



Volume 2 Issue 1 – February – May, 2009

The Brigadoon Barker

4759 Mission Road, Bellingham WA 98226 Tel:(360) 733-5388 Fax:(360) 733-9326

E-mail: denise@nas.com

Website: www.brigadoondogs.org



Denise, our founder with
Int'l Am/Can Champion
Cassidae's Brigadoon

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter.

Interview with Brigadoon's founder, Denise Costanten

(Part 2)

Q: Describe a typical day for you Denise

A: There really is never a typical day, but here is an idea of what a day with me might look like. I get up at 5:30am every morning to take the dogs out to potty and feed them. Then depending on the day of the week, I may go over training sessions with the trainer, Kathleen. I may have a training session with a puppy raiser, a client interview, or class with the at-risk youth from Homeport Learning Center. I will run errands for Brigadoon, answer emails, return phone calls, make bank deposits, and meet with our treasurer, plan fundraising events or meet with people about fundraising events. Volunteers and I may take the dogs out on a fieldtrip to expose them to different sights, sounds, smells etc. The dogs learn to ignore the environment with fieldtrips. I might have client interviews, clients visiting their dog, or volunteer interviews or training. I may have to update the webpage (I'm not good keeping this up by the way), or help write the newsletter. I assist the office person with updating the database, or sending out application packets. There are everyday things like folding laundry (when there are no volunteers scheduled that day), sweeping the floors, etc....basically keeping the Brigadoon facility tidy (Not all of these things occur in one day, thank goodness). I feed the dogs again at 6pm. Until recently I took them out again for their last potty break at 10pm, but now I have a person, Miles, who rents our apartment, that takes dogs out for their 10pm potty break. That helps a great deal. On Saturdays, I help with volunteers and care for the dogs. Sunday is play day for the dogs and taking care of them.

Q: That seems like a lot of work. I hope you get paid well for this seven day a week job. What keeps you going?

A: I'm still a volunteer, so there is no monetary compensation at this time. But I do get paid in other ways. Being involved to help enrich and make a difference in someone's life that has a disability is very rewarding; it gives my own life purpose and reminds me to be thankful everyday for my good health. I'm proud of Brigadoon for many reasons, but mostly because we provide dogs for children and adults that other agencies will not. We are a small agency and this allows us to be much more flexible with the client and the dog. Therefore we can train a dog to help with a variety of disabilities. Our specially trained dogs will perform tasks for the recipients needs that would otherwise require another human to provide. Most importantly, the dog gives unconditional love 24/7.

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.



Update on Solo: She is pictured here with High School Senior, Keith, who comes weekly to learn to train dogs for a school project. Solo has learned to sit, down, and give paw at 12 wks.

Training Tip:

Walking on loose leash exercise

With something the dog really likes as bait...place the bait 20-30 ft. away from the dog. Make sure she knows it is there. Start to walk toward the wanted bait and the moment the dog pulls, stop and become a tree. This means the moment the leash gets tight, stop, plant your feet and become a tree. Hold the leash tight to your tummy. Don't move your feet until the leash has some slack, then IMMEDIATELY praise the dog or feed a treat. Take a step forward and if she pulls again, back up a couple steps, target the dog back into heel position and try stepping forward again. Keeping a positive dialog with the dog helps to keep her attention on you instead of all the other interesting things in the environment. If the dog pulls again, just keep repeating the tree stance, step back and start over. Obviously, you want to practice a lot of this before going out on an actual walk in the park.

Brigadoon Tour

Mark your calendars for the next tours June 6th & August 1st from 10 to 11 am. **No July tour**, because it lands on the 4th. Presentation begins at 10 am. 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. Please call us and let us know you're coming.



Hey Mom, this recipe really looks good. Will you make them for us, please?

Snickerpoodles

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup shortening

1 cups honey

2 eggs

3 3/4 cups white flour

2 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 cup cornmeal

2 teaspoons cinnamon

Mix vegetable oil, shortening, honey with eggs. Beat well. Add flour, soda, and cream of tartar. Knead dough until mixed well. Shape dough by rounded teaspoons into balls. Mix the cornmeal and cinnamon together in a bowl and roll balls in mixture. Place 2 inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Press the balls down with a fork. Bake for 8-10 minutes at 400F. Cool on a rack Store in airtight container.

Board of Directors

Denise CoStanten, President/Founder

Leon CoStanten, Vice President

Julie Urban, Treasurer/Secretary

Miles Olszko, Volunteer Coordinator

Marguerite Turner

Newsletter Editor: Carol Viens

Fun Fact

Dogs can smell odors 100 million times more than humans!

Our Wish List

People with an interest in being on our board of directors.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ toward a new Kennel Building. We have outgrown our current building. Please help move the dogs into a new building, we will have more room for the youth of our community to come help with the Brigadoon dogs, too.

First class Postage Stamps

Copy paper for our printers

Jennie O Jumbo Turkey Franks

HP Inkjet Print Cartridges (#s 95 and 92)



Contributors to Brigadoon-February to May 2009

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

First Choice Building Inspection Services	Robyn Gipson
Fairhaven Veterinary Hospital	Faith Steward
Northshore Veterinary (gives us a 20% discount)	Sherrie Kahn
Karl & Edwina Kleeman	Mari Michelle Dalton
Colleen & Doug Thornburg	Shannon Meyer
Tuesday Church Womens Bowling League	Eden Alaniz
Erin Quinsenberry	Patricia Starcher
Warren & Gloria Mowry	Adich Natural Health
Jennifer Russell	Catherine Fairbanks
Oracle Corp	Bethany Baptist Church
Microsoft Giving Campaign	Georjan Bridger
Bill & Maggie Cassels	Meredith Taylor
Joyce Rossi	Garey & Jo Ann Cosentino
Leslie Farris	
Girl Scout Totem Council/Troop 749	
BP Fabric of America/Maureen O'Brien	
Thomas Robbins	
Marguerite Turner	
Elmyra Dalton-Zehner	
Joan Wolz	
Bonnie	
Sally Barrett	
Marianna Metke	
Christopher Homes	
Layton & Sell, Inc.	
Janet Hollenbeck	
Eden Alaniz	
Tracey Bishop	
Megan & John Mittelstadt	
Holly Betzer	
Karla Buckingham	
Charlotte Archer	
Ryan Jones	
Yvonne Ryan	
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club	
Julie Urban	
Jean Jerabek	