

Paws for Thought

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides



Graduate Cornor

Happy Purple Day To Our Graduates!

Purple Day (March 26th) is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide by wearing purple coloured clothing.

Did you know that over 260,000 Canadians have been diagnosed with epilepsy?

Here is what you should do if someone is having a seizure:

1. Stay calm - most often, a seizure will run its course and end naturally within a few minutes.
2. Time it - call 911 if a seizure lasts more than 5 minutes, if seizure repeats without full recovery between seizures, if person is pregnant or has diabetes or if the seizure occurs in water, also if you know it's the person's first seizure.
3. Protect from injury if possible - move sharp objects away, roll person to their side and place something soft under their head.
4. When the seizure ends, provide reassurance and stay with the person if they are confused.



Diabetes Alert Team Taylan and Kelly Participate in “Living Library”

Last month, Taylan and Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Kelly participated in the town of Ajax’s “Living Library” event. A “Living Library” is where people have a chance to share their stories and become “books to loan.” Visitors check out a book they want to read, but instead, the books are people, and reading is a conversation between the Living Book and the borrower.

Taylan spoke about her experience living with type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness and about her Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Kelly. We are so proud of Taylan for sharing her story and bringing awareness to Dog Guides.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EkjLAH4LxE>



Dawson and Norman are a Golden Match

Last year, Dawson was matched with Autism Assistance Dog Guide Norman, and they couldn't be happier. Now that they have been matched, Dawson can experience public spaces more often, and his parents do not have to worry as much.

"When Dawson and Norman are out in public as a team, Dawson no longer needs to hold our hand if he doesn't want to," Dawson's mother Alyse says. "The safety of Norman's tether on his jacket gives Dawson the freedom to walk on his own with his dog. If Dawson does feel the need to run, Norman can stop him with the "halt" command and keep him safe. This protects him from potential dangers, and it also helps him regulate. When Norman stops, Dawson almost always turns and sits down with Norman to pet him, offering him comfort. We're looking forward to Norman attending school with Dawson, a place he often needs this type of support."

Norman also helps Dawson and his family with sleep:

"They definitely enjoy their share of indoor cuddle time," Alyse says. "Norman sleeps with Dawson every night, this has probably helped with the biggest change of all, sleeping through the night! This is huge for Dawson and mom and dad. We've all been able to function better in our daily lives now that we're getting a full night sleep."

If you would like to support matches like Dawson and Norman, please donate to LFCDG or become a monthly donor.

"We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and have no doubt this will enhance every aspect of Dawson's life. We would like to thank the donors that supported this match and made it all possible."



Heartwarming Email Received by Thankful Dad

Last month we received this heartwarming message in our inbox. We love reading your kind words and gives us motivation to continue to do what we do.

Hello. A few hours ago, I watched the 2021 documentary about the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide on the AMI network. Very close to the end I started to cry. They were tears of thankfulness and joy.

I am the father of twin girls with cerebral palsy who are now 35 years old. They are two of the happiest people my wife and I have ever met! Carly's twin, Angela is now partnered with her 3rd dog from your wonderful organization. (Yogi, Digby and Ursus a.k.a. Ella). I need you to know as best you can, how much these wonderful service dogs mean to her and how they have helped her on so many levels all these years. Her happiness gifted by these incredible animals has also had a profound effect on us as parents and therefore a greater ability for us all to move forward with our lives.

There are no words I am familiar with that could describe our feelings, so I won't try.

Thank you.
Jim and April

Dog Guides in the news

Canine Vision Dog Guide leads handler home after stranded by a cab

After being dropped off at the wrong location, Roland and his Canine Vision Dog Guide Dodger had to walk three blocks to get back home. Dodger was able to safely guide their way in the dark. [Read more](#)

Proposed bill would make life easier for P.E.I. service dogs and their handlers

Dog Guide graduates were featured in an interview that focused on a proposed legislation for Assistance Dogs in Prince Edward Island. [Read more](#)

Dog Guide Teams in Action!

