

The Brigadoon Barker

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

Summer 2016



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Letter from Zacchoreli Frescobaldi-Grimaldi

Executive Director of Brigadoon Service Dogs

Like many non-profit organizations in a post-recession economy, Brigadoon Service Dogs must actively engage in community-based fundraising. 2016 is proving to be a year of new and exciting opportunities for Brigadoon. In October, Dynasty Cellars and 9Restaurant at North Bellingham Golf Course held a Wine Tasting fundraising benefiting Brigadoon. This was a highly attended event: Dynasty Cellars donated \$1,100 to Brigadoon! On 22 October 2016, Dynasty Cellars will host a second benefit for Brigadoon Service Dogs: Mark your calendars for this terrific event!

On 25 June the Brigadoon Beer Blues and Jazz Festival was held at North Bellingham Golf Course. We enjoyed enormous support from the community with wide ranging sponsorship from the business community including Banner Bank, Bank of the Pacific, Holiday Inn Express, Access Real Estate Services, CAITAC USA, North Bellingham Golf Course, 9Restaurant, and Cascade Radio Group. The festival was an enormous success with 448 attendees, who enjoyed 57 different beers and Dynasty Cellars wine, a beer-centric buffet, and four hours of blues and jazz music. The success of this event is in large part to the efforts of J.D. Boucher, Seth Palmer and a small army of volunteers who helped plan and execute the festival. Brigadoon Beer Blues and Jazz Festival will be an annual event, which will be larger and more popular next year!

Our next community-based fundraising event is the Bellingham Northwest Wine Festival. This is a week-long event that Brigadoon Service Dogs is organizing, and revenue sources for Brigadoon will come from two events, the 5 August, "Gold Medal Wine Dinner" (\$100 per person) and the 6 August, "Public Tasting," (\$75 V.I.P, \$55 General Admission). The importance of this event to Brigadoon Service Dogs cannot be over emphasized. This first year of the event we anticipate 35 different wineries pouring approximately 105 wines from 6:00p.m., to 10:00p.m...Community support for Bellingham Northwest Wine Festival is essential to its continued success in 2017 and beyond! Visit the event website at www.BellinghamNorthwestWineFestival.com

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Newsletter edited by Celeste Macevicius.

Update from the Brigadoon Beer, Blues, and Jazz Festival

By JD Boucher

The Brigadoon Beer, Blues and Jazz Festival was on June 25th at the North Bellingham Golf Course, and it was a resounding success. We raised a gross total of \$11,000 and brought in \$8000 dollars for Brigadoon! We had 16 different breweries and at least 32 different kinds of beer for tasting. The festival was so popular we actually ran out of parking part of the way through!

The bands that performed were the Heebie-Jeebies, Sonia Alexis, Seabreeze Jazz, and the Sam Ben-Meir Band. They all put on a great show. Food was provided by 9 Restaurant and it was delicious. There was sausages, pulled pork, chips, and a variety of salsas and dipping sauces. Overall it was a great success as an event, as a fundraiser, and as a way to connect with the community. We're planning on putting it on again next year and working to make it even better!

If you missed out on this festival, don't forget that the Bellingham Northwest Wine Festival is coming up on August 6th!



Congratulations to our two staff members, Sydney Gardner and Charlie Belle, for graduating this spring! Sydney and Charlie both graduated from Western Washington. We are impressed by your accomplishments and so proud to have you as Brigadoon team members!



Statewide Emergency Planning Coalition: Brigadoon's Role

By JD Boucher

Near the end of May, Brigadoon Service Dogs got to take part in the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning. Put together by the Washington State Independent Living Council, the coalition is a great chance for state and public officials to meet with people with disabilities and those who work with them in order to create emergency planning that is inclusive for everyone.

The first presenter was Cristina Labra of Washington State's Department of Health. Her organization just recently received a grant to create accessible videos detailing emergency preparedness skills for people with varying disabilities. The coalition was able to provide feedback on a number of things, including the biggest element: making sure that when these videos are made, people with disabilities know about them. Brigadoon will be staying in contact with Cristina throughout the process to help in whatever ways we can.

Mark Stewart of the Washington State Military Department was the other presenter at the meeting. Mark is the Deputy Communications Director of the military department, and he talked about how communications are managed in emergencies. His department makes sure news outlets, TV stations, fire departments, social media, police stations, and the State Capitol all receive correct and up-to-date information. The coalition was able to talk about the different difficulties that occur when trying to communicate with people with disabilities, and starting working on some ways to prevent them.

The coalition meets every quarter, and Brigadoon will continue to attend to help make sure that people of all abilities can be well prepared in case of an emergency. We'll make sure to keep everyone updated on future meetings in our newsletter!



