

The Brigadoon Barker

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

Spring 2018



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Letter from Denise Costanten Founder/President

Hello everyone,

2018 is starting out slow with a few bumps.... expensive surgeries and recover time. Bernard and Bianca were spayed and neutered, but they also had their rear double dew claws removed. Bianca was fine, healed quickly. Bernard on the other hand tore all his stitches out of his rear leg. So back to the vet to have it all stapled and re-wrapped. We were keeping him sedated so he is calm, giving his leg has chance to heal. He has torn up 3 cones, poor guy. Brock has severe allergies, scratching himself raw. He was neutered and blood drawn for testing his allergies. The vet seems to think it will be under control with medication. Kisses had a toenail that grew upside down toward the bottom of her pad which caused discomfort, so we had that removed. For a little while, Brigadoon's kennel looked like a recovery room. All the dogs with foot surgery had to have plastic booties put on each time they go outside to keep the bandages dry. This period was difficult and time-consuming for the staff. Thankfully all the dogs have recovered and are doing well!

Sydney left us for North Carolina in March. We had a nice luncheon for her to say good bye and thank her for all she has given to Brigadoon. We will miss her.

Our funds have dropped to dangerously low levels, therefore we are not going to be able to hire any staff. The current part time staff are getting their hours cut. I will return to days of yore when I was the main dog caregiver, using more volunteers to help out. Thank you to all our volunteers.

We also are not going to be able to afford to whelp any more lab puppies for the breeding co-op for a while. Jade will be bred again, but she will go away to another school to have her puppies and we will receive 2 pups back. I did breed my personal dogs, AJ and Zenyatta. See page 4 for more info!

I know it seems a long ways away, but Sept. 8th is our annual auction dinner. It will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Bellingham. Please mark your calendars and tell your friends. We need help procuring live auction items such as fun experiences, weekends away, etc. Please contact me if you would like to help. Also, we need sponsors for the auction, corporations to buy tables and fill them.

As always, I appreciate all of you who support Brigadoon.

Sincerely,
Denise Costanten

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Newsletter edited by Celeste Macevicius.

Congratulations



Congratulations, Rock and JP, for completing team training and graduating!

Welcome!

Meet Brigadoon's newest dogs in-training!



Ruby

Ruby is a female German Shepard



Kisses

Kisses is a rescue dog who is currently at Cedar Creek

Thrillingham & Brigadoon Continue Partnership

Thrillingham, a local group that practices and performs Michael Jackson's Thrillingham dance every Halloween, has selected Brigadoon as their non-profit again this year!

Last year, Thrillingham raised over \$2100 for Brigadoon.

Thank you, zombies!



Dog Talk with Brigadoon Handlers

Our clients love their dogs! We posed a set of interview questions to our handlers so you could get to know a little bit more about some of our graduated dogs and what makes them special.

What is your dog's name?

 *Amigo*

 *Ebony*

 *Nugget*

What breed is your dog?

 *Lab*

 *Lab mix*

 *Golden Retriever*

How old is your dog?

 *6 ½*

 *3 ½*

 *11*

What is one of your dog's nicknames?

 *Amigo*

 *Ebby*

 *Bussbah*

How does your dog have fun/relax?

 *Playing with his toys and chewing on a big bone*

 *Swimming, playing with squeaky toys, playing with our family dog*

 *Watching squirrels, licking out empty peanut butter containers, napping*

What is one of the most important ways your dog helps you?

 *Amigo helps calm me down after a seizure and when we go out in public/school. He also wakes my mom up when I wake up in the middle of the night.*

 *She senses when I'm not OK and responds. She also stabilizes me and helps me stay present in busy, public environments*

 *She makes it easier for me to interact with other people, and to be out and around in public, which means I can be back at work full-time.*

Continued on page 4

Dog Talk with Brigadoon Handlers

Continued from page 3

What is one thing your dog has experienced that most pet dogs would never experience?

- 🐾 *He gets to go to the movie theater, ride in a school bus, go to school with me, and even church.*
- 🐾 *She has laid 10 feet away from galloping horses at Cavalia*
- 🐾 *Nugget got to meet one of the seals at the Seattle Aquarium when we volunteered there. They were very curious about each other.*

What is something special, for you, about your dog?

