



The Brigadoon Barker

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Hope for Abbigail

By Lynnett Buttars



Abbigail and Shorty



Abbigail, Denise CoStanten, Founder, & Shorty

Abbigail Buttars is 14 years old. She is fast becoming a beautiful young lady, and from outward appearances you may not even notice any differences when compared to other children her age. When Abbigail was 6 years of age she was diagnosed with Lennox-Gastuat Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy. Abbigail experiences to some degree impaired intellectual functioning or information processing along with development delays, behavioral

disturbances, and short term memory loss. Learning new skills and concepts does not come easily for Abbigail; repetition and reteaching are often required. To her credit, Abbigail is highly motivated learner. Her perseverance in the face of frustration is remarkable. Abbigail maintains a positive attitude and is a joy to know.

Abbigail is a patient of Dr. Konkol. It has not been possible to manage her seizures with medication as she has had adverse reactions to those tried, and with her history of Lennox-Gastuat

Syndrome there are not many other options. It was suggested that we, as parents, look into getting Abbigail a dog as a seizure assistant companion; a dog that would alert us, as parents and care-givers of Abbigail's seizures. When Abbigail was visiting family in Utah, her Aunt learned of her situation and donated a pure bred chocolate lab puppy to be trained as a seizure assistant dog. The puppy had been fostered to become a service dog, passing the tests, and temperament requirements. The

challenge was finding someone who would be willing to train him as a seizure assistant dog for Abbigail. Most agencies generally deal with adults that have disabilities such as hearing impairment or sight impairment. After numerous rejections from other service dog programs, weeks of research on the internet, and calling the epilepsy foundation, we found a miracle! Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs agreed to provide "Shorty" with the necessary training.

Abbigail would love to live a life as close to "normal" as possible. Shorty will be able to help her accomplish her goals. There is little doubt that Abbigail will benefit from the increased safety, confidence and independence that Shorty will provide.



Shorty

Mission Statement

We provide highly trained dogs to perform tasks and support that would otherwise require human assistance for children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. We engage the youth of the community in this process. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.



Denise, Founder, with "Brigadoon" aka Briggs

Clicker Training: A Better Way to Train Your Dog!

Dogs learn by association and repetition. No matter what method is used. I'm from the old fashioned style of training...jerk and pull with a choke chain. Everything was taught to the dog with a correction or push and a pull. I have not used that method in 20 years.

When I first heard about the clicker in 1994, I, like most people thought it was a gimmick. Well, after learning what is behind its magic, I highly recommend it. For those who don't get it...study operant conditioning. The dog associates offering a behavior with a click followed by a reward.. They want to repeat the behavior, they love learning new things and love the training session. Once you understand how it works you will never go back to the old fashioned choke chain again.

Example: Dog sits, gets a click, followed by a treat. Dog tries the behavior again, gets a click, and receives a treat. Before long the dog is offering sits anytime, anywhere just to get you to click and treat. Next you name the behavior. When the dog sits, you say "sit", then click, and offer the reward. Now the dog is associating the behavior sit with the sound "sit" and soon will no longer need the click or treat. It will have become a stimulus response. Sound=Behavior=Reward. No punishment or correction was used and both the dog and person are happy. By the way, this is how dogs learn our vocabulary...through association. Behavior, sound (our word) results in either a reward (they will repeat it) or correction (stops behavior). Dogs are opportunist. They repeat behavior that works!

Puppies! Puppies! Puppies!

Tia, a 2-year old Neopolitan Mastiff gave birth to the world's largest litter in 2005. She delivered 24 puppies by caesarean section; 20 survived.

A one-year-old dog is physically as mature as a 15 year-old human.

An adult dog has 42 teeth.

Brigadoon Tour

Mark you calendars for the next tour. It will be **September 6** from 10am-11am. Presentation begins at 10am. Bring a friend!

Come visit our facility, meet the dogs, and learn more about what we do!

You will *not* be asked for a donation.

Call us and let us know you're coming

733-5388

SAVE THE DATE

Brigadoon Graduation

October 19—2 PM—Details Later

Frozen Sunrise

An icy treat to be enjoyed from sunrise to sunset.

2 C. Fruit Juice (apple works best)

1 Mashed and pureed banana

1 C. Plain Non-fat Yogurt

1 C. Pureed Strawberries

Combine all ingredients and whisk thoroughly. Pour mixture into small disposable cups (3" bathroom or kitchen paper cups work best). Freeze until solid (at least four hours). To pop out the treat, push up on the bottom of the cup.

The Organic Dog Biscuit Cookbook

Our Wish List

Gift Cards are a great way to help, i.e. Whatcom Farmers Co-op, Walkers Healthy Pet., Pet Stop, Cost Cutter Foods, Petco, Petsmart, or Costco. Other stuff needed...

First class Postage Stamps

Blankets and Towels

Paper Towels

Copy Paper for our printers

Jennie O Jumbo Turkey Franks

HP Inkjet Print Cartridges (#s 95 & 92)

Poodle Grooming (i.e. Critter Clips)

\$150,000.00 toward new Kennel Building 😊

Contributors to Brigadoon— June-July

There are no words to express our gratitude for your support of our program. Thank you!

Anonymous

Dennis & Charolotte Archer

Matt & Kathleen Ball

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Network For Good

Erin Quinsenberry

Christopher & Joyce Rossi

Search & Rescue Fundraise for Aaron

Joanne Simon

Douglas & Colleen Thornburg

Thrivent Financial For Lutherans

Marguerite Turner

Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften the light in a room.

Board of Directors

Denise CoStanten, President/CEO/ Founder

Leon Costanten, Vice President

Julie Urban, Treasurer

Kathleen Ball, Secretary

Miles Olszko, Volunteer Coordinator

Marguerite Turner