Puppies to Partners** by Diana Lawrenson - How a guide dog is trained

Chapter Books

- 🐕 **Nicki** by Ann Howard Creel – Nicki raises a diabetic alert dog
- 🐕 **Shakespeare series** by Jean Little – Shakespeare the puppy narrates his journey from puppyhood to working as a guide dog
- 🐕 **Teacher's Pet** by Laurie Halse Anderson – Vet volunteer Maggie's new teacher has a guide dog
- 🐕 **The Guide Dog Mystery** by Gertrude Chandler Warner – The Boxcar Children spend a week at a guide dog school
- 🐕 **Buddy** by Kate Klimo – diary of Buddy the guide dog
- 🐕 **Bringing of Beauty** by Sylvia McNicoll – Elizabeth puppy raises Beauty

Thank You, Sydney!



Sydney, one of Brigadoon's biggest fans, asked her friends to bring dog toys to her 10th birthday party instead of gifts! Wow! What an amazing young lady. Her mom said that Sydney talks about Brigadoon every day and can't wait until she gets a little older so she can start volunteering. We look forward to that day Sydney!

ID Reminder

As students write their names on their new notebooks and jackets, it's a good reminder to think about your dog's name tags too. Name tags, along with other forms of dog ID, are an important safety measure for dogs. Even dogs who know and love their home really well can get lost if they're surprised or scared.

In many places, dogs are required to be licensed. Licenses register your dog's info with the local animal control so they can be identified and brought home quickly. Some counties will waive the fee for service dogs.

A name tag with your cell phone and home phone is another useful piece of ID. It can be the quickest way to get your dog back to you, since people are able to connect directly to you quickly.

Microchipping and tattoos are permanent forms of ID that will work even if the collar gets unclipped or tags get outdated. Your vet can implant a microchip or inject a tattoo. The microchip/tattoo's code gets registered with your contact information so that animal control, vets, and shelters can look you up and contact you if they find your dog.

There are more and more innovative ways of making safety plans in case your dog goes missing. Your vet might give you a rabies vaccine tag that you can register in an online database. Some people are buying GPS trackers for their dogs. There are a number of different online registries that allow you to register your pet and then will help if they are later reported missing. These are neat, but the key IDs that are important are a license, name tag, and microchip or tattoo.

Of course, prevention is the other big safety measure for preventing a missing dog. Keeping your dog on leash, ensuring outdoor yard spaces are securely fenced, exercising caution when opening doors, and avoiding putting your dog in unfamiliar environments where they are likely to bolt are 4 good ways to prevent your dog from going missing.

The Doni Co-op

By Amie Chapman

We have had the privilege to build a lot of relationships with service dog people on the internet. Growing Up Guide Pup has been a fire starter for new ideas, experimentation and pushing service dog culture for almost a decade. When Colby Morita, the founder of puppyintraining.com, contacted Matt about donating a puppy to Brigadoon Service Dogs, Matt had to immediately contact Denise and inform her of the unique opportunity at hand. Growing Up Guide Pup and Puppy in Training have similar missions and so we saw this is a special opportunity for all three of our organizations to work together and follow a puppy growing up and developing. It is very unique that a service dog organization would welcome such a progressive idea and this just one more reason why Brigadoon Service Dogs is amazing and has grabbed our heart.

Over the last 17 years we have had a lot of puppies come and go through our home. We have had both service dog puppies in training and we have had rescue puppy fosters. But recently we had a chance to be part of facilitating the transport of a service dog puppy from a AKC breeder/donor to a service dog organization for the first time. We have known Colby from Puppy in Training for a few years and have always respected and supported his work. He recently had a litter of golden retriever puppies and after a talk with Matt, he offered to donate a puppy to Brigadoon Service Dogs. We were super excited to help facilitate this as we watched the recent "D" litter grow and develop on the Puppy in Training social media platforms. We had no idea which puppy was coming, but we knew it was going to be a great puppy.

Last month we were told that the puppies were close to being ready to leave their mom. We needed to figure out how to get the puppy from Southern California up to Bellingham, Washington. We looked at our schedule and decided that it would be best for me to fly down and then fly back to our house, keep the puppy with us for a little bit, and then figure out how to get her to Brigadoon as soon as possible. Matt stayed in the Bay Area. I had a flight to Los Angeles booked first thing in the morning and I made it to the airport with what I thought was plenty of time. But once I checked in for my flight, I noticed that I left my cell phone in the car and I had to go back to the parking garage to get it. Not a huge deal but once I grabbed my phone and went back to get into the security line, I was getting pressed for time. The security line was moving very slow. The x-ray machines that TSA screened people with was down and they stopped people halfway through the line for the detection dog to inspect everyone. We walked two people at a time past the dog and then to a line for the metal detector. The interesting part was that the TSA agents were a little confused why the pet carrier I had was empty. All of this slowed me down enough to miss my flight by 2 minutes. I was worried about getting on another flight that would make it possible for my return flight to be made on time now. With the help of the ticket agent I was put on another flight going into LAX that left only 20 minutes after my original flight, but my original flight was going into Santa Ana Airport. I made the new flight no problem. As soon as I landed I grabbed an Uber to take me to the Santa Ana where I was going to meet Colby and receive the puppy. It was about a 40 minute drive and I got there with enough time to make my original flight home. Phew! *Continued on the next page*