- 🐾 *Amigo*
- 🐾 *Her happiness and love for life mean she is the most confident resilient, joyful dog and the perfect match for me.*
- 🐾 *She has the world's softest ears... that often get muffin batter on them when she gets the treat of licking out the muffin mixing bowl.*

Are you a Brigadoon handler or puppy raiser? You can join the conversation!

Our closed Facebook group is a place for handlers and puppy raisers to talk, swap stories, share pictures, and meet. Follow the link below and click "join" to be added to the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brigadoonhandlers/>

Welcome, Puppies!



This spring, Denise bred her dogs Zenyatta and AJ. On April 13th, 9 new collie puppies arrived into the world. Although these collies belong to Denise, she will be donating 4 to Brigadoon to be trained as service dogs like their big siblings Tango and Cinder. Welcome puppies and congratulations to Zenyatta and Denise!

Keeping Dry and Clean this Spring

The spring season is now here. On the west coast, that means plenty of rain! It can be a struggle to keep dogs dry and clean in these rainy months. Service dogs must be kept clean in order to work in public, so we've become familiar with different tips and tricks for keeping a dog dry and clean. Check them out!

Be prepared! Keep several old towels by the door. A shedding blade can help wipe excess water off.

Train your dog to wait at your doormat upon arriving home from an outing. You'll be able to get them dry before they run all over the house!

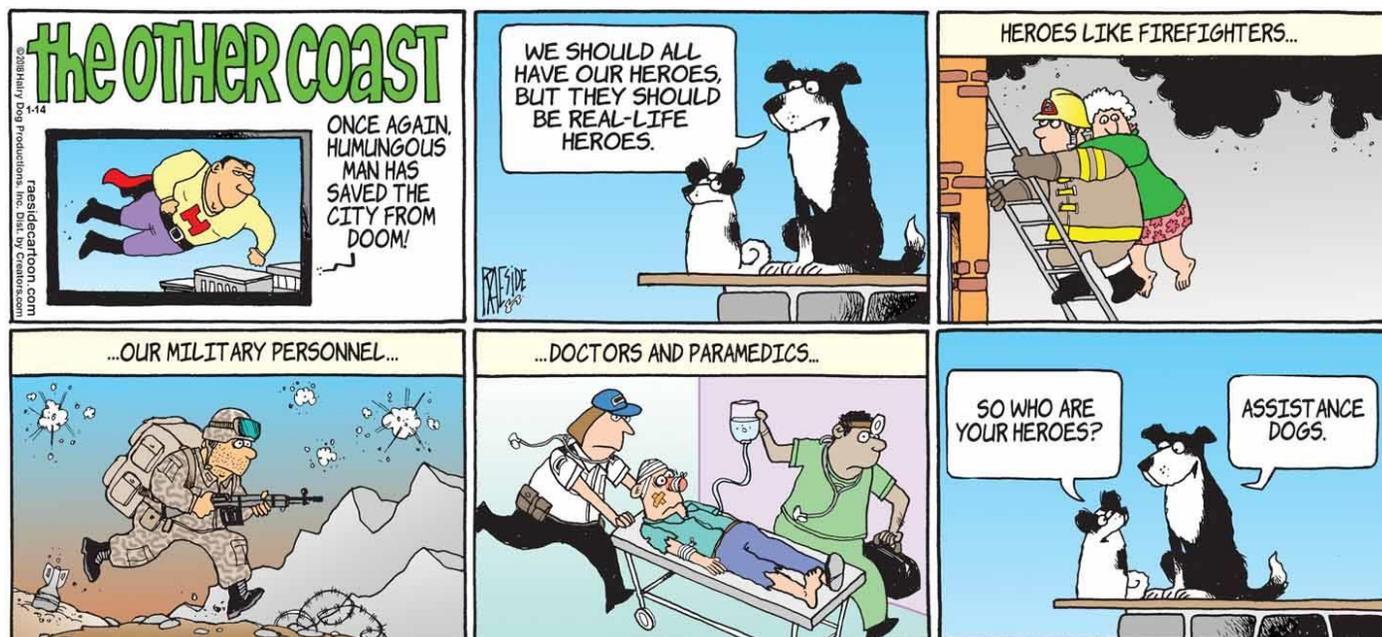
Purchase a raincoat for your dog. RC Pets sells a "Packable Rain Poncho" for \$12 that folds down to the size of a deck of cards.

