

# Paws for Thought

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides



**FEB  
2023**



## Valentine's Day Dog Guide e-cards

Spread the love this Valentine's Day by donating and sending a personalized LFCDG e-card. Visit [Make an Online Donation - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#) to send one today. You will find the e-card options at the bottom of the donation form. The Valentine's day card can be found in the "Choose e-card type" drop-down menu.



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## Share the Love with our Online Auction

Our Share the Love Online Auction is running from February 6th- 24th with lots of great items to bid on! We have received some wonderful donations, including artwork, attraction passes, restaurant gift cards, a Fitbit, Air Fryer, tickets to the RBC Canadian Open, and an overnight stay at Deerhurst Resort. Visit [www.32auctions.com/LFCDGWinterOnline2023](http://www.32auctions.com/LFCDGWinterOnline2023) to participate in the auction.

If you or someone you know would still like to donate an item, please contact Jenn Boyd at [events@dogguides.com](mailto:events@dogguides.com).

The types of donations we are currently looking for:

- Experiences (i.e. hotel stay, trip voucher, white water rafting, etc.)
- Gift Cards
- Items that are easy to ship (i.e. Not too heavy)

Thanks very much for all of your support.

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## LFCDG Staff Shoutouts

Maria Galindo is returning from her parental leave to her position as Communications Manager. If you would like to contact her and welcome her back, please leave her a message at [mgalindo@dogguides.com](mailto:mgalindo@dogguides.com). A big thank you to Diane Weber for stepping up and taking on this position for the past year. Her guidance and hard work have meant so much to us. We look forward to working with Diane on some new projects on a contract basis.

Please welcome Hyunah Kim to the Puppy Program. Hyunah studied wildlife biology at the University of Guelph. Before joining the puppy team, Hyunah worked in our Puppy Nursery in Breslau. Hyunah is glad to begin helping our foster families full time and we are thrilled to have her. Hyunah has a foster poodle puppy named Zada who is reportedly the sweetest girl ever. Welcome Hyunah!

# Congratulations to our Ontario 50/50 Raffle Winners

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Ontario Winter Online 50/50 Raffle. We raised \$19,920 altogether!

## Congrats to our WINNERS:

- \$250 Early Bird Prize Winner – O.J.W from Kitchener, ON
- \$250 Early Bird Prize Winner- Harry W. from Oakville, ON
- \$9,960 Grand Prize Winner – Robert H. from Dryden, ON





# Client Services Pupdates: Dog Guide Enrichment and Mental Stimulation

As the weather gets colder outside, we wanted to share a list of indoor activities to help enrich and provide mental stimulation to keep your Dog Guide busy. Please keep in mind that all these activities should be supervised for the safety of your Dog Guide.

## Enrichment Ideas:

**Kongs** - soak their food in water, mash it up and put in a kong. Then just freeze it in the freezer. This will keep them busy for a while as they lick out the frozen food.

**Snuffle Mats** - this can be a fun way for your Dog Guide to use their nose while eating their meal. ([Snuffle Mats](#))

**Puzzle Toys** - this is a great way to provide mental stimulation for your Dog Guide. DIY puzzle toys can be found online or you can buy one at your local pet store. ([Outward Hound Brick Puzzle](#)) ([Outward Hound Tornado Puzzle](#)) ([Outward Hound Twister Puzzle](#))

**Toy Rotation** - to keep playtime interesting, regularly switch out the toys available to them. An old toy will feel brand new if they haven't played with it in a while.

**Hide and Seek** - practice recall in a fun way by playing hide and seek around the house.

You can get all these wonderful toys at Pet Valu. Remember, clients are eligible for discounts on products in store.



## Debby Kay visits LFCDG

Last month, LFCDG was fortunate to have dog trainer Debby Kay come visit and teach our Diabetic Alert instructors some new skills! Debby has been a leader in scent detection training for more than 40 years and has been involved with many institutional and government detector programs, producing search and rescue dogs. She has helped many new non-profits around the world develop successful medical detection programs through her very own Super Sniffer program. Debby was able to bring us our new scent wheel, as well as show us how it is to be used to familiarize dogs on the scent.



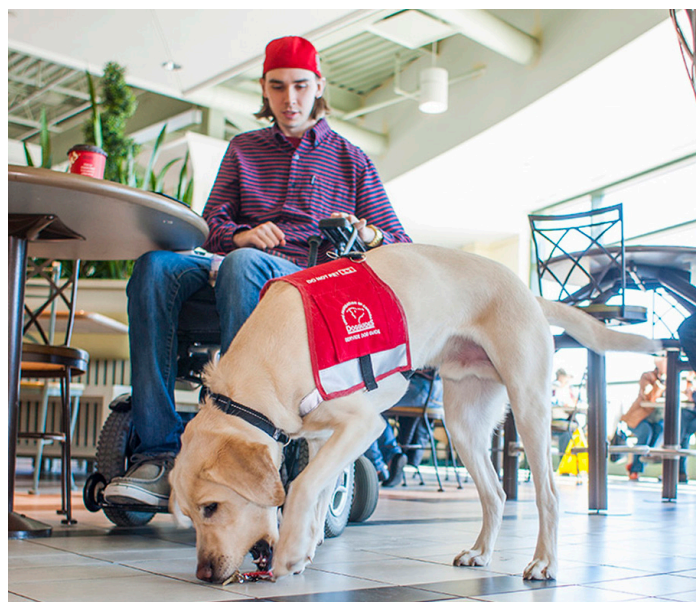
The scent wheel is designed to “proof” the dog in the exact scent they are smelling for. The wheel will be used in the final components of training to make sure the dog is alerting to the correct odor and not anything else. The wheel has 4 arms (with a container at each end of the arm) and spins in both directions so the trainer can train on their own and spin the wheel so the odor is in a new/different location, without “cueing” the dog. We start with just one diabetic low scent sample to see if the dog is going correctly to the right container. The trainers will eventually add in other “distracting odors” like other human saliva (non-diabetic), treats, gauze, etc, to test the dog to see if they still continue to alert to the correct scent.

