



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

What's Inside

Volunteers Spotlight	2	Board Retreat Report	3
Volunteers Come to Rescue	2	Brigadoon Dog Saves Home from Fire	3
Leon's Costanten's Contribution	2	Barker Word Search Challenge	4
\$1 a Day Fundraising Challenge.....	3	Brigadoon Family Loss	4

Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs starts new program at Whatcom Discovery Center

by Mary Allen, Board Member

This February the Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Program have begun to work with the students at Whatcom Discovery Center, a specialized school for students with emotional and social needs. Denise and her volunteer assistant Kate have provided eight students in the fifth grade with the opportunity to help learn about training service dogs. This experience has provided all students with a new level of learning. As the focus is primarily on training the dogs and using a "clicker" to reinforce positive appropriate behaviors, students are able to gain confidence and learn more about their own behaviors in a nonintrusive manner. There are so many positive skills being learned, from following directions to loving an animal! Students have followed a recipe to make the "treats" needed for the dogs, are keeping a journal of their experiences and learning how to take photographs as they gain knowledge of training service dogs. Our class is always eager to participate and this is the highlight of our weekly activities. We are very grateful to Denise, Kate and the Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Program for their support to the students at Whatcom Discovery Center.

Comments from the students speak of the positive impact this program has given our class.

"The dog training is fun and I look forward to it each week".

"I like working with the dogs. I especially like being the owner (holding the leash and guiding the dog)".

"It is a great experience for our class to work with dogs to help other people".

"I think the training is a great way for us to learn and love animals".

Thank-you, Ms Karen's 5th Grade Class at Whatcom Discovery Center

RIDDLE ME THIS...

A black dog stands in the middle of an intersection in a town painted black. None of the street lights are working due to a power failure caused by a storm. A car with two broken headlights drives towards the dog but turns in time to avoid hitting him. How could the driver have seen the dog in time?

...Answer on page 3



Volunteers Spotlight



Mike McCurdy -- I have volunteered at Brigadoon for about 1 1/2 years as a dog walker. My wife Karen and I moved from Solana Beach Calif. to Bellingham about five years ago. Karen has a cat sitting business, which she's been doing for about twelve years, going back to the Calif. days. Prior to Bellingham, I worked at San Diego State Univ. for sixteen years as a computer systems administrator and then as a database software administrator. Now, I trade the stock market. We have three cats and a dog. We enjoy outdoor activities, reading, and I like to fool around on the guitar.

The things I like about Brigadoon are of course, the work that it does, being around the dogs, and getting a little extra exercise.

Volunteers Come to the Rescue (a seldom mentioned Brigadoon reality)

Denise hurt her back trying to get a dog in the bathtub. She was in excruciating pain and was hardly able to walk, let alone lift anything. She went to the chiropractor and then just had to move around carefully and slowly while it healed. Coming to her rescue were two volunteers, Mike and Valerie who took care of the dogs for her, a great help. The next day she was feeling better but had to take 3 pups in for shots. Since she could not pick them up, Kate came to her rescue. Kate helped lift them in and out of the van, then they went to Lynden Meat to buy meat for dog food and she loaded and unloaded 700 pounds of beef. Valerie came back over and again walked dogs for Denise. Wow, what a pickle Denise would have been in without the volunteers.



Leon Costanten brings improvements to the facility

Leon, our landlord and benefactor, has been busy at work. He has put down new gravel in the side puppy exercise area and has divided the main exercise area into two separately fenced areas. Leon does such a great job of maintaining the facility in great shape. We all owe him a big thank you.

**Want to Help Brigadoon? Host a fundraising House Party.
It's easy, fun and helps!**

Contact Denise to find out more at denise@nas.com or 360-733-5388

Our Wish List

- Database management software
- Handy person for minor repairs
- \$1 per day donation commitments
- People for a fundraising committee
- Larger facility for kennel/training
- Fundraising ideas and help implementing them

\$1 a day Challenge

Brigadoon needs your help!

