

Thank you for your recent inquiry about our Foster Puppy Program. **Dog Guides Canada** is a federally incorporated, charitable foundation founded and funded by the Lions Foundation of Canada. Its mission is to provide service to Canadians with disabilities in the areas of mobility, safety and independence.

Canine Vision Canada trains dogs to assist clients who are blind or visually impaired. **Hearing Ear Dogs of Canada** provides dogs for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. **Special Skills Dogs of Canada** trains dogs to assist clients who have a variety of physical and/or medical disabilities.

The purpose of the **Foster Puppy Program** is to socialize the puppies and teach them proper house manners and basic obedience in a home environment. This experience is critical in influencing the future Dog Guide's personality and attitude.

Food for the puppies is provided courtesy of Nestle Purina PetCare, and Dog Guides Canada's veterinarians provide medical care at our clinics in Breslau and Oakville. Foster families are required to leave a deposit of \$100 to cover the use of a crate, training collar, manual and identification jacket. Other expenses that foster families are expected to cover include a flat collar and leash, food and water bowls, toys, and grooming equipment and supplies. Foster families are also responsible for transporting the puppy to and from the Breslau and Oakville facilities for veterinary care, puppy classes, assessments, and for other reasons as may be required from time to time.

If your family wishes to participate in this program, please complete and return the enclosed application form along with a letter of intent and two character references from a veterinarian, obedience trainer, groomer or other professional. Please feel free to contact the Puppy Program staff at any time if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

RACHEL THATCHER/ADRIENNE FORBES
Breeding and Puppy Development

FOSTERING POLICY

PURPOSE

To temporarily place puppies in a home environment where they shall be raised according to Dog Guides Canada's guidelines, taught proper house manners and basic obedience, and socialized in preparation for their formal training as Dog Guides, under the guidance of the Foster Puppy Program Staff.

FOSTER FAMILIES

Potential foster families must submit an application form along with a letter of intent (explaining why you wish to foster a puppy) and two (2) letters of reference from a veterinarian, obedience trainer, employer, etc.

Prior to being accepted as a foster family, applicants must attend an orientation session that outlines Dog Guides Canada's expectations for raising a future dog guide. **Foster families must also commit to a predetermined schedule of assessments (including some weekdays) with their foster puppies at both our Breslau and Oakville facilities.** (see sample attached)

Food for the puppies in the Foster Puppy Program is provided free of charge by Nestle Purina PetCare, and microchip identification and tracking is supplied courtesy of AVID Canada. A \$100 deposit is required to cover the use of a crate, training collar, manual and identification jacket; this deposit will be refunded when the items are returned in good condition. The Foundation provides regular, routine veterinary care at our clinics in Breslau and Oakville. Any veterinary bills resulting from illness or accident due to negligence on the part of the foster family will not be covered by Dog Guides Canada under any circumstances. **Dog Guides Canada does not pay for any veterinary care provided by clinics other than our own.**

PUPPY MANUAL

All puppies must be raised, trained and socialized using the guidelines set out in the Foster Puppy Manual. The manual covers basic manners, basic obedience, socialization, feeding, health issues and common behavioral and training problems. **The manual is intended to be a guide for foster families, and does not replace regular assessments and telephone communications.**

ASSESSMENTS

Group assessments every 4-6 weeks guide the foster families through everything the puppy needs to learn in its first year, and help the Foster Puppy Program staff determine how the puppy is progressing in terms of health, temperament and socialization. The assessments take approximately 1-3 hours and are carried out at both the Breslau and Oakville facilities. **Assessment dates and locations are pre-determined and foster families must commit to the schedule as set out by the Foster Puppy Program Staff. Assessment dates are mainly weekdays, with one evening and two weekend appointments.** This schedule is provided to the foster family when picking up their foster puppy, and it is the foster family's responsibility to bring the puppy to the assigned location at the designated time. Failure to adhere to this schedule will result in the foster puppy being removed from the foster family's care.