Diabetic Alert Dog Guides are able to use their noses to sniff for specific drops and changes in their handler’s blood sugar levels and notify them with an alert. People with hypoglycemia unawareness do not feel changes in their blood sugar, so being alerted to this can be life-saving at times. We can’t wait to apply Debby Kay’s special techniques to sharpen our training and continue to improve the Diabetic Alert Dog Guide Program. ([Watch Video](#))

# Dog Guide Access is a right, not a privilege

In order to properly assist their handlers so that they can navigate all portions of their lives, Dog Guides need to have access to daily activities, spaces and venues. In Canada, all types of service dogs are protected under human rights laws and therefore have legal access to most businesses and public places, except for sterile hospital environments like the ICU or operation room, and food preparation areas.

It is against the law to discriminate against a person with a disability who has a service dog and deny them access to any establishment. Being allowed access into restaurants, stores, Ubers and taxis, etc. is not a privilege, but a right, as long as the dog shows good behavior and remains on a leash. The handler must have full control of the dog at all times.



As part of our intensive training program, our dogs and their handler must pass a public access test (PAT), as required by standards set by Assistance Dogs International (ADI). It is a test used by Dog Guides and other member organizations to evaluate and assess whether a team is deemed suitable to go out in public on their own. Dog Guide teams must be able to confidently work together and handlers must demonstrate that they are in control of their dog at all times. Dogs must also be able to demonstrate obedience, show that they are stable, well-behaved, and that they are prepared and know how to act in public settings. Some specific skills dogs should be able to demonstrate are the following:

- Controlled unload out of a vehicle
- Safely cross a parking lot, halt for traffic and be aware of surroundings
- Controlled entry through a doorway and navigation of a store
- Ignore distractions (i.e. food, noisy children and customers)
- Safely walk up and down stairs
- Recall, sits and lays down on command



As an accredited member of ADI, we are proud to adhere to the top standards they set for the Assistance Dog industry. Passing the PAT is important because it ensures our clients can fully rely on the support of their assistance dog in every aspect of their daily living. It allows our Dog Guide teams to exercise their public access rights, essentially allowing the assistance dog to go anywhere their handler goes.

It is important to note that public access laws can vary by province and are regulated differently. For more information: <https://assistancedogsinternational.org/resources/public-access-laws-canada/>

## Pawtners in Success: Order of the Eastern Star, Saskatchewan Chapter

To fulfill our mission and support Canadians from coast-to-coast, it takes a village and we are grateful the Order of the Eastern Star, Saskatchewan Chapter, is part of our village. Through the years, the money they fundraise for LFCDG has been applied to sponsoring a numerous Dog Guide teams.



Llynne Lambert serves as the Canadian Chair on Service Dogs and explains the structure of their organization:

*"The Order of the Eastern Star is a worldwide organization of men and women, with leaders at the top that direct each state, province and in some cases, countries (known as Grand Chapters). My position is to work on service dogs in Canada. I have committees in every province that work on raising money for service dogs throughout their province. My job is to assist, promote and work with each province to obtain their fundraising goal."*

In Saskatchewan, the Order of the Eastern chapters have chosen Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to give to. We are so grateful for all their support over the years. They have raised over \$30,000 to go towards Dog Guides.

# Spreading LFCDG Pawsitivity

The second edition of the [Pawsitivity Report](#) has been published - a newsletter we've created just for our donors to show the impact they have had on the Dog Guides community! Read the latest stories on how Dog Guides are changing lives and empowering Canadians living with disabilities or medical conditions.

Issue 2 | Winter 2023 | [www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com)

**The Pawsitivity REPORT**  
Your Generosity at Work



### "I don't know what we'd do without her"

Knowing that court can be a scary place, especially for children, our Facility Support Dogs are on hand to offer their love and support.

Facility Support Dogs Marielle and Jaz help professional agencies assist people in traumatic situations. These dogs are trained to provide on-scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in the community.

And we've seen time and again what a deep difference that support can make to these children.

Marielle is one of our grads of 2019. Now she works at the Beausejour Family Crisis Resource Centre in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Kristal LaBlanc is one of her handlers. She recalls the words of one child, while Marielle was busily giving her "hugs."

*"She really loves me, doesn't she? And she's going to be with me the entire day when I have to talk to adults about what happened? You promise? And she will meet me outside before I go in? I am so happy!"*

Marielle's support was so in demand that the centre has just recently received their 2nd Facility Support Dog Jaz. Jaz and Marielle will share the workload, helping more young

people as they testify in court.

Kristal says she doesn't know what these children and families would do without Marielle. Or recent graduate, Jaz.

*"We ourselves can't go into the witness box and provide comfort and compassion. They just give something that no other human could ever give."*



Jaz and Kristal



Marielle

Jaz, the newest Facility Support Dog Guide

Your Generosity at Work

## Pawsibilities Grant Recognition

We would like to recognize the Oakville Community Foundation (Generosity Plus Fund) for their financial contributions to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Pawsibilities grant program. Thank you bringing the pawsible to life.



## Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 9 new LFCDG puppies!

- R Litter: Ojai and Echo (from National Service Dogs) – 9 puppies on December 25th, 2022.

**Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!**

