

# The Brigadoon Barker

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

**Spring 2022**



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## A note from Executive Director Denise CoStanten

Bright Spring Thoughts Everyone!

First, a big shout out to all our friends, volunteers, and financial supporters. Without you, Brigadoon Service Dogs could not, would not exist! Our community gives us encouragement, time, dollars, and resources that are invaluable to our ability to continue. Individuals, public agencies, and businesses have joined our efforts and I'm pleased and grateful to keep building those relationships with you.



With the world opening up more now, we've been grateful for the new volunteers who are joining us on-site again. The skilled help from the four prisons we work with was a huge gap during the lock downs and we are so glad to have them back. Together "our village" make us able to better serve our clients and take care of the dogs.

As we prepare to start a new year, we are excited to formally open our new House of Puppies (made possible through the Lindsey Family Fund), taking a huge step in our ability to effectively train our next generation of dogs. Clementine's puppies will be here in June.

Our first graduate teams of the year were so much fun! Please see their story on page 5.

We're looking forward to a wonderful 2022!

"Offering a Helping Paw"

With Gratitude,  
Denise



## The Bullmastiff

The Bullmastiff is an agile and athletic dog who is sound in temperament and body. Fearless and confident yet docile. The dog combines the reliability, intelligence, and willingness to please required in a dependable family companion and protector.

For Brigadoon, Bounce is a wonderful service dog for Earl, and young Hugo is in training at Coyote Ridge Correctional Center.

## A BIG, BIG THANK YOU TO:

### **The Lindsey Family Foundation**

They have provided support to Brigadoon with the new House of Puppies and now also several upcoming projects.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution**

Led by Veteran Leah Rossetti, they have raised enough money to support a dog for a veteran and have pledged to continue their support.

### **The FlatStick Pub in Bellingham**

Held four Sunday fundraising events in March, inviting us in to meet people and enabling us to raise over \$800. (and have a lot of fun – ever see a Lab play mini golf?)

### **So many supporters**

Thank you to the supporters who have given donations this year, either directly or through rewards programs such as Amazon Smile, Fred Meyers or workplace matching. See our [annual report](#) for a complete listing.

## **Training the Brigadoon Way:**

It's always safer for you and your dog if the dog waits for you to give them the go ahead to go through a door.

### **Cue: Door Control/Loose leash Walking**

Goal: Dog does not come out of kennel/crate or through any door without the “let’s go” cue

#### **Regular door control –**

Every door or gate is treated the same. Goal is to expect the dog to wait without saying anything! Your hand on the door handle is the cue.

When exiting or entering a building, open door slowly, if dog tries to push through, close the door. Repeat 3 times. Next you will back out through the door blocking the dog from going through. If the dog moves toward you, step toward him pushing him back, then proceed stepping back out of the door. Open yourself up slowly giving the dog access to the outside, but quickly block him (you become the door) if he does not wait for the “let’s go” cue. **AT NO TIME SHOULD YOU GO OUT TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME WHEN YOU SAY: “LET’S GO”.** If you do, the dog will be cueing off your movement and not listening to the cue. You should always take a step over the threshold before saying “let’s go”.



## Meet Puppy Raiser Lisa Sohni:

Lisa Sohni is a valued puppy raiser for Brigadoon who started with us a volunteer in the kennels and then joined the Board of Directors for a time before settling into her current role.



Q. How did you get started working with dogs?

A. *I have a degree in Animal Science and a certificate in dog training from the International Academy of Canine Trainers. I have always had dogs and became somewhat of a local dog rescuer and caretaker of other people's dogs. Dogs are sometimes not suited to the lives they are leading, so I became very interested in being a "dog matchmaker" to work on the best matches possible.*

Q. You could have given your time to any agency. What attracted you to Brigadoon?

A. *I love the concept of service work and feel an affinity for service animals and their partners. The changes that occur in disabled individuals due to their canine partners is invaluable. I also have PTSD so I understand the difference the dog can make helping navigate everyday life.*

Q. You are currently raising Chanel, a standard poodle. What are you enjoying about being her puppy raiser?

A. *First, I now love poodles. Their athleticism, elegance and joy of life are wonderful to work with. Chanel and I formed a real connection and I have loved watching her learning and understanding develop. It is rewarding facilitating her learning and helping her build her skills.*

Q. What are the challenges you've found in the puppy raiser role?

A. *The puppy is with you all the time so it's more intense than being a pet parent. There are standards and rules; goals we strive for, and milestones to meet – it's a higher level of responsibility.*

Q. Any recommendations for good puppy manners for new puppy parents?

A. *Maintain a structure and don't treat them like babies. Look at the long run where they are well behaved dogs. Enjoy their cuteness but don't give in to it!*

Q. You have multiple dogs in your home. Has that proven to be a challenge as you work with Chanel?

A. *It is a challenge in that my pet dogs don't have to meet the same standards that she does. She goes everywhere with me while they must stay home. They are great friends and play together well in our down time, so that's been a plus.*

Q. What are some of your favorite field trips with Chanel as you acclimate her to public access?

A. *SeaTac airport was a wonderful field trip. There is so much distraction and stimuli there and she did an amazing job! A favorite experience was when, after numerous field trips to stores, one day she just behaved perfectly. It was clear all those learning experiences and practices had come together.*

Q. What goals do you still have for Chanel before she goes to her next handler?

A. *Getting her excessive friendliness under control. It's part of who she is, but we need to work on when she can say hi and when she has to wait.*

Q. You've served in several roles with Brigadoon Lisa – what's next?

A. *I'd like to get my Master's degree at Bergin College and focus on training dogs to work with trauma victims – it's my passion.*

### FUNNY BONE:

Q: What do you call a frozen dog?

A: A pup-sicle.



Congratulations to those who've earned their vest:

Ashton and Durango, new graduate team!



Thomas and Freedom, new graduate team!



Adam and Sassy, new graduate team!



And longtime fave Stout graduated with his partner, AH.



## Welcome New Puppy!

Keegan arrived from NEADS in Massachusetts and is now with his puppy raiser, Diana. Thanks to volunteer Shelby for making that trip!



### FUNNY BONE:

- Q: What do dogs and phones have in common?  
A. They both have collar ID.



Til next time!