Read more articles like this on our website!

<https://www.brigadoondogs.org/our-blog>

The Doni Co-op (Continued)

Colby met me at the airport and we had a few minutes to catch up. He told me a little bit about the little female. She was absolutely adorable, and so tiny! I told Colby her name would be Doni. The stipulation was that her name needed to start with the letter "D" since this was Colby's fourth litter. A week prior we had already discussed naming options with Denise over dinner and she made it clear she didn't want us to name the pup after her. We all talked and agreed we should name the pup after Donald, the new Brigadoon president. Although she is a female and Donald obviously is not, Doni was a perfect solution. After a quick hello and goodbye, Doni and I were off to tackle through airport security. Little Doni was only 8 weeks old and 8lbs. I felt that the safest way for her to travel was by pet carrier. I was concerned that she would not be accepting of the carrier since she had never been in a bag style carrier before according to Colby. To my surprise she quickly settled in and didn't make a peep. Once we got to the x-ray machine I removed Doni from the carrier. The "oh my god she is so cute" and "look at that cuteness" comments began. Doni was super calm as I carried her through the metal detector. All the TSA agents wanted to pet her which she was more than happy to allow. Once through security Doni was gently placed back into the carrier and she once again settled right in. Since the gate wasn't too far away and my flight hadn't starting boarding yet, I thought I would see if Doni needed to potty one last time. The gate we were at was only about 20 yards away from the pet relief area. Being that Doni was only 8 weeks old and wasn't fully vaccinated I was a little apprehensive to put her down in the pet area. There was a small patch of fake grass, but plenty of concrete too. I had some potty pads and I was able to lay those down so her feet didn't actually come into contact with the ground. She quickly peed, which I was ecstatic about! A minute later we were back in the carrier and ready to board our flight.



Once aboard the plane I got her carrier all settled in (it was a pretty tight fit under the seat in front of me), slipped her a tasty chew treat, and settled in myself. Doni barely moved and didn't make a peep the entire flight home. I was thinking "Wow! What a great little puppy!" Things could not have gone any better than how they went. The night before I had left, I set up an exercise pen for Doni with clean toys and a comfy bed so when we got home she was given a chance to potty and then ready to be placed in the pen in our living room. All the dogs were really excited when I walked in the door with the carrier. Ricki and Ozzy are very used to me bringing baby animals into the house randomly. Penny has only had two other experiences with baby animals. This would be Pixie's first experience. So needless to say Penny and Pixie were very excited to see what was in the bag. *Continued on the next page.*

The Doni Co-op (Continued)

Both Pixie and Penny can get very excited when they meet other dogs so we kept their contact very controlled. Doni is so little we carried her in and out to go potty. She was given separate playtime by herself away from the other dogs. Pixie was probably the most disappointed about this as we discovered she loves little Doni. The first night we prepared to not get much sleep. Most of our puppies have rough first nights away from their litter. Being in the kennel and in a new environment for the first time is a lot. Doni was a rare exception. At bedtime she went out to potty and then she was placed in her kennel. We gave her a few toys as well as treated her. Then she settled right in. She watched us get ready for bed but didn't make a peep. Once we turned out the lights she went right to sleep and didn't make a sound until about 6am when she needed to go out to potty. We thought maybe the first night was a fluke and perhaps she was just tired from all the activity the day before. But the second night went exactly like the first night except this time Doni didn't wake up until our alarm went off. Out of the 20+ puppies we had crate trained, Doni is definitely in the top 5 best pups... easy. Doni was just as good at being quiet and content in her exercise pen. She also was super eager to learn and earn food rewards. We started clicker training the second day we had her. She loved that game. We started with attention as behavior, name recognition, and walking calmly on a leash. She was a lot of fun to work with. For four days our schedule consisted of both Matt and I sharing dog duty as usual, but we both worked with Pixie and Doni one on one. It was pretty obvious when we were up in Washington getting feedback from Denise that Pixie was very focused and attached to me. She struggled sometimes to work with Matt. I have always been her primary handler and spent the most time with her so she naturally paid more attention to me. We wanted to make sure that Doni got used to being handled by more than one person right away as to prevent a similar scenario. Since we returned from Bellingham Matt has been working with Pixie more and it is really making an impact. Matt is reinforcing what I have been working on and it is helping her be more confident.

