



LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA
DOGGUIDES

MEDIA KIT



About Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) is a national charity whose mission is to empower Canadians with disabilities to navigate their world with confidence and independence by providing Dog Guides at no cost to them and supporting each pair in their journey together.

To date, LFCDG has matched more than 3,000 Canadians living with a disability to a Dog Guide. Currently, there are 1,062 active Dog Guide teams across Canada.

The foundation receives zero government funding, and relies on support from service clubs, corporations, foundations and individuals from across the country in order to continue to meet its mission.



Dog Guide Program Information

Each program trains Dog Guides to meet the different needs of people with various disabilities. Breeds commonly used are Labrador Retrievers and Standard Poodles (for people who are allergic to dogs) and Golden Retrievers.

The training for a Dog Guide is an intensive four to eight month period, training one-on-one with a qualified Instructor. Once fully trained, the dog is matched with a client who spends approximately one to three weeks at the Oakville training facility, learning how to handle, trust and bond with their new Dog Guide.



CANINE VISION

Canine Vision Dog Guides assist Canadians (14+ years) who are blind or visually impaired. These Dog Guides are trained to safely navigate obstacles typically found on daily routes.



HEARING

Hearing Dog Guides assist Canadians (16+ years) who are deaf or hard of hearing, and are unable to detect important sounds. These Dog Guides have been taught to distinguish specific sounds, and alert their handler.



AUTISM ASSISTANCE

Autism Assistance Dog Guides assist children (ages 3-12) on the autism spectrum. These Dog Guides provide safety, companionship and unconditional love.



SERVICE

Service Dog Guides assist Canadians (14+ years) who have a physical or medical disability. These Dog Guides are trained to retrieve objects, open/close doors and appliances, and get help by barking or activating an alert system.



SEIZURE RESPONSE

Seizure Response Dog Guides assist Canadians (16+ years) diagnosed with intractable epilepsy. These Dog Guides are trained to bark for help or activate an alert system in the event of a seizure.



DIABETES ALERT

Diabetes Alert Dog Guides assist Canadians (16+ years) who have type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness. They are trained to detect sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar, and alert them.



FACILITY SUPPORT

Facility Support dogs are for professional agencies that assist individuals in traumatic situations. These dogs are trained to provide on-scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in the community.

Foster Puppy Program

First steps in becoming a foster family to a future Dog Guide:

- Puppies are bred at the Lions Foundation's facility in Breslau, Ontario
- At approximately eight weeks of age, puppies are placed in foster homes until they return for formal training, which is usually around one year of age
- Foster families housetrain the puppies, teach them manners, basic obedience, and socialize in environments like offices, shopping malls and public transportation
- Foster families attend puppy classes in Oakville and Breslau every four to six weeks throughout the one year commitment
- Veterinary care is provided at the Lions Foundation's in-house clinic
- Pet Valu family of stores are Dog Guides feeding partner. Puppies are fuelled by Performatrin and Performatrin Ultra food
- The puppies are screened for both physical soundness as well as temperament before entering the training program



Dog Guides are fuelled by Performatrin and Performatrin Ultra dog and puppy food, thanks to the Pet Valu family of stores.

- The Pet Valu Family of Stores -



Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

- The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is our largest fundraising event, held in over 200 communities in each province across Canada
- Whether participating at an in-person walk or virtually, we can all make an impact by coming together for Dog Guides! Register, Fundraise, and Participate!
- The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides raises funds to help provide life-changing Dog Guides to Canadians living with disabilities or medical conditions
- To date the walk has raised more than \$21 million for Dog Guides.
- Thanks to our national sponsor, Pet Valu, funds raised from the communities participating across Canada go directly toward raising, training and providing Dog Guides to Canadians at no cost
- All ages, fitness levels, with or without a dog are welcome to participate
- To register or to donate, visit: www.walkfordogguides.com, call 1-800-768-3030 or email walk@dogguides.com



- The Pet Valu Family of Stores -



Testimonials

“Ross makes me feel more confident. I was scared going to places, but with Ross I feel safe all the time. My seizures are usually during the night or early in the morning, but with Ross by my side he has been alerting my parents about my seizures.” - Isabella, Seizure Response program graduate - Sherwood Park, Alberta



“Having Trebek in my life has given me my independence and confidence back. Since having him I have not had any scary situations with my blood sugars and I haven’t had a single seizure, something that I would previously experience due to dangerously low blood sugars. I feel independent and safe now that I have Trebek by my side. He has proven time and time again that his nose never lies.” - Beau, Diabetes Alert program graduate - Vancouver, BC



“I have lots more independence with Nikana because I’m not scared of dropping items outside of my house. Nikana and I triumph every day and he continues to impress me with her help! Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides has helped more than they ever will know. They have given people responsibilities, independence, and pure joy.” - Rick, Service Dog program graduate - Nanaimo, BC





Contact Information

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