

The Brigadoon Barker

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

Fall 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.

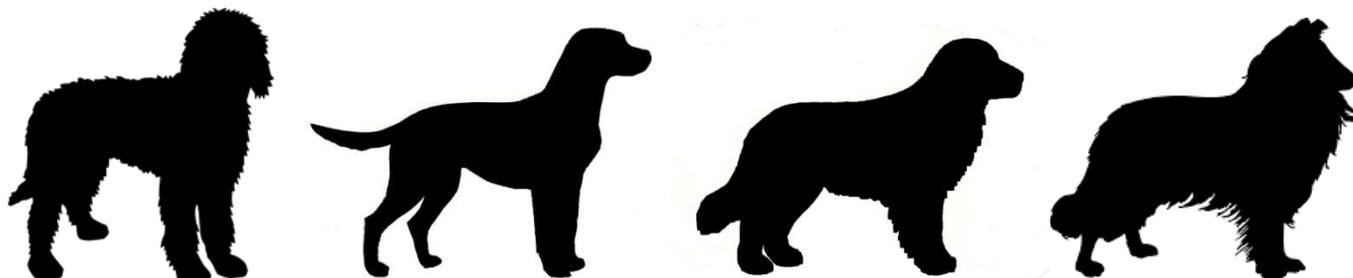
As I prepare to step down as Executive Director; the current board of directors and I are building a solid foundation of staff who believe in our mission, and we will increase the number of board members who also believe in our mission so that they may continue my vision for Brigadoon. I would like to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

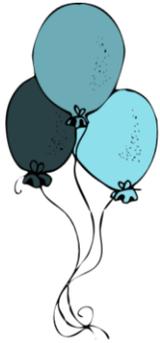


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Newsletter written by Celeste Macevicius.

Congratulations, Graduates!!!



Three new teams graduated from Brigadoon in August, 2015. Luis and Fresca, Kaelyn and Finnegan, and Shirley and Ollie are pictured above with their new partners in order from left to right.



Congratulations to everyone!



"It's going to change my life a lot; it already has."

"Mom has waited over 2 years for Ollie. So I just wanted to say THANK YOU to Brigadoon."

Welcome, Tiffany!

Everyone at Brigadoon would like to extend a warm welcome to Tiffany Yost, who joined the Brigadoon team this September. Tiffany received an associate's degree from Bergin University of Canine Studies and is one talented trainer. In addition to training, she is also raising Brigadoon puppy-in-training, Teyla.

Tiffany has already helped out so much at Brigadoon, and we're so glad to have her here!



Out and About with Brigadoon

Bellingham has been seeing a lot of Brigadoon lately, with Brigadoon visiting and presenting at various events and venues in the community. Over the past couple of months, Brigadoon has gone to festivals, markets, meetings, and more to raise awareness, educate people, promote Brigadoon's work, and connect with the community.

On one summer afternoon, Brigadoon trainer, Sydney and Brigadoon dog-in-training, Bubba presented to the Girl Scouts' summer camp. Sydney told everyone about service dogs and how they are "everyday superheroes." The Girl Scouts were a great audience and asked lots of good questions.



At the Paws and Claws event, Sydney and Bubba were at it again, teaching local pet lovers about Brigadoon. Bubba was very popular and made lots of new friends.



Denise and Brigadoon dog recipient Terry brought AJ and service dog Ruby to the Semiahoo Yacht Club's Dog Days of Summer to do a presentation on boat safety for dogs. AJ and Ruby were great demo dogs!

Brigadoon has also made appearances at the Whatcom Humane Society's Dog Days of Summer and the Community Food Co-op's 18th Annual Free Community Party.



As well, the inaugural Golf For Vets in July at Sudden Valley Golf Course generously chose Brigadoon and Growing Vets as their fundraising beneficiaries for their event.

Brigadoon has definitely been very busy over the past few months, going to events all over Bellingham. This fall, Brigadoon had its own event, their annual graduation dinner and auction. For more information, please see page 8.



"A dog can express more with his tail in seconds than his owner can express with his tongue in hours." ~Author Unknown

Profile of a Brigadoon Dog



Name: Melody

Date of birth: October 29th, 2014

Breed: Smooth coated collie

Mother: Jewel

Father: Tyler

Fun Fact: Melody's grandmother, Sable, shares her birthday!

