

# The Brigadoon Barker

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

Winter 2018



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## ***Letter from Dana Hanks President of the Board of Directors***

Dear Brigadoon Service Dog Supporters,

As we approach the end of the year, it's time to express gratitude to all of our staff, volunteers, board members, donors and supporters. Thank you all! As you know it takes a village to do our work of providing service dogs for veterans, other adults, and children with physical, developmental, and behavioral health disabilities, to promote a more independent and enriched life.

With the leadership of Denise, the 2018 Annual Auction and Dinner was a huge success. It was financially our best event ever bringing in over \$60,000 to benefit Brigadoon Service Dogs. Our donors and sponsors were key in the support of the event and our volunteers worked tirelessly to make it happen. Thank you all.

The first ever October Whiskey Walk at Barkley Village was a huge success and was so much fun. Again, with Denise in the lead and our wonderful sponsors we enjoyed a clear night, a sold out crowd with 500 tickets sold and bringing in \$14,000 to support Brigadoon Service Dogs. It took a large group of loyal Brigadoon Service Dogs volunteers to make it happen and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Denise and the Board of Directors have been working on several levels to try to make Brigadoon Service Dogs a financially sustainable operation. We are so happy to have partnered with WestCare Foundation who is assisting us with applying for grants that can help support Brigadoon.

We are proud to have added another prison to our program which brings our partnership to 4 the new prison is Coyote Ridge Corrections Center in Connell joining Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Cedar Creek Corrections Center and Washington Corrections Center. A special thank you to all who help us with these programs.

This December, we were awarded \$30,000 from Boeing Employees Credit Union's "People Helping People" Awards program for their Employee's Choice category. Six hundred organizations applied and we were in the top 4 finalists. Thank you BECU!

As an organization we worked hard to get out into the community to let people know about Brigadoon Service Dogs attending a wide variety of events. We have so much appreciation for all who were able to help us especially the puppy raisers who are doing such an important job already, who turned out to bring those pups out to help us with our mission.

Lastly we honor the dogs for the amazing service they do for others. They are life changing for so many. With gratitude for all of you who support our mission in so many ways we are looking forward to working with you in 2019.

Dana Hanks, President- Brigadoon Board of Directors

Newsletter edited by Celeste Macevicius

## Welcome

Here is a list of the new dogs we welcomed into the program this year:

- 🐾 **Scarlett** and **Paddington** are standard poodles. Growing Up Guide Pup bred the litter and is also involved in the puppy raising.
- 🐾 **Painter, Davie** and **Sir** are Labrador retrievers. They came to us through the American Breeding Cooperative.
- 🐾 **Sugar** is a Lagotto Romagnolo puppy. She was donated to us by a private breeder.
- 🐾 **Bravo, Zulu, Jackson,** and **Oscar** are red fox Labrador retrievers from the Family Alliance for Veterans of America.
- 🐾 **Siena, Sebastian, Juniper,** and **Hondo** are smooth coated collies. They are from Brigadoon's collie litter. Siena and Sebastian are sable coated while Juniper and Hondo are tricolor.
- 🐾 **Kisses** and **Nala** are lab mixes. Kisses was adopted from Whatcom Humane Society and Nala from the Alternative Humane Society.
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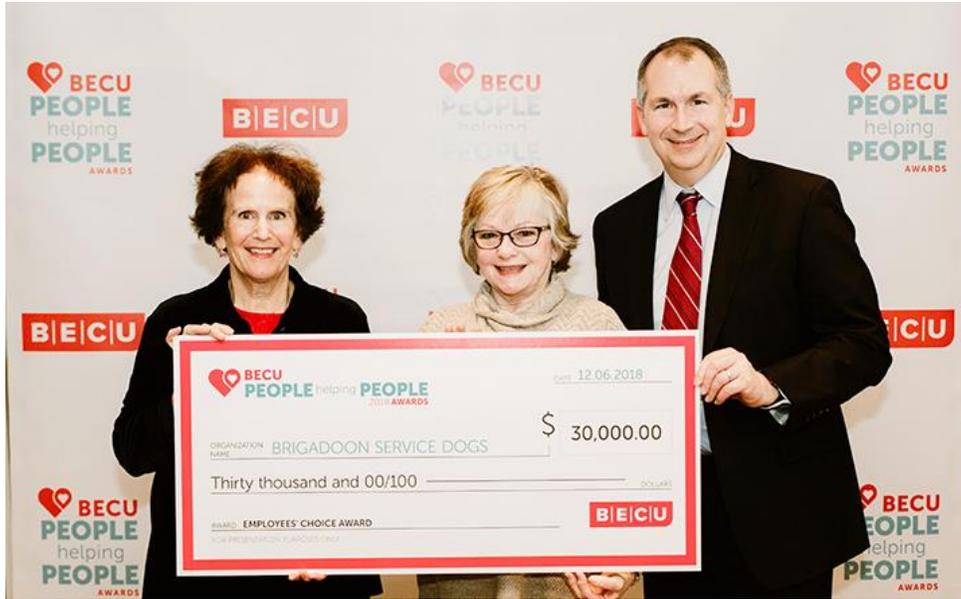
## Meet Sierra

