



APRIL  
2023



A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides

## Register today for the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

We are excited to invite you to join us for the [2023 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides](#). Last year we were able to raise over \$1 million, and this year we've increased our goal to \$1.4 million so we can help even more Canadians living with disabilities receive a life-changing Dog Guide. Thanks to our title sponsor, Pet Valu, all money raised goes directly to our seven Dog Guide programs.

The national walk date is set for **Sunday, May 28th**, but some communities host on alternative dates, so please be sure to check

[www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com) for information on the location near you. Don't have a walk near you? No problem - you can select our National Virtual Team when you register.

Plus, when you register online by May 1st you are automatically entered for the chance to WIN a \$100 Pet Valu Gift Card!

**By participating in the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, you are ensuring Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides can continue to change lives through Dog Guides.**

If you have any questions or would like more information on hosting your own walk location, please contact [walk@dogguides.com](mailto:walk@dogguides.com).



## Spring LFCDG Grad brings new beginnings

With Spring comes new beginnings, which makes it the perfect time for another graduation! Join us on Wednesday, April 5th at 7 pm (EST) to celebrate 24 graduates! We're so thankful and proud that we are able to match so many amazing teams. Hear from our CEO, Bev Crandell, our inspiring instructors, our feeding partner Pet Valu, a foster family and our graduates. Get ready for some laughs, tears and lots of heart-felt moments.

Use this link to watch on starting at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85329520322>

The ceremony will be recorded. A link will be made available to watch afterwards on our website and social media.



## Clients Encouraged to Share Stories for New Book

Former CBC radio producer Cate Cochran is looking for stories to share in her upcoming book "How My Dog Saved My Life." Her book will feature tales of dogs that have rescued their owners from grave injury or almost certain death; dogs that protect owners and keep them safe (i.e., service and guide dogs); and companion dogs (to people with mental and/or emotional and/or physical disabilities) that have a profound impact on the wellbeing of their owners.

If you would like to contribute to her book, Cate can be reached at

[howmydogssavedmylife@gmail.com](mailto:howmydogssavedmylife@gmail.com) or 416-795-9781.



## Celebrating A Puppy's Journey with CP24 and CTV News

To celebrate National Puppy Day , we had some very special guests come to our training facility in Oakville. We had live segments on CP24 and CTV News Toronto to celebrate our future Dog Guide puppies and the journey they take to become Dog Guides in one of our seven programs. Rewatch the segments here:

[Celebrating national puppy day | CP24.com](#)

[CTV News Toronto at Noon | CTV News](#)

Thank you to both CP24 and CTV Toronto for visiting us!



## Congratulations to Canine Vision Instructor for Completing 3 Year Apprenticeship

Congratulations to instructor Alissa Silvester for completing her apprenticeship at LFCDG! Over the last three years, Alissa has been an integral part of the team and we are proud of what she has accomplished. The Canine Vision program wouldn't be the same without her!



## And the Award goes to...

**We're are thrilled to share that the Oakville Chamber & Rotary Club of Oakville West has awarded Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides with the Charity or Not-for-Profit Excellence Award!**

The Finalists and Distinguished Awards of the 28th Annual Oakville Awards for Business Excellence, presented by RBC Royal Bank, were announced at the end of March. The award will be presented to LFCDG on April 26.



## Donate to LFCDG's Wish List

The [Wish List](#) is a unique way to contribute to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Recently, the team at Rich Demille Insurance and Financial Services in Oakville, were looking for an impactful donation to support LFCDG. They visited our training facility and brought with them a stockpile of enrichment toys and towels for our Dog Guides in training. We are so appreciative of the support!

If you wish to contribute an item or donate towards the purchase of an item, please contact Marilyn DeFazio, Director of Resource Development at [mdefazio@dogguides.com](mailto:mdefazio@dogguides.com) or 905-842-2891 Ext. 231.



## Pawtners in Success: Merck

To fulfill our mission and support Canadians from coast to coast, it takes a village and we are grateful Merck Animal Health is part of our village.

Over the years, Merck Animal Health has generously provided product donations to assist in our veterinary care for our Future Dog Guides in Training. For the month of April, they are embarking on a new fundraising opportunity through their participating veterinary clinics. Merck Animal Health will donate a dollar from the sale of every bottle of Mometamax (a treatment for otitis externa in dogs) to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Thank you Merck Animal Health!



## Dog Guides Collaborates with Paws with A Cause

Back in February, we had a very successful visit from some staff members with Paws with a Cause, another assistance dog training school based in Michigan, USA. They met with our fundraising team, breeding staff, senior management and instructors. We are all grateful that we had the chance to collaborate and learn from each other. We look forward to many more collaborations with other ADI accredited schools in the future.



## International Guide Dog Day is April 26th

On April 26th, we celebrate all Dog Guides and how they help their handlers every day. At LFCDG, we train Dog Guides in seven different programs, and we are the only organization that does this. Whether it is by barking for help or alerting to a diabetic low or helping their person navigate a crowded street, Dog Guides allow their handlers to always feel safe. They help empower Canadians living with disabilities to navigate their world with confidence and independence.

Help us continue to match life-changing Dog Guides to Canadians with disabilities by participating in the upcoming Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides or donating towards it at [www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com)



## World Autism Awareness Day

This Autism Awareness Day, we want to celebrate our Autism Assistance teams and the staff, volunteers, foster families and donors that make it all possible!

At LFCDG, we train Autism Assistance Dog Guides to assist children aged 3-12 on the spectrum. These Dog Guides make an immeasurable impact on children by providing safety, companionship, and unconditional love. Many families who have an LFCDG Autism Assistance Dog Guide report not having to worry so much about their child, now that they have a best friend by their side. Having a Dog Guide helps children on the spectrum regulate their emotions and provides a calming relief in situations where they may feel overwhelmed such as going to the grocery store or even to a kid's park. These Dog Guides not only help children, but they make life a little bit easier for the entire family.



## Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 5 new LFCDG puppies!

Fernie and Jaguar are the proud parents of the T Litter

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