RECALL

The Puppy Program staff shall notify the foster family when the puppy is ready to be recalled. In general, puppies are recalled for final training between the ages of ten (10) and fourteen (14) months of age, however the Foundation reserves the right to recall the puppy at any time. Foster families are not permitted to visit the dogs after recall, but are welcome to phone the Puppy Program staff to receive news on the dog's progress. Foster families will also be invited to attend the dog's graduation at the end of its formal training, and will receive a photograph of the graduating team.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OAKVILLE OFFICE

Susan Woollard

905-842-2891 or 1-800-768-3030 ext 280

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

BRESLAU OFFICE

Adrienne Forbes, Rachel Thatcher & Jennifer Piccione

519-648-3780 or 1-888-624-5291

Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday - Sunday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

PROGRAM MANAGER

Natalie Ann Comeau

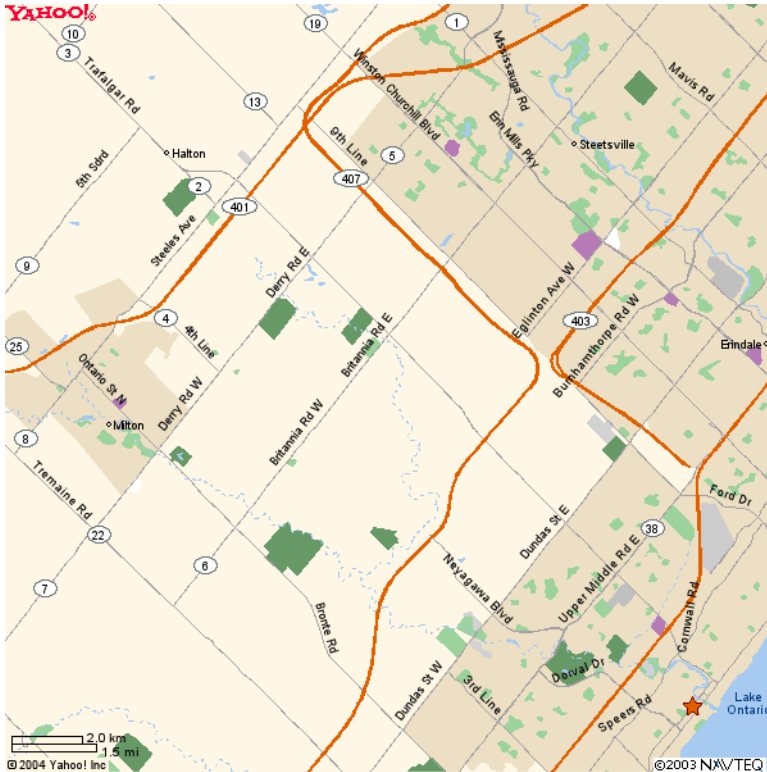
905-842-2891 or 1-800-768-3030 ext 228

OAKVILLE LOCATION

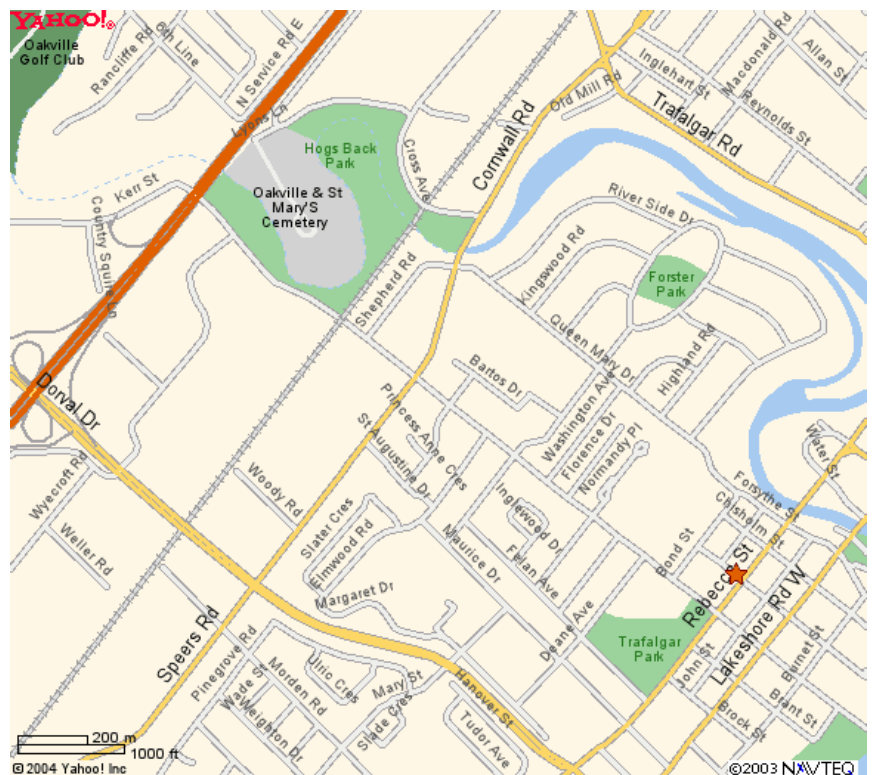
152 Wilson Street

(corner of Rebecca and Kerr)

905-842-2891 or 1-800-768-3030

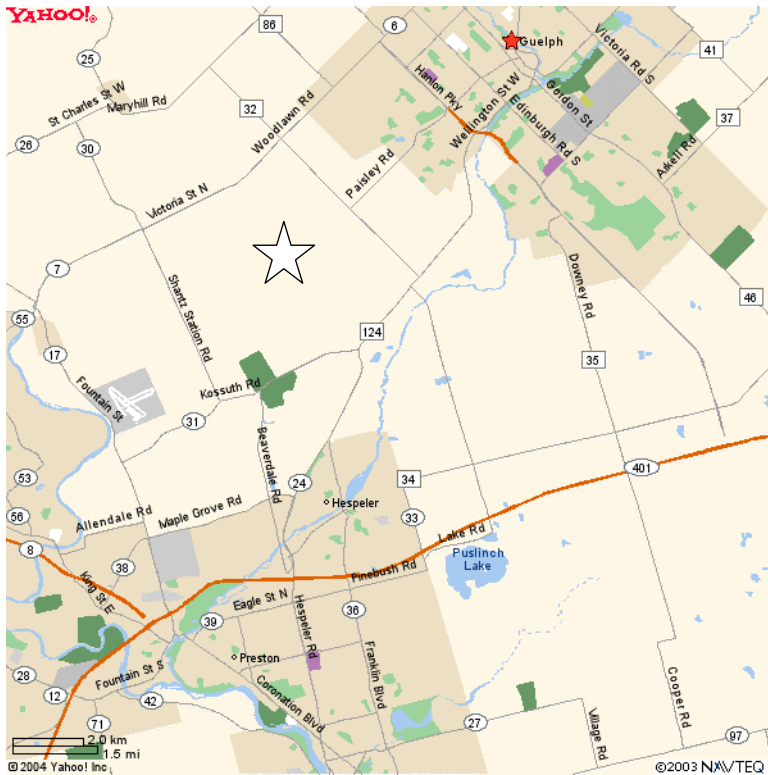


- QEW west of Toronto
- Exit Dorval Drive
- South on Dorval Drive
- Left on Rebecca Street
- Left on Wilson Street