Sierra is our new kennel tech and trainer in-training. She is also Siena's puppy raiser!



Hi! My name is Sierra, a 21-year-old adventurer from Bellingham. I have a background working with horses, especially retired racehorses, and started at Brigadoon as a volunteer. My favorite part of my job is getting to work with dogs every day. I've always wanted to work with animals and am very grateful to be given the opportunity to make that a reality. It's even worth having to get up so early! Being able to be Siena's puppy raiser has made me slightly biased towards collies. I currently don't have a dog but own a cat who thinks she's one! I'm so excited to be working a Brigadoon and look forward to being help people in my community

## Brigadoon Wins the Employees' Choice Award!



This fall, Brigadoon competed in the Boeing Employees' Credit Union People Helping People Awards. Over a span of a couple weeks, supporters across the continent logged on to their computers to vote for Brigadoon in the Employees' Choice Award. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Denise and Dana attended the Gala where it was announced that we won the \$30,000 prize!

To us, this is a testament not only to the importance of our mission, but also to the power of our community to help make that mission possible.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you

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## 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](#)

# My Constant Companion!

By Bill

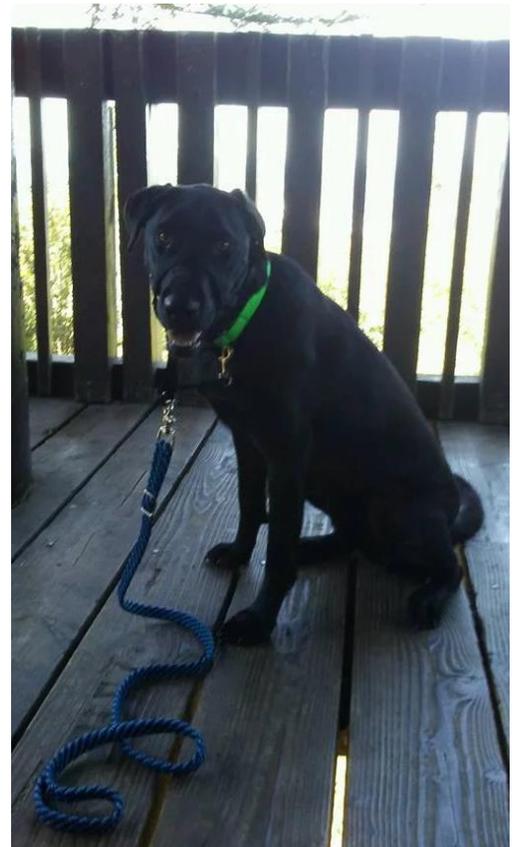
When my Doctor recommended that I get a Service Dog, my first thought was “wonderful, a new tool for my tool bag,” but what I have found since Charcoal and I were paired, is a whole new way of life and thinking for me.

Charcoal is not a pet, he is an extension of ME that I have to tend to and be tended by each day. I feed, water, walk, train, and play with him; he is my constant companion night and day. Charcoal helps distract me when my pain gets really bad and also warns me when my Gulf War illness or PTSD have been triggered before it has gotten out of control, so I can take steps to minimize it.

