

# The Brigadoon Barker

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

Spring 2015



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## *Letter from Denise Costanten*

*Founder and Executive Director of Brigadoon Service Dogs*

Greetings!

I am excited to share with you some wonderful news happening at Brigadoon in 2015. New Beginnings is the theme. Why? With my husband needing to retire, and me not far behind, I needed to make a decision - how to keep the dream I started with Brigadoon alive. After a lot of soul searching and reflection of my experiences over the past 10 years, I came up with a plan. I needed to get a new generation to carry Brigadoon forward. They have to have the right attitude, understanding, and passion of what Brigadoon is all about. The search has begun and this is the plan.

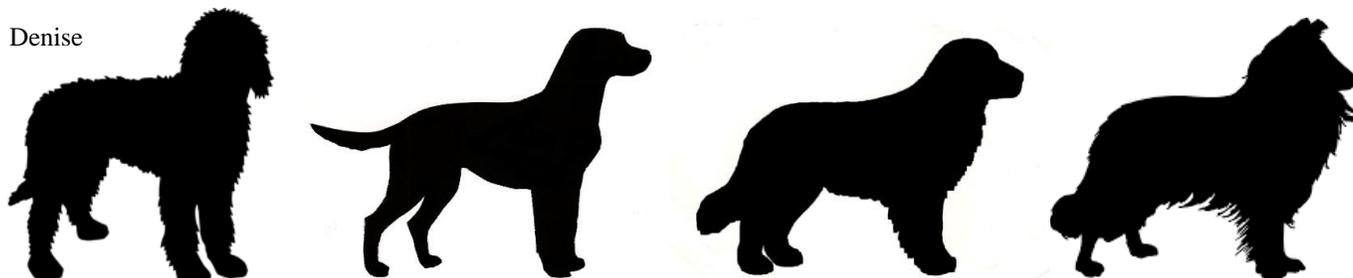
As I prepare to step down as Executive Director, the current board of directors and I are building a solid foundation of staff who believe in our mission, and we will increase the number of board members who also believe in our mission so that they may continue my vision for Brigadoon. I would like to do what I do best- work with the dogs and oversee the dog programs.

We have about a 1.5 – 2 year timeline for this transition to transpire. The transition will allow Brigadoon to be able to provide more dogs to those in need, increase public outreach with education programs and presentations and open a second small satellite in Thurston County.

I invite you to help launch our “New Beginnings” theme. You can help either with a financial donation (just \$25.00 a month can do so much), volunteer and/or share our story with family and friends. That is all it takes to help us help others☺

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Denise



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## Brigadoon in the News

*A short overview of some of the news Brigadoon has been featured in.*

- ✎ The Planet Dog Foundation awarded a \$7500 grant to Brigadoon Service Dogs. Kristen Smith, executive director of Planet Dog, called described, "Brigadoon Service Dogs provides a unique two-tiered system that Planet Dog is happily willing to support." Thank you so much, Kristen and Planet Dog!
- ✎ The Centre for Independence and Brigadoon paired up to do a series of seminars on service dogs at the library.
- ✎ Brigadoon hosted an open house in December. People came to meet the latest Brigadoon litter and also see more about what Brigadoon does.
- ✎ Personal Focus Productions produced another great video for Brigadoon: a video Christmas greeting. The film took shots of the new collie puppies; captured some colliedoodle training; and featured a message from the Villavicencio family, who have Brigadoon-trained service dog, Parker.



Handmade bowl by the inmate dog trainers at Stafford Creek Corrections Centre

## Brigadoon News

*A short overview of some of Brigadoon's latest activities.*

- ✎ 14 teams in all graduated from Brigadoon in 2014. Good job to everyone involved!
- ✎ Brigadoon celebrated its 10th anniversary last September.
- ✎ Brigadoon constructed new, larger pens for the dogs.
- ✎ 3 standard poodle puppies joined the program. Abby has since been placed into a forever home, while Minx and Chips are still in the program.
- ✎ Brigadoon's prison program was extended to a second location: Stafford Creek Corrections Centre. 4 shelter dogs have been paired with inmate trainers to be trained to help veterans.
- ✎ Brigadoon welcomed the next generation of service dogs on October 29th, 2014. Jewel and Tyler had 7 collie puppies.
- ✎ Jade, a yellow lab puppy, joined Brigadoon. She is Brigadoon's first puppy from the ABC Co-op, a system where different service dog organizations can work together to breed and share service puppies. Jade came from Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS) BC.
- ✎ The May team training has happened, and another team training is booked for August.
- ✎ Brigadoon's annual auction and graduation ceremony will occur on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lynwood Convention Centre (see page 8).

