

Thank you for your recent inquiry about our Foster Puppy Program. **Dog Guides Canada** is a federally incorporated, charitable foundation created by the Lions 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 those 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 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 Ralston Purina Canada Inc., and Dog Guides Canada covers regular veterinary care at our on site clinic in Breslau. Foster families are asked 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 and 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,

The Foster Puppy Program Staff

## **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, crate trained and socialized in preparation for their formal training as dog guides.

### **FOSTER FAMILIES**

Potential foster families must submit an application form along with a letter of intent and two (2) letters of reference from a veterinarian, obedience trainer or other professional. All applications are carefully screened by the Puppy Program staff. Prior to being accepted as a foster family, the applicants must attend an orientation session that outlines Dog Guides Canada's expectations for raising a future dog guide.

Food for the puppies in the Foster Puppy Program is provided free of charge by Ralston Purina Canada Inc., and may be picked up by foster families at the Foundation's facilities in Breslau or Oakville. 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 its on site clinic in Breslau (vaccinations, spay/neuter, etc.) 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.

## **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, 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**

Assessments every few months help the Puppy Program staff determine how the puppy is progressing in terms of health, temperament and socialization. The assessments take approximately one (1) hour and are carried out at either the Breslau or Oakville facility during regular business hours. Puppy Program staff contact the foster families by telephone to set up appointments, and it is the foster family's responsibility to bring the puppy to the assigned location at the designated time.

## **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 eighteen (18) 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.

The Puppy Program staff can be reached as follows:

Breslau:	Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sat-Sun 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1-888-624-5291 or 519-648-3780
Oakville:	Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1-800-768-3030 or 905-842-2891

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. What dog guide programs does Dog Guides Canada operate?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

4. The \$100 deposit covers the use of:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Foster families are required to:

Provide food and water bowls yes  no

Supply dog food yes  no

Supply a flat collar, leash, toys, etc. yes  no

Travel to the Breslau facility for veterinary care yes  no

Pay for veterinary bills resulting from negligence yes  no

Supply grooming equipment (brush, comb, nail clippers, etc.) yes  no

Supply grooming products (shampoo, flea control products, etc.) yes  no

Pay for boarding, professional grooming, etc. yes  no

Supply city license yes  no

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

Raising a puppy/dog yes  no

House training a puppy/dog yes  no

Crate training a puppy/dog yes  no

Obedience training a puppy/dog  
Raising and/or rescuing an older puppy/dog

yes  no   
yes  no

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.) \_\_\_\_\_

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? \_\_\_\_\_

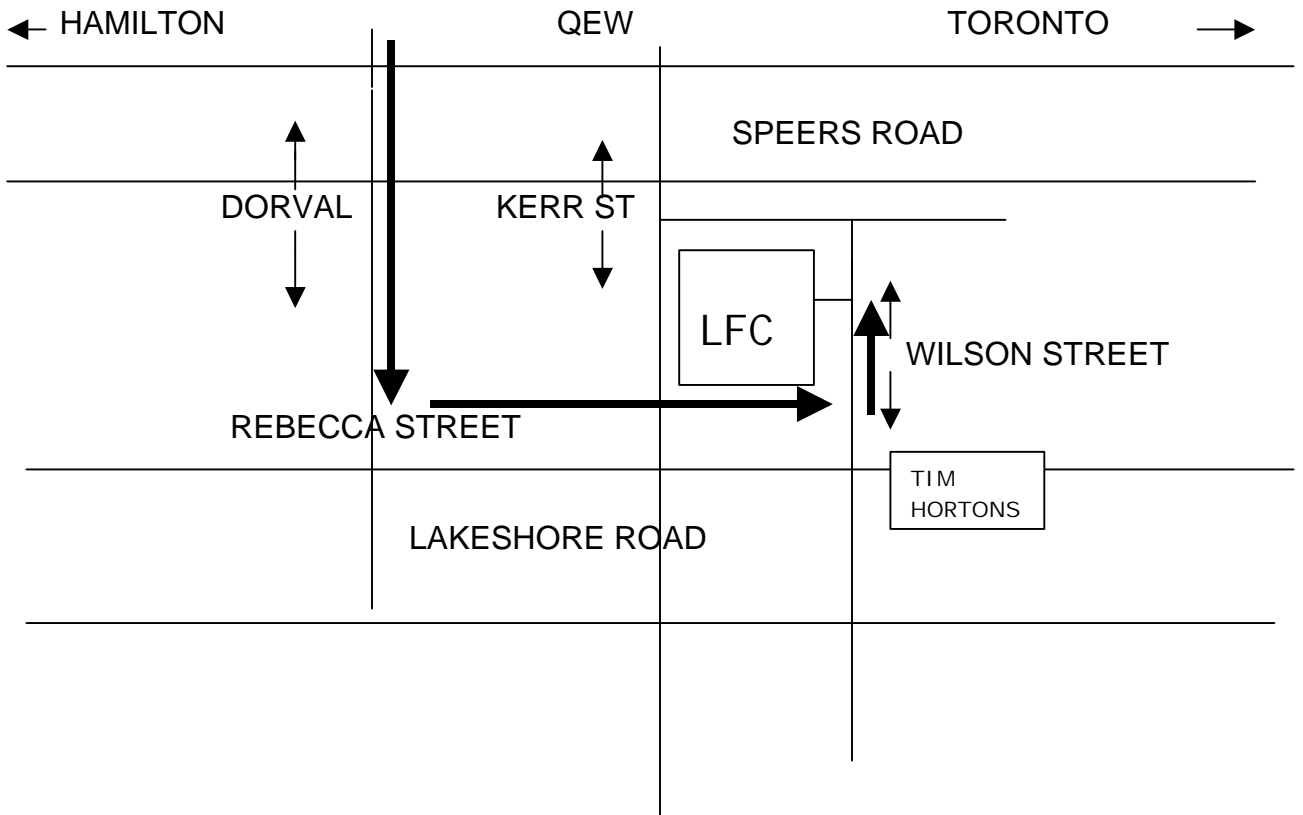
Will someone be home at lunch to let the puppy out? yes  no

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



# OAKVILLE LOCATION



# BRESLAU LOCATION