It is also just a comfort to have him lying at my feet when I sit. Not because he has too, but because he wants to just be with me and help take care of me; the kind of devoted Love that dogs are so good at.

In just the short time we have been together, he has become a major part of my life and my best friend.

Thank you to everyone at Brigadoon.



Read more stories like this on our blog!

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

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## New Documentary Follows Guide Dogs In-Training

This fall, Brigadoon sponsored screenings of the newly released documentary “Pick of the Litter” at the Pickford Film Center. The film follows four puppies from Guide Dogs for the Blind from birth to 2, as they learn how to become guide dogs.



We highly recommend watching this sweet, uplifting documentary!

*Have you already seen Pick of the Litter? Here are a few more recently released movies and shows that feature service dogs:*

- 🐕 “Dogs” on Netflix is a 6-episode series capturing the bonds between people and dogs
- 🐕 “Pip: A Short Animated Film” is a 4-minute animated film about a guide dog in-training available on Youtube
- 🐕 “Collar of Duty” is a documentary TV show produced by Animal Planet featuring service and therapy dogs

# Coyote Ridge Corrections Center: Brigadoon's 4<sup>th</sup> Prison Program



Image credit: Washington State Department of Corrections

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Denise drove to Connell Washington to set up another prison program. This means Brigadoon now has four prison programs running. At this program all the trainers are incarcerated veterans. They are now actively training dogs who will one day be placed with other veterans with a TBI and/or PTSD.

All four prison programs are a very special part of Brigadoon's work. Our dogs receive high quality, around-the-clock training with their inmate trainers. They learn how to open doors, pick up items, turn on lights, and more. At the same time, the inmate trainers get the chance to positively contribute to society, learn valuable new skills, and develop personal strengths.

Learn more about our prison programs here:

- 🐕 "The Truth about Cons and Dogs" article in the Seattle Met  
<https://www.seattlemet.com/articles/2014/2/1/the-truth-about-cons-and-dogs-february-2014>
- 🐕 "The Unusual Prison Rehab Program that has Tails Wagging" video on True Crime Daily  
<https://jasonmattera.com/2016/01/the-unusual-prison-rehab-program-that-has-tails-wagging/>
- 🐕 "Service Dogs Trained in Prison Help Vets Adjust to Civilian Life" video by WA Corrections  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zpb7l\\_CapQ&fbclid=IwAR1pZw5uw8uXLICgpJgOXOqDEhqfSIRY4uwS2fCGy2jxS-x-TN8O\\_hV9q20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zpb7l_CapQ&fbclid=IwAR1pZw5uw8uXLICgpJgOXOqDEhqfSIRY4uwS2fCGy2jxS-x-TN8O_hV9q20)

*"The reason I wanted to be part of the program is because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I have been a taker my whole life, avoiding responsibility or accountability, and generally not a very nice person. This being said, I want to take advantage of this special opportunity and give back to someone in need." - James Resop, inmate trainer*

# A Dog Walks into a Grocery Store

By Hayat Norimine

## Seattle Met

This is an excerpt from the article by the same name that ran in the Seattle Met in October 2018.

Read the whole article online here <https://www.seattlemet.com/articles/2018/9/11/a-dog-walks-into-a-grocery-store>

You've seen the signs. The international prohibition symbol with the figure of a dog in the center. "No pets except service animals only" posted on the front door. Sometimes there's an illustration of a person in a wheelchair, aided by a dog in a vest, with the words: "Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome." But chances are, the real dog isn't wearing a vest. (It doesn't have to.) And the real person isn't in a wheelchair. (They don't have to be.) Most people with illnesses or disabling conditions have hidden ones, including psychiatric disabilities, heart conditions, or being prone to seizures.

Who does lie about having a trained service dog? Hard to tell. According to public health records in King County, few health code complaints cite suspicion that the owner passed his or her pet as a service animal. More often, customers took issue with the presence of dogs in general. They often say it's clear they're not service animals. And complaints in King County have stayed pretty steady since at least 2015.

