

# The Brigadoon Barker

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

**Spring 2019**



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

Dear Brigadoon Service Dog Supporters,

Spring has arrived and again it's time to express appreciation to all of our staff, volunteers, board members, donors and supporters. Thank you all! We are grateful to be able to continue 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 all of you.

With the leadership of Denise, the 2019 Annual Auction and Dinner planning is underway. Our donors and sponsors were key in the support of the event and our volunteers worked tirelessly to make it happen. We will be looking for live and silent auction items. Save the date for Saturday, September 7th at the Four Points by Sheraton in Bellingham.

The first ever Wine Auction is in the process of being planned for Saturday, May 18th at Brigadoon Service Dogs. Again with Denise in the lead we will keep you posted about the details.

This year we are continuing to work on many 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 received a fantastic \$80,000 donation at the beginning of the year from The Lindsey Foundation. As you will see included in the newsletter, Seattle University students raised over \$15,000 making and selling Brigadoon Biscuits with their wonderful project! Many other organizations have stepped up to help us in so many ways. Thank you all! Gary's Plumbing \$2500, Superfeet \$5000, First Federal \$500 and other generous donations from individuals., The VAREP Tacoma Chapter (veteran realtors) will be hosting a Casino Night on our behalf on April 6th at the Star Center in Tacoma. Also Northshore Veterinary Hospital helps provide us with expert and compassionate care at a lower discounted cost to help us continue our mission. We have so much gratitude for everyone's support.

We have so much appreciation for all who are able to help us train the dogs and other vital tasks. The puppy raisers, our prison partners and the volunteers who come to Brigadoon to help us with our mission. Thank you all so much. You are amazing!

Always- we honor the dogs for the life changing service they do for those in need.

Dana Hanks, President- Brigadoon Board of Directors

Newsletter edited by Celeste Macevicius

## Goodbye, Ariane

We wished a bittersweet goodbye to our administrative assistant, Ariane.



Ariane has returned to working as a licensed practical nurse.

Thank you, Ariane, for all you work at Brigadoon! We look forward to seeing you around in your volunteering role.

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*“This was a very hard decision to make. I wanted to reach out to let everyone know that I’ve so enjoyed working with each of you during my time here. It’s been a true pleasure getting to know you better! Working here at Brigadoon has been a truly rewarding experience and getting to see our clients getting matched with a dog is beyond amazing!”*  
-Ariane

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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

## Seattle University Students raise money with “Brigadoon Biscuits”



Seattle University MBA students are amazing! Recently a team of students at Seattle U raised \$15,040 for Brigadoon by selling homemade “Brigadoon Biscuits” as part of their social justice project.

Thank you, students, for your incredible work!

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### You Make Us Smile!

Brigadoon raised \$327.39 this quarter thanks to supporters' purchases through Amazon Smile. THANK YOU!

Do you shop on Amazon? You can join our amazing community of supporters! Simply link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile and select Brigadoon as your charity. From then on, 0.5% of the purchase price from your (eligible) purchases will be donated to Brigadoon.

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_ul\\_lm\\_raas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas)

# **Brigadoon Service Dogs Receives Award, Reminder of The Impact that the Nonprofit Leaves on Families**

*Reprinted from*  
**THE WESTERN FRONT**

Text and photos by Molly Todd

“You gave me my life back when you gave me this dog,” a client told Denise Costanten after receiving a service dog from the Brigadoon Service Dogs program.

Brigadoon Service Dogs provides trained service dogs to veterans, adults and children with disabilities, behavioral, as well as physical and developmental, Costanten said. She is the founder and executive director of Brigadoon Service Dogs in Bellingham.

On average, Brigadoon places 10 dogs per year with clients and has a diverse group of breeds including great danes, poodles, labs and collies, Costanten said. The nonprofit receives clients from Oregon up to British Columbia, but people have come from as far as Southern California, she said.

The nonprofit received the Boeing Employees’ Credit Union Employee’s Choice award and was also awarded \$30,000 at the People Helping People Awards in December, according to [an article](#) from The Bellingham Business Journal.

The award from Boeing Employees’ Credit Union is the second-largest grant Brigadoon has received so far and can help toward hiring new trainers, feeding the dogs, putting them through training and much more, Costanten said. In 2012, Brigadoon also received a \$50,000 grant award from the Annenberg Foundation, a global nonprofit organization.

The focus of the grant is to give back to the community in general, Costanten said. “We’re making a change in people’s lives,” she said. “We train dogs to help people, so we’re helping people through our dogs.”