Photo courtesy of the "Inclusive Emergency Planning – Washington SILC" Facebook page

Spring Graduates!

Brigadoon graduated 4 new teams this spring! Caly and Mr. Chips, Mark and Woody, Tiffany and Rosie, and Maggie and Panda all successfully passed their public access test and became official teams on April 23rd. Congratulations!



"Thank you for linking me up with Woody and for everything you taught me in training the last two weeks. The bond with Woody and I is great and he helps with all my needs thank you" – Mark

Summer Fun!

Summer can be a very fun time for dogs and their owners. Here are some suggestions of enjoyable (and sometimes silly!) things you can do with your dog, as well as some important safety tips to remember.

Keeping Cool

- 🐾 Hydrate! Keep water always available. You can entice your dog with some ice in the water
- 🐾 Provide your dog with cool places to hang out
- 🐾 Exercise your dog in the morning and evening



Getting Exercise

- 🐾 Take your dog swimming!
- 🐾 Try out dock diving or another doggy sport
- 🐾 Go for hikes together

Staying Safe

- 🐾 Keep your dog cool (see tips above!)
- 🐾 Learn the signs of heatstroke, dehydration, and other summer maladies
- 🐾 Check your dogs for ticks and other bugs. Spear grass too!
- 🐾 Never leave your dog in a hot car
- 🐾 Protect your dog's paw pads from hot pavement
- 🐾 Be safe around water. Consider a life jacket

Enjoying Treats

- 🐾 Freeze yogurt, low sodium meat broth, baby food, fruits, or mashed vegetables in ice cube trays to make "pup"sicles!
- 🐾 Fill a kiddy pool for your dog to enjoy
- 🐾 Stuff a Kong with frozen treats

Brigadoon Service Dog Handler's Tips & Tricks

Here are some extra tips our current handlers have to share

- 🐾 "Bring a bottle of water for your dog whenever you go out. There are some bottles that have bowls attached to them for your dog to drink out of."
- 🐾 "I like to take my dog to the lake or the beach and we go for a swim together."
- 🐾 "Pupsicles!"

10 Basic Cues for a Well-Mannered Dog

By Denise Costanten

1. Loose leash walking
2. Go to Bed/ Kennel
3. Automatic wait for entrance or exits
4. Come
5. Sit – Stay
6. Down – Stay
7. Leave it
8. Off
9. Sit to be petted
10. Release

Reminders For Training Each Cue

By Denise Costanten

Once the dog is offering the cue without a lure and with an 80% success rate (we will use “sit” as an example), you will continue as follows:

- Have the dog offer sit in all positions: front, behind, heel and side.
- Have the dog offer sit in all positions in different areas: kitchen, lobby, training room, etc.
- Name the behavior “sit”
- Repeat having the dog sit with the cue in all positions and areas.
- Introduce mild distractions; ask for a sit when someone opens a door, or walks in the room, etc. Move into other rooms and areas introducing mild distractions. Tag point, work toward the 80% success rate.
- Slowly introduce more distractions and increase intensity according to the age and temperament of the dog.
- Include training around the cat, other dogs, and children in your distraction training.
- Take it on the road (go to parks, the mall, grocery stores, etc.). Begin slowly, and lower your expectation in each new environment.



Why Do Dogs Get Released?

Recently, you may have seen an announcement about a Brigadoon dog being "released" from the program. What does "releasing" mean? Why does it happen? And what's it all about?

Well first of all, "releasing" simply means dismissing the dog from Brigadoon's service dog program. Released dogs are determined to be not suited for service work, released, and adopted out into loving forever homes as pets.

All prospective Brigadoon dogs are thoroughly screened before entering the vigorous training program to become service dogs. However, even with all these precautions, some dogs will end up having to be released. This is true at all service dog schools.

Being a service dog requires a special sort of dog with the right temperament, capabilities, and skills, and not all dogs meet the rigorous requirements set for service dogs. A dog may be released for many different reasons, but some common reasons include timidity, fearfulness towards certain situations, or distractibility.

When the decision is made, Brigadoon publicizes the profile of the available dog. The age, level of training, and socialization experience will depend on the circumstances of the particular dog. Because Brigadoon cares for, trains, and socializes dogs to such a high degree, most adoptable dogs are very healthy, smart, well-adjusted, well-trained dogs. It should be noted, however, that released Brigadoon dogs are not suitable for service work. Those interested and eligible can then apply to adopt the dog. To adopt a released Brigadoon dog, an interview and home check must be performed. Then a donation is made to Brigadoon, a contract signed, and the dog goes home to live with its forever family. Released dogs live wonderful lives with tons of love and fun.