**85** Complaints filed with King County about health code violations involving dogs in 2017.

**2** Complaints filed with Seattle about businesses not accepting a service dog in 2017.

**\$500** Starting in January 2019, fine in Washington state for falsely claiming a service dog.

In many of those complaints, business employees appear confused by the ADA law or are unaware of the health code; many complainants said employees told them they were dog-friendly, violating state Health Department regulations. Sometimes they don't care enough to enforce the pet policy—several cited restaurant owners bringing their own dogs. Other times they don't understand what they're allowed to do, claiming that they're not permitted to ask. And accusers themselves show they don't know how to tell whether a dog is a service animal, citing misbehavior or the lack of a vest.

Laura Lindstrand, policy analyst at the Washington State Human Rights Commission, fields technical assistance calls to the commission and estimates that about 30 percent of the questions she receives relate to service animals.

She says that while parts of the new state law are good—it clearly defines a service animal as a dog or mini-horse, providing some much-needed clarity to establishments on that front—other aspects could be problematic. In particular, the law allows punishment when someone "should have known" that a pet didn't fit the definition of a service animal.

"Who's going to decide what a person knew or should have known?" Lindstrand says. The fact that the law remains vague on who's in charge of ultimately penalizing someone makes her uneasy. She points out that those with intellectual disabilities may not be able to understand the distinction and could truly believe their pet is a service animal. *Continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6* Some dogs, attuned with their owners, can start to sense when their heart rates rise, or if they're about to have an episode.

To fine that vulnerable population, which may not have the money to pay, could spell trouble. Especially because under the ADA workers are still only allowed to ask whether the animal is required for a disability and what tasks it can perform. If a person responds, and it sounds like a lie, someone can still call police.

Making the distinction of a service dog can be confusing even to those without intellectual disabilities. There is no federally recognized certification process, and scams online allow people to register their pets as service or emotional support animals without any requirements. Anyone can also buy a service dog vest. But federal law states that what distinguishes a service dog from, say, an emotional support dog is proper training. The Seattle Office for Civil Rights investigates complaints of ADA violations by requiring proof of disability and need for an animal from a medical professional, according to OCR spokesperson Roberto Bonnaccorso; the city doesn't require proof of training. And that can involve a years-long process, from the time the pup is eight weeks to two years old at graduation. And even then, no dog is perfect.

*Continued on page 8*

### **What are the Rules for Public Access?**

In general, service dogs are allowed anywhere the public is allowed to go. Washington's new bill that makes it an offence to misrepresent a service dog (2822) states that service dogs have access to "any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement."

Public access includes restaurants, hotel rooms, planes, and other no-pet areas.

Still, there are exceptions. If the presence of the dog would (in ADA terms) "fundamentally alter" the nature of the goods, services, programs, or activities provided to the public, the dog can be excluded. This includes animal exhibits (such as at a zoo or aquarium) where the presence of the service dog would threaten the wellbeing of the other animal, sterile environments, and amusement park rides where the presence of the service dog would pose a safety threat.

Service dogs are also not entitled to go in private areas. This includes places of worship, people's private homes, and private clubs.

Finally, service dogs can be asked to leave if they are behaving inappropriately. A service dog must be under the handler's control. If the dog is being disruptive, the dog – but not the handler – can be denied access, even if the dog is a service dog.

For more information, read the ADA FAQ page here:

[https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_ga.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_ga.html)

## A Dog Walks into a Grocery Store

*Continued from page 7*

Buttercup lay crouched in the middle of the floor, her mouth wide open, her eyes fixed on the humans entering the room, tail swinging left to right like a metronome. A trainer guided the stocky, two-year-old yellow Labrador—smart enough to switch off the lights, close doors, retrieve objects, carry her own leash—around the room to showcase her skills. Under commands, Buttercup dropped back to the floor.

But Buttercup, for all her seemingly preternatural intelligence and skill, is still a dog. We were reminded of that when, in a moment of self-indulgence, she rolled around on her back happily, her stomach exposed. “No, no,” her trainer admonished. “You’re not allowed to do that in public.”