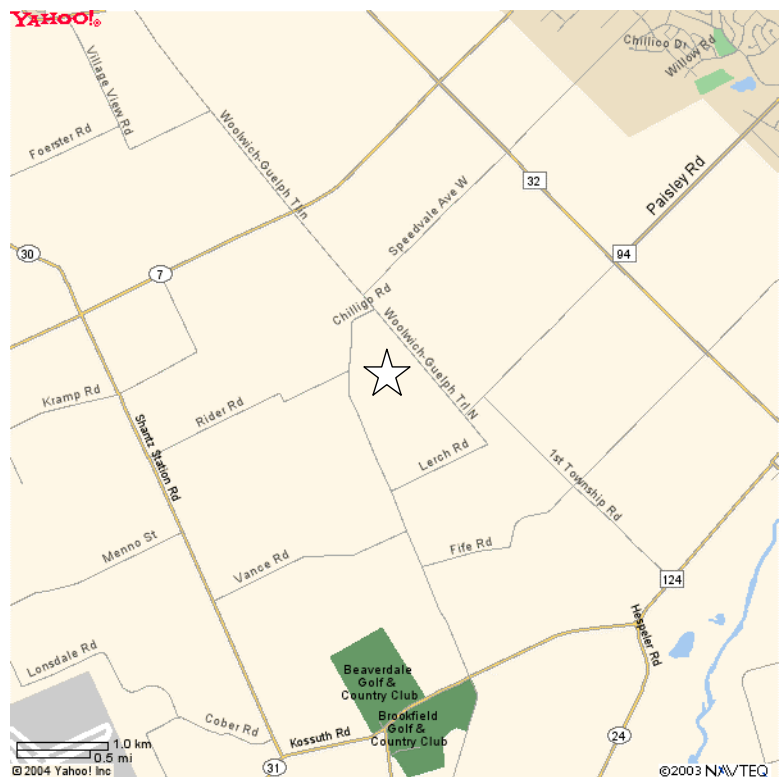


BRESLAU LOCATION

3751 Chilligo Road
519-648-3780 or 1-888-624-5291



- Highway 401 to Cambridge
- Exit Hwy 24/Hespeler Road
- North on Hespeler Road
- Left on Kossuth Road
- Right on Chilligo Road
- Driveway on right - Nessner Place (steep hill)



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date received	
Seminar date	
A	

FOSTER FAMILY APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Telephone: Home: (_____) _____ **Work:** (_____) _____

1. How did you hear about the Foster Puppy Program? _____

2. Why do you want to foster a puppy? _____

3. Are you willing and able to attend assessments/puppy classes/vet visits at our Breslau and Oakville facilities, according to our predetermined schedule (mainly weekdays with some evening and weekend appointments)?
 yes no (if no, your application will not be considered)

4. What Dog Guide programs does Dog Guides Canada operate?
 a) _____
 b) _____
 c) _____

5. The \$100 deposit covers the use of:
 a) _____
 b) _____
 c) _____

6. Have you and your family had any experience with the following?

Raising a puppy/dog	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
House training a puppy/dog	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Crate training a puppy/dog	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Obedience training a puppy/dog	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Raising and/or rescuing an older puppy/dog	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

7. Have you ever owned a dog? yes no
 If yes, what happened to it? _____
 Do you presently own a dog cat bird other _____
 Please specify (how many, species, breed, age, sex, neutered/spayed, etc.) _____

(other dogs in the home **must** be spayed/neutered)

Date and details of most recent vaccinations: _____

8. How many people presently live in your household? _____
What age groups (how many adults, children, etc.)? _____
Does anyone in your household have animal allergies? _____
If yes, please specify: _____
9. Please describe your home: own rent urban suburban rural
single family semi-detached townhouse apartment

Do you have a yard? yes no
If yes, is it: fully fenced partially fenced open
10. In order to assist us in assessing your application, please give us a brief description of your lifestyle (hobbies, activities, schedule, etc.)

11. Will someone be home during the day with the puppy? yes no
If not, for how many hours will the puppy be left alone? _____
Will someone be home at lunch to let the puppy out? yes no
(puppies **cannot** be left home alone every day during the week)
Where will the puppy stay when you are not at home with it?
in a crate in the basement/garage will have the run of the house
12. Does your family vacation: at home cottage other
If the puppy will not accompany you on vacations, who will care for it during your absence? _____
13. Please specify the date when you will be ready to foster a puppy: _____
14. Do you have a preference about the breed/sex of the puppy? _____
15. Are you interested in fostering an older puppy? yes no
16. There are numerous theories and methods currently being used to train dogs, however Dog Guides Canada has perfected its own method of raising and training puppies to become Dog Guides through years of research and experience. Are you prepared to accept and use our methods for raising and training puppies in the Foster Puppy Program?
yes no (if no, your application will not be considered)

Thank you for completing the Foster Family application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Lions Foundation of Canada is grateful for the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its volunteer program.