The organization works to give its clients new hope and create new possibilities in life for those who need a service dog, Costanten said. “It gives them a new lease on life, it gives them confidence and it gives them independence,” she said.

Since Brigadoon's opening in 2004, they have received five other awards as well, one of which was the Golden Tennis Shoe award given to Costanten in 2014 from Washington Senator Patty Murray. Murray gives out three awards a year and Costanten received one of them.

Before Costanten founded her nonprofit, she was running a for-profit business training dogs for pet owners, she said. At one point she had eight dogs in her house and realized that she could train collies, which are known as working dogs, to work for somebody with a disability. Knowing it would take a lot of time to do so and unsure if she could do it all, Costanten decided to take the chance, she said. "So off I went, closed my business, and opened my nonprofit business," she said.



When Brigadoon first started, Costanten wasn't aware of the need for service dogs in the area. "I thought I might put out one or two dogs a year, but when my website went live, I had no idea how many people were out there looking for service dogs," she said. "I had no clue [how high] the demand was."

She said she started receiving calls from people with anxiety and diabetes as well as parents of children with autism. They said they were having issues getting service dogs from other places because they weren't considered priority cases for service dogs, Costanten said.

"That struck a funny chord because I thought, 'To me, if it affects your life, being able to work or being in the community and your normal life functioning, it's a disability no matter what the label is,'" she said. "If [the client] can tell me what they need the dog to do, then I can train the dog to do it, it didn't matter to me what the disability was."

Fifteen years after it first opened, Brigadoon currently has a waitlist for people wanting a service dog. "It's very hard for me to know that there are a lot of people on a waitlist, and I don't have the dogs [for everyone]," Costanten said. "It takes a while, it's not just the training that takes awhile, it also takes awhile to match them with the right partner."

Training for service dogs at Brigadoon typically begins when they are puppies and it takes two years for them to graduate from the service dog program, she said. The service time of the dog for the client is around eight to 10 years, after which the dog can retire and become a regular pet for the client and family, according to Costanten.

Cheri Mulligan, co-founder of Misunderstood Mutts Rescue, has been in contact with Costanten about puppies the organization recently rescued from Yakima.

Three 7-week-old puppies named Stella, Dixie and Pebbles that were brought to Brigadoon can be considered in entering the service dogs program there, she said.

Misunderstood Mutts Rescue began in 2016 and provides service to the greater Yakima Valley, Puget Sound region and greater Portland area, according to their website.

It's important for the puppies to be brought to Brigadoon at a young age to start training, Mulligan said. "It all starts here," she said. "For me, it's really important that when we get puppies we do it right."



Misunderstood Mutts Rescue takes in dogs that range in ages, and currently the organization has six adult dogs and six puppies, Mulligan said.

"We'll take anything, we don't cherry-pick. There's a lot of rescues that cherry-pick, but we're here to rescue whatever needs to be rescued," Mulligan said.

Kathleen McGregor, who fosters puppies and pregnant dogs, helped Mulligan bring the rescue puppies to Brigadoon.

McGregor said she tries to foster only one litter at a time, six puppies on average, but it ranges and there are sometimes more. One of the most recent pregnant dogs she fostered gave birth to 12 puppies, she said with a laugh.

Costanten said she will never forget the impact that Brigadoon's service dogs have left on children and young teens especially. One story in particular that has stuck with her through the years involved a client with cerebral palsy looking for a service dog, she said. The client had to use a walker to be able to get around but when she received a service dog from Brigadoon in middle school, it changed her life, Costanten said. "She was no longer the kid with a metal thing walking around, now she's the cool kid with the dog," Costanten said. "Now, fast forward, she's in college and onto her second dog." The client now lives on her own and Costanten said that would not have happened if it weren't for her dog. "Her confidence just blossomed, completely blossomed when she got that dog," Costanten said.

Costanten plans to continue with Brigadoon Service Dogs for as long as she can and eventually pass on her position to someone qualified so she can retire. Despite the hard work that comes with running a nonprofit, making a difference in people's lives is what makes it all worth it, Costanten said.

"I don't think dogs are utilized enough. In so many different areas, they are so smart," Costanten said. "There isn't anybody that loves dogs that say their lives haven't changed because of their dogs, even if it's a pet dog. Just having a dog around, it changes your life."

## **Haley and Coup visit the Seattle Aquarium**

Haley and Coup graduated in 2018. Recently they visited the Seattle Aquarium!



## Spring Team Training



Four teams graduated in this year's spring team training! Congratulations to Joe and Pepper, Gary and Bernard, Arianne and Indy and Reyna and Cinder!