Brigadoon Service Dogs in Bellingham is one of just three nonprofits in Washington state accredited by Assistance Dogs International, an organization that establishes standards for training service dogs. The small remote office is currently instructing about 30 dogs, many of them housed in their kennels in another building, a team of superheroes ready for deployment. Coup, a nearly two-year-old black lab, will go to a girl with anxiety and a developmental disability; Cinder, a one-year-old smooth collie, will be a hearing dog; Ruby, a blue German shepherd contracted for training, will help her owner with mobility issues.

Mr. Chips, a 60-pound poodle, was raised at Brigadoon and is now owned by one of its employees, Ariane Denham. From 2010 to 2011 Denham served in the U.S. Army’s 160th Forward Surgical Team in Afghanistan, where she treated traumatic injuries and often worked 48-hour shifts on the nursing floor. She still remembers mortar fire at a nearby camp and the Afghan teenage girl she helped who needed a full facial skin graft. (Denham says the girl’s brother threw boiling hot water on her when she expressed wanting an education to become an English translator.) When she returned to the U.S., Denham had problems with crowds and loud noises, and certain smells—alcohol prep pads with blood, for one—would trigger her anxiety and the sudden impulse to leave.



It took years for her to admit to herself that she had PTSD. She first tried Zoloft for her depression. But she grew apathetic. She gained weight. So in August 2016, she decided to apply for a service dog at Brigadoon. And just three months later, she got a call back; they had found a potential match.

Mr. Chips can distract her when she’s in distress by nudging her arms with his nose and demanding her attention. He can also face the opposite direction to be an extra set of eyes for what’s happening behind her, and his company in moments when she wakes up from a nightmare helps her calm down quickly. *Continued on page 9*

## A Dog Walks into a Grocery Store

*Continued from page 8*

All of Brigadoon's dogs are protected under federal law to accompany their owners into any establishment. But getting a service dog is an investment—Denham says each dog at Brigadoon costs about \$30,000 to \$40,000, most of it subsidized by the organization with \$10,000 left for the civilian to pay. If you're a military veteran, it's free. It can cost upwards of \$50,000 for more rigorously trained dogs used for a more demanding service, like guide dogs for the blind, though organizations often provide them free of charge.

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## Secret-Detecting Service Dog

By Joell Nylund



Andy

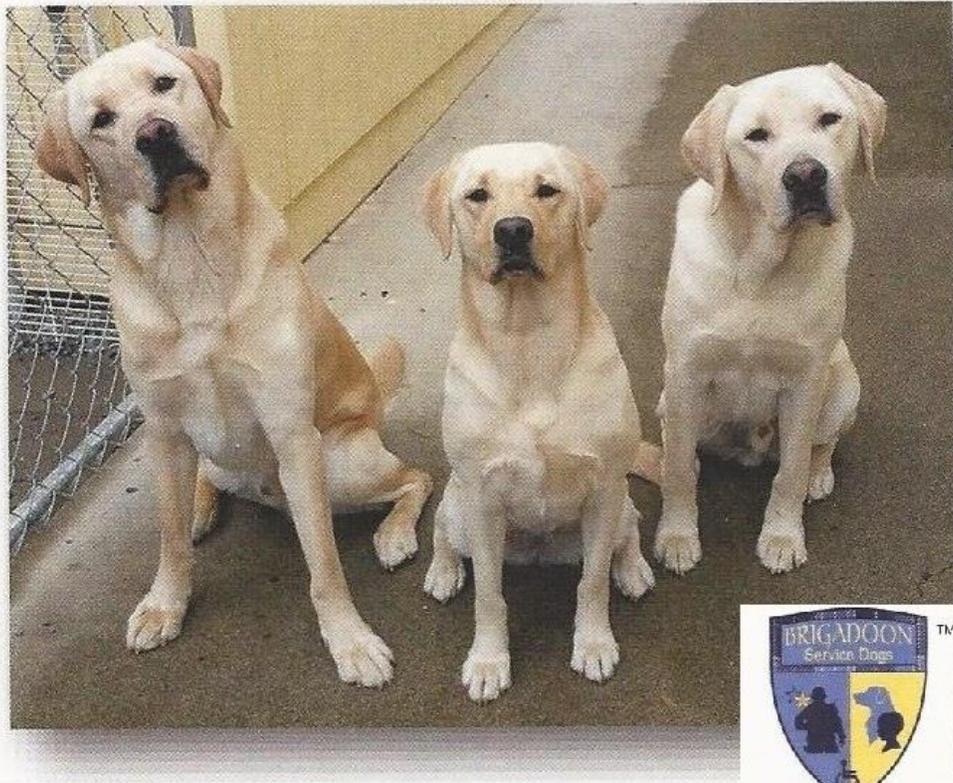
After Thanksgiving dinner, my family and I were sitting around the living room visiting. Andy was laying on his bed keeping an eye on me. He popped up and came to me to 'visit', by laying his head across my lap. He knew I was starting to have anxiety. My son, Brandon was sitting next to me. The next thing I know, Andy was off my lap and was laying his chin on Brandon's lap. We all laughed. Andy came back to me for maybe 30 seconds and then was back to Brandon, where he stayed. We all asked if he was okay, if he was feeling stressed or anxiety. Brandon assured us he was okay.