Job: Melody is going to be taking over for a retiring Brigadoon dog, Ava. She is going to fill in Ava's big footsteps as a hearing dog.



Melody and her siblings as puppies!

Dog Treats YUMS and YUCKS

While the best food for your dog is dog food, there are some human foods that dogs can enjoy as a special treat (YUM!). There are also some human foods that are very bad for dogs that dogs should never eat (YUCK!).

YUM

- 🐾 Carrots
- 🐾 Pumpkin
- 🐾 Cheese
- 🐾 Oatmeal
- 🐾 Banana
- 🐾 Apple (take out the seeds!!)
- 🐾 Yogurt
- 🐾 Broccoli
- 🐾 Green beans
- 🐾 Peanut butter (*NOTE:* Make sure that the peanut butter DOES NOT have xylitol!!!)
- 🐾 Egg
- 🐾 Chicken
- 🐾 Salmon

YUCK

- 🐾 Chocolate
- 🐾 Grapes
- 🐾 Raisins
- 🐾 Onions
- 🐾 Avocado
- 🐾 Xylitol (a sweetener in some peanut butters, gums, and candy)
- 🐾 Tree nuts
- 🐾 Cooked bones
- 🐾 Fruit pits or seeds
- 🐾 Caffeine or alcohol
- 🐾 Mushrooms
- 🐾 Fatty foods

An Update on the Colliedoodles!

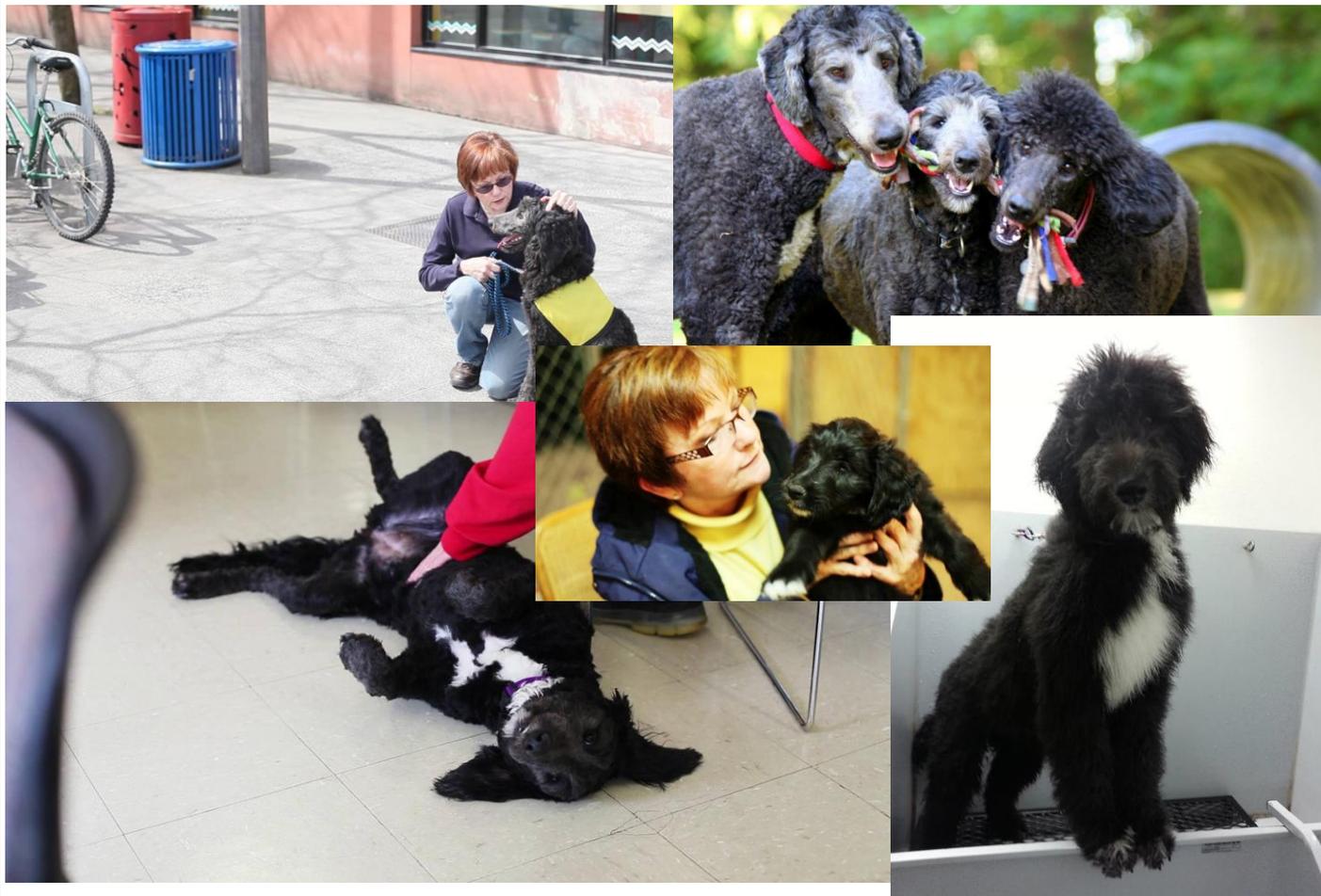
When two very special dogs met in a very special place two years ago, something wonderful happened.