## Happy Earth Day!



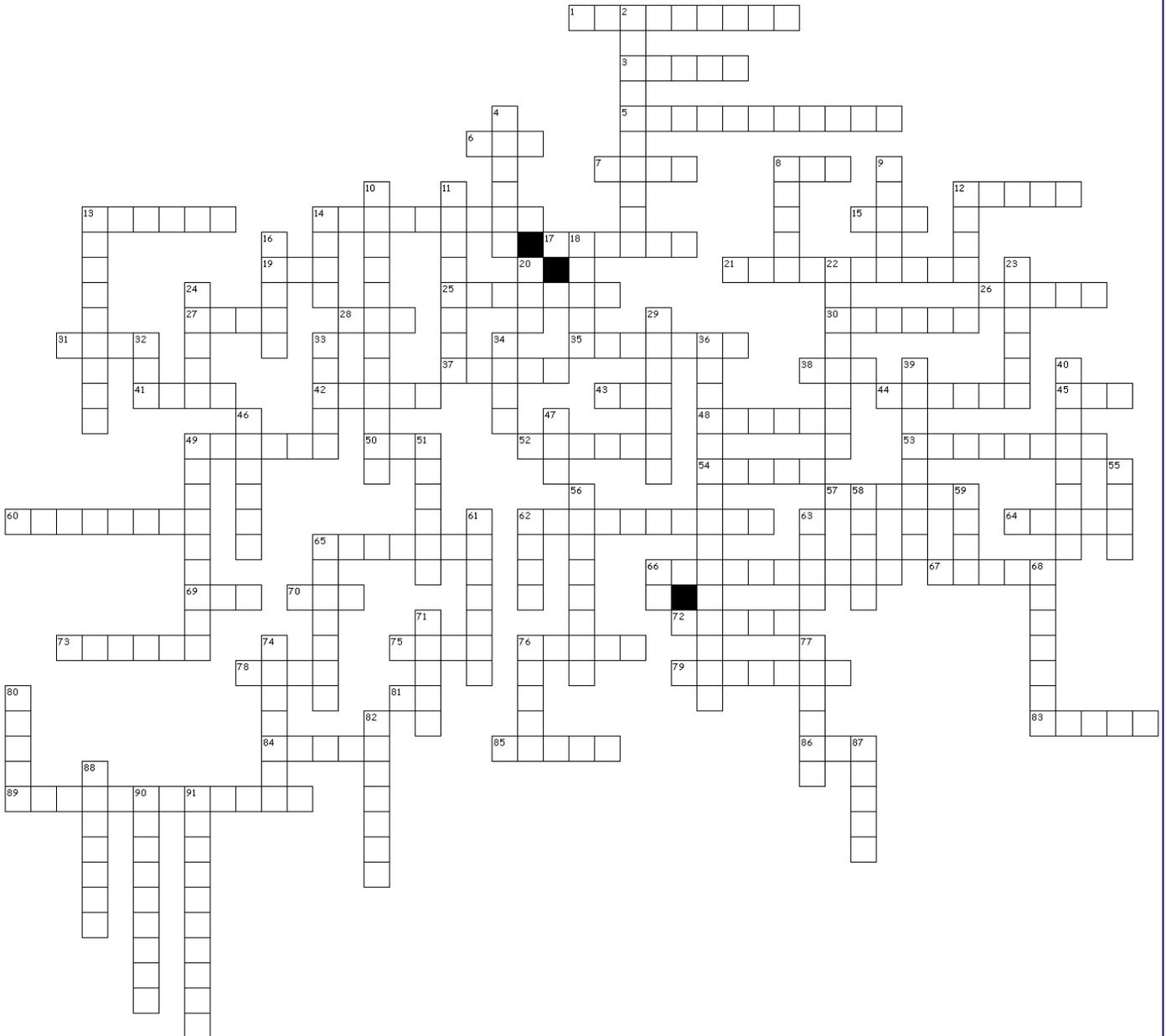
April 22nd is Earth Day. Here is a list of tips of ways to make life with a dog more eco-friendly:

- ❗ Always pick up your dog's poo. The bacteria contaminates waterways. Unfortunately, there are not currently many eco-friendly ways of disposing of dog poo (unless you have the resources and willingness to buy flushable dog bags or make your own specific dog compost)
- ❗ Change how you get toys for your dogs. Reduce the number of new toys you purchase, particularly ones made of plastic or with heavy recycling. If it's safe, try repairing your dog's old toys. You can also make them new ones. For example, braiding a rope toy with old cloth or pillow cases.
- ❗ Reuse plastic bags as dog poop bags
- ❗ Make sure you're recycling what you can. Dog wet food cans are recyclable, as are some treat packages.
- ❗ Don't let your dog chase wildlife or run loose in sensitive ecological areas
- ❗ Avoiding overfeeding doesn't just benefit your dog, it benefits the planet too, by reducing the amount of resources your dog consumes

# Fun Page!

## Everything Dogs

Can you fill out the whole dog-themed crossword? Hint: information to help answer some of the clues can be found in this newsletter!