If you would like to be featured, share your photos or tag us on social media! Follow us on our social media accounts:



@lfcdogguides



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@lfcdogguides



@dogguidescan

kisforkansas_lfcdg



Justice Facility Dogs NB

1 February at 21:19

Those who teach the most about humanity are not always human. You've got this sweet brave girl.

~Accredited Justice Facility Dog Iker



19 shares

LFCDG Happenings

Dog Guide Program Updates

Seizure Response Dog Guide Program Now Open

We are excited to share that the Seizure Response program is now open until March 18th at 9 a.m. (EST). During those dates, people that are interested in receiving a Seizure Response Dog Guide that is a Labrador Retriever or Golden Retriever, will be able to submit an Expression of Interest.

The Seizure Response program assists Canadians (16 years or older) diagnosed with intractable epilepsy through specific tasks. Seizure Response Dog Guides are trained to react to their handler's seizure by barking for help or activating an alert system.

Once you've reviewed the Discovery Package document, applicants will be able to submit an expression of interest. Currently, we have 10 spaces available on our waitlist. If we receive more expressions of interest than available spots on the waitlist, we will select a limited number randomly and process those expressions of interest only. Those who are not selected will need to wait for the next time the waitlist reopens to reapply.

If you're not able to complete the Expression of Interest online, please contact our client services team for support at client-services@dogguides.com

Facility Support Program Notice

We are excited to share that the Facility Support program will be opening their waitlist from March 15th – April 12th.

The Facility Support program assist Canadian professional agencies working with vulnerable people who have experienced trauma which could be a result of criminal behavior. These dogs are specifically trained to provide a non-judgmental, attuned presence and calming influence to reassure a person experiencing a stressful situation.

Once you've reviewed the Discovery Package document, applicants will be able to submit an expression of interest. Currently, we have 5 spaces available on our waitlist for the fall.

Please note that waitlists are currently closed for our other programs. We will, however, continue to accept re-applications from our successor clients who have previously had a Dog Guide from us.

Upcoming Events

Spring Graduation

We are thrilled to bring you the latest news and updates from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Event Team. Here's what's been happening and what you can look forward to:

Celebrate LFCDG's mission in action and watch our Spring graduation on Wednesday, April 24th at 7pm (EST) on [Dog Guides' YouTube Channel](#).

We hope you will join us to celebrate with our clients, volunteers, donors, and staff!

When You Play Bingo LFCDG Wins!

Once a month Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide volunteers work a Delta Bingo session in Oakville. For their efforts we share a portion of the money raised every month.

Come join the fun at the next Bingo Session supported by Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides:

Sunday, March 17, 2024 from 1:30 to 3:30pm at 483 Speers Rd, Oakville, ON.

“Who Let The Dogs Out” Open House - April 6th

Join us on Saturday, April 6th from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM for our much-anticipated “Who Let The Dogs Out” Spring Open House! This is a great opportunity to learn more about becoming involved with LFCDG, shop at the Gift Shop, purchase tickets for the onsite raffle, meet the Dog Guides team, enjoy light refreshments while experiencing firsthand the incredible work you support. Reservations are not required so don't miss out on this great event!



Volunteer Information Session Update

We have decided to include the Volunteer Information Session as part of our Open House.

If you would like to learn about the volunteer opportunities available at the foundation, please visit our Open House on April 6th. Everyone interested in getting involved as a volunteer is welcome to attend.



National Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides - May 26th

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 26th! We're gearing up for the National Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, and we need your support. To register to participate and donate, please visit www.walkfordogguides.com. Please note, some walks take place on alternate dates so be sure to check the details for your area. Let's make this year's walk the best one yet!