The dogs were AJ, a rough coated collie, and Molly (now Ruby), a standard poodle. The place they met was Brigadoon. Denise saw an opportunity and on Labor Day, nine weeks later, nine beautiful colliedoodle puppies entered the world.



The four colliedoodles that passed all the temperament testing – Red, Rosie, Torrey, and Woody – have since become true Brigadoon dogs. They have been trained in the prison program; enjoyed grooming by Brigadoon's poodle/doodle groomer, Happy Pooch Styling & Spa; been featured by Personal Focus Productions; worked hard with Brigadoon trainers and volunteers; been matched with eager clients, and are now going to experience the final Brigadoon experience: team training!

We are so excited for the colliedoodles! We know that they will do great things with their lucky matches.



Flashback!!!

Did you know that Brigadoon has now been in operation for over ten years!?!? Check out this article from Brigadoon's 2008 November newsletter:

Brigadoon Celebrates Graduation Day

Two years of dreams and hard work came to a happy ending for four service dog graduates and their new owners on Sunday, October 19th. A standing-room only crowd of friends, family and supporters watched the owners receive their dogs and diplomas on the Sehome High School stage.

Owners testimonials and a multimedia presentation that included an overview of Brigadoon's training program, plus candid photos of the dogs and their owners, preceded the official ceremony. The event was capped off with cookies, strawberry shortcake and beverages donated by Hilltop Restaurant.

This year's graduates were Roy Lundgren/Luke, Margaret Cooper/ Ozzie, Hunter Langdon/Andrew and Nicky Rossi/Bello.

Since it was founded in 2004, Brigadoon has trained 12 service dogs, including the four that recently graduated. There are currently 16 dogs in various stages of training.

"Bello will make a huge difference in our family's quality of life," said Joyce Rossi, mother of Nicky who has autism. "Bello will provide another set of eyes and ears to help keep watch over Nicky."

Improved quality of life and happy endings...that's what Brigadoon is all about!

To see more, go to <http://www.brigadoondogs.org> and click on News>Newsletters to see more Brigadoon Barker Issues. You can check out the latest issue, or go back and see what was happening from all the way back in 2008!

"Offering a Helping Paw to Make Miracles Happen!"



Puppy Raisers Rock!

Have you heard about Brigadoon's awesome puppy raisers? Puppy raisers are volunteers who take care of, socialize, and train a Brigadoon service dog in-training for his or her first year of life! Puppy raisers are an integral part of the Brigadoon program, devoting their time and energy towards helping a puppy succeed as a service dog.

Puppy raisers have a lot of work. They go to puppy classes and group outings; feed, water, and exercise their puppy everyday; work to expose and socialize the dog to as many things as possible; practice basic obedience training throughout the week; and more. No matter what they're doing, puppy has to be there learning. But puppy raisers also have a lot of fun. They get to play with their puppy; introduce her to new things each day; watch her learn and grow; and become her friend. Best of all, they get to take her everywhere they go! Most importantly, puppy raisers get to build connections with the puppy, other staff and volunteers, and the community, while making a difference in someone's life.