## Across

1. Dog breed associated with firefighters
3. Most popular female dog name of 2018
5. A volunteer who fosters a service dog in-training
6. Most popular male dog name of 2018
7. Number of prisons in Brigadoon's prison program
8. Assessment service dogs must take to graduate (abbreviated)
12. Sound that makes many dogs howl
13. Three-headed dog in Harry Potter
14. Who races on the track
15. Dog hair
17. Sound many dog toys make
19. Degrees that the makers of Brigadoon Biscuits are working towards
21. Dog breed Dracula might have
25. The command you say when your dog goes to eat something they shouldn't
26. "it's a dog eat dog \_\_\_\_"
27. Brigadoon cue to ask a dog to walk on the left side
28. First command many dogs learn
30. Website that makes Brigadoon "smile"
31. Haley's service dog
35. Type of working dog that visits hospitals or nursing homes
37. Warning sound a dog makes
38. Average number of dogs that graduate from Brigadoon each year
41. "you're barking up the wrong \_\_\_\_"
42. Number of eyelids a dog has
43. Age most Brigadoon dogs graduate
44. A family of puppies
45. International organization that accredits service dog schools
48. Cereal for dogs
49. Term for a short-haired collie
50. US org that registers purebred dogs
52. Device a dog wears to stop them from biting
53. A big red dog
54. An EXTENSively dangerous type of leash
57. Vaccine dogs need to cross the US-Canada border
60. Dog breed that means "butterfly" in French
62. City Brigadoon is located in
64. Color of a chocolate lab
65. A dog's main way of cooling down
66. Despite its name, dogs get this treat when they're acting good!
67. Brigadoon cue to ask a dog to retrieve a dropped item
69. "every dog has its \_\_\_\_"
70. Color of a vizsla
72. Dog without a home
73. Founder of Brigadoon
75. Smallest dog in the litter
76. Kitty is to cat, as \_\_\_\_ is to dog
78. This breed of dog is great
79. Dachshund country of origin
81. Brigadoon cue to ask a dog to put their front paws on a surface
83. Term for a long-haired collie
84. Lead rope is to horse as \_\_\_\_ is to dog
85. They really "bug" dogs
86. Horse is to hoof as dog is to \_\_\_\_
89. Term describing the right of service dogs to go everywhere with their handler

## Down

2. Labradoodle unabbreviated
4. K9 unabbreviated
8. Pet store chain
9. Planet that shares its name with a dog
10. Dog doctor
11. The "art" of crossing poodles
12. Something a poodle, schnauzer, or Portuguese water dog will never do
13. The scariest part of a dog's Halloween
14. Color of a Weimaraner
16. A dog's strongest sense
18. Brigadoon cue to ask a dog to stop barking
20. Vet's degree
22. A dog can alert to changes in blood sugar if their handler has this condition
23. Summer danger for dogs
24. A dog cry
29. Dog hairdresser
32. "working dog - do not \_\_\_\_"
33. A game most dogs love
34. Gray relative of the dog
36. New documentary about guide dogs on Netflix, and the movie we sponsored at Pickford theatre!
39. Product Seattle university students sold for their fundraiser for Brigadoon
40. Breed of Marley in "Marley and me"
46. Dog necklace
47. How a dog might play with a rope
49. Schnauzer x poodle abbreviated
51. Breed of lassie
55. Red rubber dog toy you stuff treats into
56. Who races in the Iditarod
58. Us org that fights for animal welfare
59. Official name for a dog dad
61. Track and field for dogs
62. "their bark is worse than their \_\_\_\_"
63. A mixed-breed dog
65. He ain't nothin' but a hound dog
66. Canadian province Brigadoon serves
68. Dog teacher
71. Baby dog
74. What an angry dog raises
76. Dog spit
77. Charlie brown's pet dog
80. Official word for "giving birth" for dogs
82. What you do with an orange rubber dog ball
87. Color of a bichon frisé
88. In dog training, the "camera" that makes a sound to mark when your dog does something right
90. This treat is not so sweet for dogs
91. Dogs are not herbivores, but \_\_\_\_\_