Pack an old handtowel with you on outings to wipe down your dog's paws and belly before entering a shop. Remember a bag to pack the wet towel in after!

Avoid toileting and walking your dog on grassy or muddy areas.

Consider indoor exercise activities on the rainiest days. Training and homemade puzzle games can provide mental stimulation. Hide and seek, fetch down a hallway or up and down stairs, or even running on a treadmill (if your dog has been trained beforehand) can provide physical stimulation.

Dog Heroes Comic – The Other Coast



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Support Brigadoon

As we have detailed at the beginning of this newsletter, Brigadoon is currently in a difficult spot financially. Raising and training service dogs is extremely costly, with each dog costing approximately \$30,000 to train. We rely solely on donations to meet these costs.

You can help ensure Brigadoon is able to continue to operate and pursue our mission. Read through this list and share it with your friends. Together we can change lives one partnership at a time!

Donate

- Donating money is one of the best ways you can support Brigadoon. Donate online or contact us by mail or phone to coordinate a donation
- Sign up as a monthly donor
<http://www.brigadoondogs.org/donate>
- Donate towels, dog treats, Nylabones, cleaning supplies, and other items on our wish list
<http://www.brigadoondogs.org/shop>
- Organize your own fundraiser – special events, garage sales, lemonade stands, etc. are all great fun
- Talk to your employer about setting up matching funds or otherwise getting involved in supporting Brigadoon

Shop (you just shop, the business donates!)

- Do your Amazon shopping through Amazon Smile and select Brigadoon as your charity
- Link your Fred Meyer's rewards to Brigadoon Service Dogs
- Shop online at Walmart, Groupon, Apple, Macy's, and 100s of other retailers through this link
<https://www.igive.com/html/allcauses.cfm?causeid=47821#>

Volunteer

- Raise a puppy
- Help at Brigadoon bathing dogs, doing yard work, training dogs, and many other jobs
- Help us fundraise! You can represent Brigadoon at events, write grants, etc.
- Learn more and sign up here
<http://www.brigadoondogs.org/volunteer>

Attend

- Brigadoon's annual auction dinner is taking place September 8th at the Four Points Sheraton in Bellingham.
- Thrillingham will organize dance lessons to prepare for a performance of Michael Jackson's Thriller on Halloween while supporting Brigadoon

Share

- Connect with us on Facebook. Keep up to date and share our posts with friends and family!
- Buy Brigadoon merchandise from us (t-shirts, hats, license plate holders, etc.) to help advertise Brigadoon
- Know of any businesses, schools, or community organizations looking for a non-profit to sponsor? Share Brigadoon's mission!

The Ins and Outs of Service Dog – Related Terminology

There's a lot of different terms out there that people use when talking about service dogs. Not every term means the same thing, though. Here's a handy chart of some of the most commonly used service dog-related terms that are accurate and inaccurate, along with the reasons why.

Accurate Service Dog Terms	
Term	Explanation
Service dog	General term for a dog trained to assist a person with a disability. In some cases, "service dog" is used specifically for mobility service dogs, but this is less common.
Assistance dog	Another term for a dog trained to assist a person with a disability. Also used as an umbrella term to encompass all types of service and guide dogs.
Working dog	A broader term to refer to any dog that has a job. All service dogs are working dogs, but not all working dogs are service dogs. See the "Did you Know" box for more info!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Guide dog  Seeing eye dog  Hearing [ear] dog  Balance dog  Medical/diabetic/seizure alert dog  PTSD dog 	Specific types of service dogs.

Inaccurate Service Dog Terms	
Term	Explanation
Therapy dog	Therapy dogs are pets whose owners volunteer to bring them to visit people in hospitals, schools, etc. They typically do not have special training. Therapy dogs do not have general public access
Emotional support animal	Emotional support animals are any type of pet that help their owner with a disability through their presence. They do not have any special training. Aside from housing and transportation exceptions, they do not have public access rights.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Helper dog  Support dog  Aid dog  Companion dog 	These are other terms people use to refer to service dogs that do not have any official meaning.

Did you Know?