### What is the Process of Training a Service Dog?

Training a service dog is a lengthy process. At Brigadoon, service dogs are trained from puppyhood and up until they are around 2 years of age. Training a service dog is also a costly process. It is estimated that the costs are around \$30 000 per dog.

Here are the steps a Brigadoon service dog would likely undergo to become trained as a service dog:

1. The puppy is born! Some service dog puppies are bred in the program, some are donated by breeders, others are adopted, and some are shared through a service dog co-op program. For this example, we'll say that our puppy is a collie puppy from a Brigadoon litter named Ramona.
2. Ramona is temperament tested. Tests might include making a loud noise to see how she'd react, or calling her name and seeing her response. Congratulations Ramona, your temperament is a good fit for a potential service dog!
3. Ramona goes to her puppy raiser. Although there was the potential for her to go to the prison program, Ramona has been designated to a volunteer with 2 children and another dog. There, she will do basic obedience training, socializing, playing, cuddling, and growing. Ramona will be introduced to many things, people, and situations. At Brigadoon, puppies are with their puppy raiser 24/7! The idea is to get her familiar and thus more confident with many different things, and to start her with her training. All the while, Ramona will enjoy a wonderful puppyhood with a skilled and loving puppy raiser.
4. Ramona is one year old! She now returns to the centre to undergo temperament, health, and trainability assessments. If she passes these, she will enter her formal training. If she does not pass, she will be adopted into a loving home. *Continued on page 4.*



Neil, 11 weeks old. Heading off to his puppy raiser!

Brigadoon is on Social Media! Check out "Brigadoon Service Dogs" on Facebook & Instagram

## What is the Process of Training a Service Dog?

*Continued from page 3*

5. Ramona passed! She now enters her formal training, where she will learn more advanced tasks. She will also get lots of practice doing public access training. This means she will visit many places in public and begin to work on what will be required of her when she takes her public access test. During this time, she will also likely meet several different prospective handlers, who might be a match with her.
6. Ramona and a service dog applicant have made a good connection, in terms of lifestyle, character, and needs. They are a match! She will now be trained to assist her person's needs.
7. At age two, Ramona has finally completed her training. She is now gone to her handler's home to spend an intensive weekend of bonding together. On Monday morning, she and her handler will begin team training. This process, which lasts two weeks, will teach Ramona's handler many things such as grooming, healthcare, feeding, handling, training, exercising, and public etiquette during the time. As well, the two will get lots of practice learning to work as a team.
8. The two weeks are over and it is now time for Ramona and her handler to take a public access test. This test will assess Ramona and her handler's competency out in public. Ramona must demonstrate skills such as the ability to walk by food, keep at a heel in a busy area, and ignore distractions.
9. Ramona and her handler have passed! Now that Ramona and her handler have passed their public access test, they are ready to begin working as a team. They finish off their two weeks with a graduation ceremony with the rest of the teams, and are approved as official service dog teams. There is still a lot of work ahead for Ramona and her partner, but she is ready to face the world as an official service dog!