Brandon then left to go to his girlfriend's family's house, where he asked his girlfriend Ashley to marry him! Talk about anxiety, and Andy knew it – the little tattletale. Brandon confessed he was worried Andy would give him up!

*Andy and Joell graduated in the fall of 2017*

# Do your Shopping and Support Brigadoon!

By Joell Nylund and Ariane Alkema



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<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Find out more ways to help Brigadoon here! <http://www.brigadoondogs.org/how-you-can-help>

# Winter Safety Tips



## **Out and About**

- Consider putting a coat on your dog when the weather cools down – especially if they are small, short-coated, or old.
- Put a light or reflector on your dog to improve visibility in dark conditions.
- Watch out for puddles of anti-freeze or de-icers on the sidewalk. These are toxic for dogs.
- Wipe your dog's paws and belly after coming in from walks. This ensures your dog's paws stay healthy in cold weather. It also prevents your dog from licking anything unhealthy (such as salt) that may have gotten caught on them during the walk.
- Be on the look out for shivering, whining, anxiety, slowing down, and paw lifting. These are signs your dog is cold and should be brought inside. As a general guide, frail dogs are at risk below 32°F, while all dogs are at 20°F.

## **At home**

- Supervise your dog around fireplaces, candles, heaters, and strings of lights.
- Never leave your dog outside unattended.
- Keep your dog busy. Teach your dog a new trick, give them a Kong, or try “enrichment activities” (look up DIY examples online!).

## **Christmas**

- Be aware of what holiday foods and fun are unsafe for dogs. This includes:
  - Nuts, raisins, citrus, chocolate, edible bones, and alcohol
  - Tinsel, aluminum foil, poinsettias, lilies, ivy, plastic wrap
- Recognize the holidays can be stressful for dogs. Tips to help your dog stay calm:
  - Try to keep elements of your dog routine the same, such as their morning walk.
  - Give your dog a quiet place to retreat to when visitors are over.
  - Determine which of your activities are dog-friendly and which aren't (fireworks never are!).
  - Identify ways to soothe your dog. Maybe they are calmed by a massage, some time alone with you, or by wearing a Thunder Shirt.

## **Vacations**

- Do your research ahead of time to find a reputable caretaker
- Write a detailed list of instructions ahead of time. Include your dog's diet, exercise routine, favorites, fears, allergies, and any medications. Add emergency contact information as well.
- Leave your contact info in case your dog's caretaker needs to contact you. Reach out to a friend or family member and ask if they can act as backup if you are unreachable.

# Fun Page!

## Santa Paw's List

Santa Paws has mixed up all the wish lists he received. Find the different items listed below so he can get to work delivering!

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

BALL  
BISCUITS  
BONE  
BULLYSTICK  
CHEWTOY  
DOGBED  
FRISBEE  
KONG  
NEWCOLLAR  
PEPPERONI  
ROPE  
STUFFEDANIMAL