We are so grateful to all our puppy raisers for all that they do.



Puppy raisers
Debbie Baker
with Ned (on left)
and Michael
Porter and Mary
Munford with
Fresca and her
handler, Luis
Lopez (on right).



Puppy raisers: We really couldn't do it without you! THANK YOU!

Do you want to join Brigadoon's puppy raising team? Go to <http://www.brigadoondogs.org> and click on How You Can Help > Raise a Puppy OR contact Brigadoon for a print application.

To become a puppy raiser first fill out the application and obtain two letters of reference. You will then have an interview and a home check. If all goes well, you will be able to start raising puppies into service dogs!!!

DID YOU KNOW???

A service dog spends 180-360 hours being trained!!! All of this training means that they are expected to respond to cues with **90%** accuracy.

Source: Assistance Dogs International

Reaching out for Red

By Celeste

I have recently found myself stretching my hand out, reaching to feel an imaginary dog while standing in line with my mom. I realize while crossing the parking lot to meet my dad, I am making a fist to hold an imaginary leash. And sometimes when I sit down at my mom's work, I realize I am leaving room enough for my imaginary dog.

Last year, the imaginary dog with the imaginary leash and imaginary dog bed would have been just that: imaginary. I suppose they would have helped me to cope while out in public. I've found myself doing other things like keeping one step behind my mom while walking down the streets; imagining a dog is another way to make it through the coffee line or across the parking lot with my intense anxiety.

Next year will be different, though. Next year, I will stretch my hand out while standing by myself in the line for coffee to feel the soft fleecy fur of my service dog. Next year, I will clutch my dog's harness as she gently guides me smoothly across the parking lot to my dad, or maybe even to the bus stop where I can catch a bus by myself. And when I sit down at my mom's work, or maybe at a library or even a classroom, my service dog will take that space I give her and lie quietly at my feet.

Anxiety means that so much of my experience is tenuous. My memories, thoughts, beliefs, perceptions, and experiences are all tangled with doubt, worry, and a general uneasiness. I can't remember things that have happened in the past or conceive of things that will happen in the future (even if 'the future' means 30 minutes from now). Even the present can seem unreal! As soon as I'm over-stimulated, stressed out, or even just alone, comforts seem as imaginary the dog I've been constructing.

Living with anxiety is a bit like living as a traveller in a strange, dangerous place. You spend much of your time looking for dangers, planning ahead, and avoiding risks. Living with a psychiatric service dog is a bit like having a tour guide for that place. A tour guide who grew up in the world, and knows it to be as good and joyous as it is strange and sometimes dangerous. This guide is a dog and dogs are, after all, experts at finding the good in things.

I have spent years living with anxiety (among other diagnoses). I am so ready to spend the next years living with a service dog.

I will join with Red this November at Brigadoon's team training.

2015 New Beginnings Annual Graduation & Auction Gala a Success

By Denise

Thank you to all who attended our event on September 19th, and making it so fun.

All though the turnout was half of what we hoped for, the evening was so much fun! Lots of games and audience interaction. Everything sold at or above fair market value. The auctioneer, Tim Chapin was fabulous and our emcee Taylor Edwards was a HOOT!

A special Thanks to all the fab volunteers who helped the whole evening run smoothly. As well, Thank you to Tammy, Marguerite, Sydney, and Sophie for helping prepare everything for our big event; could not have done it with them.



Team Kaelyn and Finnegan walking across the stage

Fun Page!

Humour

Why are service dogs so good at their jobs?
Because they know how to HEAL

What did the service dog say when her handler asked if she wanted to go see a movie?
"I'm down."

Why do service dogs have the best jobs?
Because they are allowed to sleep on the job

Coloring Page

This coloring page is from Brigadoon's Canine Coloring Activity Book! Check out the whole book at Brigadoon's website www.brigadoondogs.org!

The First Rule: Always Ask Before Petting a Dog

Why? Service Dogs are working dogs and they are specially trained to pay attention to the needs of their partner. They must be given permission to accept your petting, just as you need to ask for your permission to pet them.