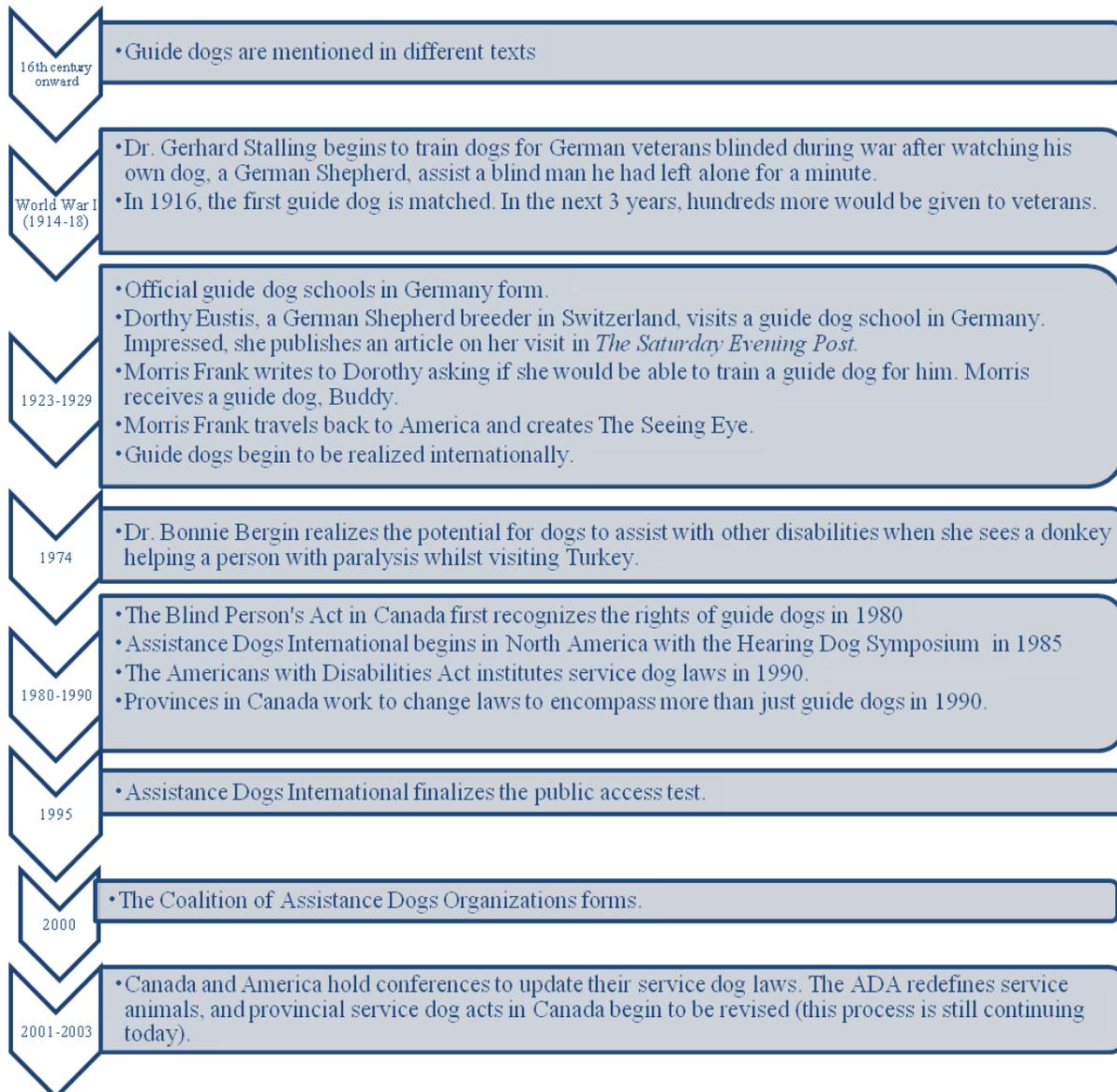


*"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."*

*- Roger Caras*

# A Short History of Service Dogs

## With a focus on the USA and Canada



### Bibliography

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Wilkins, D. (2001, Fall/Winter). *Dog Guide Legislation Coast to Coast*. Retrieved March 24, 2015, from Alliance For Equality of Blind Canadians: <http://www.blindcanadians.ca/publications/cbm/11/dog-guide-legislation-coast-coast>

## Profile of a Brigadoon Dog



**Name:** Rosie

**Date of birth:** September 2nd, 2013 (Labour day!)

**Parents:** Molly (black standard poodle) and AJ (rough coated collie).

**Breed:** Colliedoodle

**Life so far:** Rosie was one of nine puppies born in the colliedoodle litter. The colliedoodles are a cross between a collie and a poodle. The two breed's excellent service dog temperaments made Denise think of putting the two breeds together into a colliedoodle (plus, we think the name is fun to say!). Rosie has been trained in the prison program, at Brigadoon, and with a puppy raiser. She is now 1 1/2 years old and is looking for a match. Rosie and her litter were the focus of a series of short videos by Personal Focus Productions. Go look her and her siblings up!