There are many types of working dogs other than service dogs including:

-  Police dogs
-  Search and rescue dogs
-  Sniffer dogs that detect bed bugs, termites, mold, bacteria, drugs, explosives, cancer, and more
-  Herding dogs
-  Military dogs

Prison Program Press

A Special Brigadoon Barker Feature

This special new feature will showcase news & views from our prison programs.

What Have You Gotten Out of This Program?

Cedar Creek Trainers Respond

My name is James Resop. I'm 44 years old and have been in the Brigadoon dog program since 4-10-17. The reason I wanted to be part of the program is because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I have been a taker my whole life, avoiding responsibility or accountability, and generally not a very nice person. This being said, I want to take advantage of this special opportunity and give back to someone in need.

I have learned that what I thought I knew about patience was a far cry from what it truly takes to train these dogs for service. All in all, I get a sense of joy and pride when I see and can demonstrate with the dog I'm working with, the cues he/she needs to learn to graduate. I still have a lot to learn myself and look forward to incorporating my knowledge from the program to all dogs I come in contact with. And I am happy knowing my hard work will pay off when someone in need benefits from something positive I did and will have a companion as well as a service dog.

Thank you Brigadoon
James Resop

My name is Robert Skagen. I have been in the dog program for 5 months and what I get out of this program is knowing that what I am doing with the dog is going to better someone's life and I can take pride in doing something good for someone else other than myself. It also makes me feel good when I can get the dog to do some of the commands I am trying to teach it, because some of the are tricky. One other thing is that I enjoy the personality, company, and the friendship from the dog. It's just a joy to work with them.

Washington Corrections Trainers Respond

There's been man benefits to participating in this program. From being able to go outside, to spending time in the dog room away from the commotion on G&H tier. Yet what's resonated most with me is a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Knowing that these dogs could save someone's life one day, and that I had a hand in shaping these animals. Even if all that hand did was pick up poop. It's been an honor to do so. Thank you for bringing the program here.
Reese Galvin

The Brigadoon Service Dog Program has been a great four legged walk. Learning the dog's personality, learning the cues, and working with the dogs and watching the training progress between the dog and I. It's very rewarding to be in this program and what it stands for.
Sam

“Does She Ever Just Get To Be a Dog?”

Service dog handlers are often asked if their dogs ever just get to relax and goof off. The easy answer is YES. It is very important for a service dog’s physical and mental health to have time off. Time off can also improve a service dog’s working performance.

While service dogs must have some adaptations to their time off – to maintain their training and ensure their safety – they are able to participate in a wide range of fun activities.

Here are some activities that Brigadoon service dogs do for fun:

- 🐾 Fetch
- 🐾 Playing with a favorite dog friend
- 🐾 Running in the yard
- 🐾 Cuddling with their handler
- 🐾 Belly rubs and snuggles
- 🐾 Agility activities
- 🐾 Hiking
- 🐾 Swimming
- 🐾 Playing with a favorite toy
- 🐾 Chewing a bully stick



Breed Profile: Collies



Collies are Brigadoon’s cornerstone breed. Denise bred and showed collies before founding Brigadoon, and most of Brigadoon’s first service dogs were collies. While a wide array of breeds are now used, collies will always have a special place at Brigadoon.

Original purpose: Herding

Size: 50-65 lbs (female) & 60-75 lbs (male)

Coat: Rough (long-haired) and smooth (short-haired). 4 colors: sable (blonde and white), blue merle (gray with black splotches), tricolor (see above picture), and white.

Temperament: Intelligent, sensitive, gentle, loyal, proud, perceptive to moods and other signs. Can develop protectiveness or shyness if under-socialized.

Fun Fact: Brigadoon is named after Denise’s champion collie, Cassidae’s Brigadoon

Brigadoon Collies: Apollo, Cinder, Cooper, Donner, Lucy, Melody, Neil, Sally, Smoke, Tango, *(this list is not comprehensive)*

Fun Page!

These are a Few of my Favorite Things

What is a dog's favorite instrument?

Unscramble the words below. Each of them is another favorite thing to dogs. After you are done, copy the letters that appear above a number into the corresponding numbered box below.

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4

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2

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3

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8

NIRDEN METI

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9

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7

RUSQIRLES

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10

EYKASQU OTY

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1 2 3

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4 5 6 7 8 6 9 10