Join us today for our One Dollar per day challenge on our way to our \$100,000 goal. This will pay for all 11 of our dogs in training, food, medical bills, training, rent, utilities, insurance, marketing, mailings, auto expenses, promotions, fund raising expenses, the trainer's salary, etc.

Help us to continue our mission: "With the help of the Youth of our community, we train dogs to provide assistance to children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities."

Please give whatever you can to help us meet this necessary goal. We appreciate it all and will send you a tax receipt. If you can sponsor a dog in training, please contact Denise at 360-733-5388 or denise@nas.com.

Board Retreat Report

The new Brigadoon Board held a one day planning retreat to discuss:

- The 2010 budget of \$120,000
- Possible fundraising activities including house party fundraising events, getting sponsors for dogs, and a possible major event such as Bellingham Has Talent (similar to Britain Has Talent)
- Long and short-term goals were also discussed

This year Brigadoon plans to graduate 4 dogs and run one Youth Program. Over the long term, we would like to increase the number of dogs graduating to partnerships annually, but this will require a larger facility to house and train the dogs.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please send them to Karl Kleeman at trainswa@comcast.net or call him at 360-656-5451.

Brigadoon Dog Saves Home from Fire, from Reyna and Ava

I had to stay up late to work on a paper. While I was working on my paper, I saw Ava run over the topiary (fake) bush in the corner of the dining room. She was being all weird around it and I thought she was just being silly and wanting my attention so that I would play with her at 1 am. So I got up and went over to the bush to see what she was so fascinated with. I pulled back the topiary and the plug beside the bush started to spark and small flames came out of the side of the socket. The thing started to smoke and the house quickly smelled of smoke and plastic. I called 9-1-1 and the fire department arrived within minutes. They assessed the "fire" and couldn't find anything wrong with the outlet. What they did find was that the circuit breaker had shorted the switch for the refrigerator. It's all fixed now. And I have Ava to thank. Such an Amazing dog. And as if you already didn't know, she is loved. I attached a picture of her and all her Christmas gifts people at work got her. While all the humans at work have 1 stocking, Miss Ava has TWO!



ANSWER TO RIDDLE: No one said that it was dark out?

Barker Word Search Challenge

Find all the words, print the page and submit with your name, phone number and email address for a draw for a Brigadoon t-shirt on April 1st.

Circle the 24 words listed below. Words appear straight across, backward, straight across, up and down, down and up, and diagonally.

Brace	nope	sit
Brigadoon	off	lets go
Come	release	kennel
Down	settle	leave it
Dress	switch	hurry
Give paw	thank you	light
Good dog	wait	here
go to bed	watch	yes



T	H	G	I	L	M	S	E	T	T	L	E
L	E	H	I	F	L	E	N	N	E	K	M
O	E	R	C	T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U
G	T	T	E	T	T	E	C	A	R	B	F
O	I	I	S	H	I	L	Z	E	O	F	F
O	A	E	E	G	S	W	L	E	I	E	G
D	W	Y	T	V	O	E	S	M	P	W	O
D	B	R	I	G	A	D	O	O	N	A	T
O	N	J	J	S	C	E	N	C	O	T	O
G	C	S	E	Y	H	J	L	R	S	C	B
D	R	E	S	S	H	U	R	R	Y	H	E
O	G	I	V	E	P	A	W	N	W	O	D



Brigadoon family loses one of our assistance dog owners, Connie Young

In an email from her husband, Barry, he writes "I just wanted to let you know that Connie passed away suddenly on Feb 13. You and Brigadoon made her life do much easier for her to maintain her independence and maintain a quality of life. I will forever be indebted to you. The last 3 years were some of her happiest times, helping to train Barkley and of course having him as her companion where ever she went.

Our sincere condolences go out to Barry, and to her beloved assistance dog Barkley.

Looking for Feedback from our readers

All of us at Brigadoon value the ideas and opinions from you. As the editor of the newsletter I would love to hear from you about what you would like to see in the newsletter and any ideas you have for Brigadoon. We all share our passion for our mission of providing service dogs and youth programs and we want to hear from you. Just send me, Karl Kleeman, an email at trainswa@comcast.net. Thanks.