## Fundraising Tips

Raising and training service dogs is a costly venture! Vet bills, dog food, utility and rent costs, gas money, pet supplies, and other expenses accrue high costs. Since Brigadoon Service Dogs does not get any government funding, they rely on donations. Whether you are fundraising as a service dog applicant, a family member or friend of someone applying for a service dog, or a supporter of Brigadoon, here are some ideas to help raise funds:

- 🐾 Create an online crowd sourcing page. Sites such as "Go Fund Me" and "You Caring" allow you to gather funds from friends, family, and supporters through a secure, online website. Note that some of these websites have a cost or take a percentage of your money raised.
- 🐾 Hold a garage sale, lemonade stand, bake sale, movie night, dance, or other event. You can charge an admission, sell refreshments, present silent auction items, and do a 50/50 draw!
- 🐾 Organize an event such as a clothing exchange or street hockey game that costs little or nothing to coordinate, but can bring in donations through admission charges.
- 🐾 Do a bottle drive.
- 🐾 Find a company that has a direct sale program. These programs let you buy products at a price lower than what you're selling them for. When you sell them to people, you get the difference!
- 🐾 Invent an easy-to-make handmade product such as personalized wrapping paper, soup mixes, muffins, bracelets, soap, or candles and sell them.
- 🐾 Ask local companies, coworkers, friends and family, and the community to donate different special items or services. Then, auction them off! You can even try auctioning off your own family's services --- For example, 5 free babysitting sessions, dog-sitting, lawn mowing, or a home cooked meal.
- 🐾 Go public. Get your story published in a local newspaper, or aired on a local radio station or television channel.

## Congratulations to Our May Graduates!

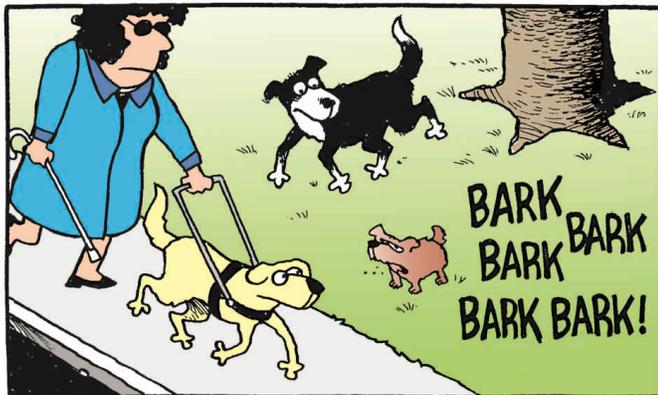


Congratulations to the five Brigadoon Service Dog teams that are graduating in May! George, Roman, Brandi, Zola, and Styx (as seen above from left to right) and their partners worked hard at their team training and all graduated on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations puppy raisers, volunteers, and staff for helping to raise and train these dogs into the wonderful service dogs they are today. Thank you sponsors and donors for making the raising and training of these dogs possible. Good job dogs, you have all learned so much and we know you'll be wonderful service dogs! Finally, congratulations handlers on your matches and great job graduating!

*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion" - Unknown*

## The Other Coast by Adrian Raeside



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## Call for Contributions

Do you want to contribute to the next issue of The Brigadoon Barker? Awesome! There are many different ways of contributing:

### Interviews

You could be featured in the Brigadoon Barker! If you are a volunteer, puppy raiser, applicant in the wait list, handler, or in some other way involved with Brigadoon and want to be interviewed about your involvement, please contact us! A list of questions will be sent to you for you to respond to.

### Writing

Do you have a special dog cookie recipe or some advice for keeping your dog clean? What about an essay or report? A biography about your dog or a poem you wrote? Even some jokes? Your submissions are appreciated!

### Art and Photos

If you have a picture (photographic or otherwise) that you'd like to share, send it to us!

All submissions can be sent to [info@brigadoondogs.org](mailto:info@brigadoondogs.org) under the subject: "Brigadoon Barker Submission" or emailed directly to the volunteer

## Save the Date!

Brigadoon's graduation is going to be part of our annual auction again. Yeah!

The event will occur on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Lynwood Convention Centre.

Save the date cards will be mailed out shortly.



*Photos from the 2012 auction and graduation*

*"If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."*

*– Fred Rogers*

## Thank You to All of Our Volunteers, Donors and Sponsors!

Without your help, the work Brigadoon does would not be possible.



*Melody says thank you!*

Did you know that Brigadoon is Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Accredited? That means that Brigadoon has met global standards and ethics for raising and training dogs, working with clients, and managing an organization.



# Fun Page!

## Jokes

Q: What do you get when you cross a Brigadoon dog with a rose?

A: A collie-flower!

Q: What do you get when you cross a cocker spaniel, a poodle, and a rooster?

A: Cockerpoodledoo!

Q: What do you call a dog magician?

A: A labracadabrador!

## Caption this!



What do you think this little collie puppy is saying?  
Write in and let us know!

## Word Jumble

Unscramble the dog cues to fill in the comic.

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