Eva, past dock diving champ and demo dog for Brigadoon on left.

George, beloved family member and companion on the right.

Both released Brigadoon Dogs



*"Acquiring a dog may be the only time a person gets to choose a relative."
—Mordecai Siegal*

Dog Announcements

Brigadoon has welcomed several new dogs into the program in the past months. These dogs will now be socialized and trained to become a service dog for a person in need on our wait list!

- 🐕 Cannon is a 3 month old black lab mix, generously donated by Tish from the Alternative Humane Society.
- 🐕 Domino is a 6 month old black and tan Vizla X collie, generously donated by Kristi Brown.
- 🐕 Amber is a 10 week old yellow/red lab mix, donated by the Alternative Humane Society.

Brigadoon receives its dogs from many places: animal shelters, breeders, the Assistance Dogs International Breeding Cooperative, and personal donations. This variety of sources means that Brigadoon's service dog program has the most diverse range of dogs! Male or female, big or small, purebred or mix, shedding or non-shedding...Brigadoon has trained them all! Of course, all pups are thoroughly checked out and temperament tested before being accepted into the program.

Thank You – Featuring Businesses' Fundraisers

Brigadoon is a non-profit organization, and we rely on the generosity of our community in order to do the work that we do. We have so many incredible volunteers, puppy raisers, sponsors, donors, and others who contribute their time, energy, and money into helping make Brigadoon the best it can be. This month, we're featuring a few of the amazing fundraising projects undertaken by local businesses in support of Brigadoon:

- 🐕 Binyon Vision Center donated a portion of their profits to Brigadoon for the month of March
- 🐕 Peak of Perfection Roof Cleaning auctioned off their Diamond Club tickets to a Mariners game, with part of the funds benefitting Brigadoon
- 🐕 Fairhaven Veterinary Hospital sponsored Brigadoon again this year for their spring flea prevention sale. Clients were given the option to donate their "Fairhaven Veterinary Hospital Bucks" to Brigadoon
- 🐕 VCA Covington Animal Hospital raised over \$2000 for Brigadoon, using a white board to record client's donations publicly



Thank you to all the businesses for their generous donations from their innovative fundraising initiatives!

Blast from the Past!

Check out these fun shots of Brigadoon in 2008 that were recently shared with us by Miles Olszko, a past Brigadoon volunteer!



Did you Know?

Brigadoon trains dogs to fit each client's specific needs. We have trained dogs for: anxiety, autism, Asperger's, cerebral palsy, chronic pain, deafness, diabetes, Down Syndrome, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, panic disorder, paraplegia, post traumatic stress disorder, Spina Bifida, Tourette Syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, vision impairments, and other developmental, neurological, physical, and psychological disorders.

"Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet". - Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

Fun Page!

What Type of Service Dog Would you Be?

1. **What is your favourite childhood game?**
 - a. Simon Says
 - b. Telephone
 - c. Follow the leader
 - d. Hide and seek
2. **What career would you prefer?**
 - a. Customer service
 - b. Journalist
 - c. Soldier
 - d. Teacher
3. **Word that best describes you?**
 - a. Agreeable
 - b. Observant
 - c. Confident
 - d. Calm
4. **What is your favourite way to exercise?**
 - a. Team sports
 - b. Racquet sports
 - c. Weight-lifting
 - d. Schoolyard games
5. **What type of TV would you watch?**
 - a. Sports
 - b. Game shows
 - c. Action shows
 - d. Cartoons
6. **Which is your ideal vacation type?**
 - a. Road trip
 - b. Abroad to a large metropolis
 - c. Camping
 - d. All-inclusive resort
7. **Which statutory holiday is most significant to you?**
 - a. Labour Day
 - b. New Years Day
 - c. Veterans Day
 - d. Thanksgiving Day

Results

What job would you have if you were a service dog? Check below! Then consider helping out a real live service dog currently being trained for 'your' service dog job at Brigadoon by making a donation!

Mostly A's – Mobility service dog. You are a loyal and helpful companion. Being willing and game to help in practical, everyday ways will make you an excellent helper for someone with a physical disability.

Mostly B's – Hearing alert dog. You are a social and eager partner. Being alert and energetic will allow you to stay attentive and able to let your partner with deafness know what's up!

Mostly C's – PTSD dog. You are confident and resolute. Being sure and adept no matter what the situation will let you be a constant support and safety for a veteran (or civilian) with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mostly D's – Autism assistance dog. You are playful yet also calm. Being a loving and enduring pal throughout fun and stressful times will help a person with autism – and their family – enjoy life more fully.

Of course, this quiz is just for fun! While on a whole, service dogs must have specific temperaments, there are not significant differences in temperament between service dog types.