Doni was never meant to stay with us long term. Only a few days after she arrived Matt found a great way to get her up to Brigadoon. Tammy, one of Brigadoon's volunteers, just happened to be in the Bay Area with another dog trainer attending a training seminar at the Marin County Humane Society. This is only about an hour from us. Matt reached out to Tammy and they were so kind to accept the mission to take Doni north. So Doni hitched a ride back to Washington and saved us the effort and cost. We are very appreciative of the support. As much as we wanted Doni to stay (I mean come on, she is super cute, super fun to work with, super sweet, and just a great little puppy) we needed to get back to focusing on Pixie and other duties. It is hard enough for us to balance work, home repairs, working with Pixie, making sure our other 3 dogs get enough attention, Matt being on the Brigadoon board, and moving forward with GUGP ideas. We really don't have any spare time to train a second puppy.

It has has been three weeks since Doni arrived in Bellingham. She has quickly become a favorite according to Maria. She is learning skills from Denise that she needs to have the best chance possible to become a service dog. We are happy she is in the best hands possible. Moving forward it will be exciting to experiment with the media co-op and watch little Doni grow up. We encourage everyone to watch for her through the three organizations. She is a special little pup and we can't wait to see what her future holds. Who knows, maybe we will help bring more co-op deliveries in the future? I always enjoy feeding my puppy fix.

Enjoying Fall with Dogs: Tips

Fall in the Pacific Northwest is vibrant and beautiful. There's so much to enjoy with dogs: the cooler weather, the scenic walks, and fun holidays like Halloween. Of course, there's also the endless rain, busy schedules, and surprises like fireworks and mushrooms. Here are some tips for enjoying fall with your dog.

Celebrating Halloween

- 🐾 Give your dog a small taste of pumpkin when you're carving a pumpkin.
- 🐾 Practice calm responses to knocking at the door in preparation of trick-or-treaters.
- 🐾 Be creative with costumes. Think up a dog costume your dog will be comfortable with. Maybe it's a whole body suit, maybe it's a bandanna!
- 🐾 Make or buy dog treats to hand out to trick-or-treaters with dogs.

Being Safe

- 🐾 Be watchful that your dog does not eat mushrooms. There are several species of poisonous mushrooms in the area that become more prevalent in the fall.
- 🐾 Make sure your dog is up to date with their flea treatments.
- 🐾 Check your dog for ticks after walks in the brush.
- 🐾 Keep your dog safely at home when fireworks are being set. Even service dogs should stay home at events with fireworks.
- 🐾 If you walk your dog early in the morning or late at night, put on reflective gear.

Fall Fun

- 🐾 Explore what different parks look like in the fall. Many local blogs and tourist sites feature recommendations for seeing the changing leaves
- 🐾 As you get back into your routines, carve out time in the week for your dog. This can be incorporated into other activities like walking kids to school.
- 🐾 Have fun with a pile of leaves – for a silly playtime or for a cute photo.

Keeping Clean in the Rain

- 🐾 Try out a rain jacket for your dog
- 🐾 Put mats out by your doors
- 🐾 Create a paw-wiping routine. Teach your dog to wait at the mat to have their paws lifted and wiped
- 🐾 Make use of old towels – put some by your door and in your car. Service dog handlers: a hand towel in a plastic bag is great for wiping down paws on the go
- 🐾 Consider buying a seat cover for your car
- 🐾 Brush and bathe your dog regularly
- 🐾 If you have a non-shedding dog, try cutting their paw, leg, and beard hair to a shorter length

Fun Page!

15th Annual Auction & Dinner Themed Word Search

Q C H T F J T Q U H S G N I C
B O E K N J H N P E T R O M I
I R Q L G S K C R B B A I H Y
G L J D E U M V G T H D T C J
R A X E H B I F Q N J U C M V
K P K K S C R W S U P A U N N
B Y F I E I G A I W E T A R R
A N R D D X A K T N Z I P E F
N O O D A G I R B I P O N G U
T G O W A X A F D H O N M F N
A V C A D J G G F N I N T J N
Y F M B X Y U Y C D U Z Z Q O
G C N I Y O B J Y H W F F W K
E M X B I D Y O S M U V Q K Z
L N C H Q S K Y J S A P F D C

AUCTION
CELEBRATION
FUNDRAISE
WIN

BID
DINNER
GRADUATION

BRIGADOON
FUN
SERVICE DOG