2024 Event Sponsorship Packages Available:

Are you looking for meaningful ways to support our cause? Our 2024 sponsorship packages are now available! Partner with us and make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families across Canada. Together, we can create positive change. For Toronto and GTA sponsorship inquiries please email Dakota Raycraft draycraft@dogguides.com & for Oakville please email Jennifer Boyd jboyd@dogguides.com

Donor Recognition

Mrs. Berwick's Legacy

It is with sadness that we share the death of Mrs. Mavis Berwick at 95 years old, a long-time supporter and LFCDG's most generous donor. Almost 20 years ago, Julie first met with Mrs. Berwick and her daughter Diane to discuss the various ways they could support the Dog Guide programs. Shortly thereafter, Diane passed away but not before she could see the plaque recognizing their first gift towards two client rooms. These two rooms were part of the 2015 renovation to convert some offices into additional rooms for our clients.

From that time on, Mrs. Berwick sponsored a remarkable 29 Service Dog Guide teams, all named after family members who had passed away. For several years, Mrs. Berwick wanted to ensure that Oakville was the top Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in the country, and she enjoyed presenting a surprise \$30,000 donation at June graduations...just before the annual fundraising totals for the walks were announced. Many people will never forget a graduation in June 2017 when Mrs. Berwick took great pleasure in donating \$100,000, something most people had never seen before.

Mrs. Berwick continued to contribute to Service sponsorships and last year gave her final generous gift to leave a lasting legacy with LFCDG.

"I treasure the years of friendship I had with Mavis and admire her dedication to her twin daughters. Together, their commitment to philanthropy was incredible. Dog Guides is so fortunate to be one of Mavis's chosen charities and she changed the lives of many people in our Service program." Julie Jelinek, Director of Campaigns, Major and Planned Gifts

"I have a service dog from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. One of the people in my class received a dog that was sponsored by Mavis. We learned that Mavis was a regular sponsor of Dog Guides and had been so for many years. All of the dogs that Mavis sponsored meant that more people with disabilities were able to continue living independently. Without the generosity of people like Mavis, our interaction with the outside world would be quite limited. Rest in peace Mavis." Lilian Hulme-Smith



Become a Monthly Donor

Become a Dog Guides Guardian today!

Mary Liedtke has supported Dog Guides for many years and made the decision recently to become a Dog Guides Guardian monthly donor. We asked Mary to share with us why she chooses to support our work and why our monthly donor program appealed to her.

"I first became aware of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides almost thirty years ago. I have fostered, helped promote, fundraised and donated to the cause. Over the years I have met staff, volunteers, and clients alike. This organization is pure heart. As I have aged, and the economy has changed, I have realized the necessity of a stable and predictable monthly income. Admittedly 2023's donation was late (life got in the way) but the dogs, Dog Guides staff and the cause itself persevered for me. I made the decision in January not to let anything interfere again with my annual gift by becoming a Dog Guides Guardian monthly donor."

The Dog Guides Guardians monthly giving program is seamless for our donors and has a low administrative overhead for us. Dog Guides Guardians, like Mary, get the benefit of automatic donations while knowing that their gift goes each month to help match more life-changing Dog Guides to people who need them. Guardians receive a consolidated annual tax receipt each year at tax time.

As Mary says, "The love this organization spreads everyday helps make the world a better place. Be a hero, join me by becoming a Guardian!"

Become a Dog Guides Guardian Today!



Mary's most recent foster pup Wynter (nicknamed Princess Sassy) who graduated in the Hearing Dog Guide program

Leave a Legacy at Dog Guides Through your Will

When was the last time you thought about your Will? If you're like most of us, it's probably been a while. Chances are your life circumstances have changed since you first wrote your Will years ago.

Think about the people named in your Will, the major life events that have taken place, and how different your life is today. Have you had a birth in the family? Have you retired, or sold a home or business? Or perhaps you've moved to another province? If any of these things ring true, it's probably time to update your Will so that it's aligned with your current situation.

Updating your Will doesn't have to be a big to-do. If you plan to make only a few small changes, like leaving a gift to charity in your Will, your legal advisor can simply add a clause to your existing Will. If there are many changes to make, they may suggest starting from scratch.

If you are thinking about adding LFCDG to your Will, it's a simple process. Please contact Julie Jelinek at jjelinek@dogguides.com or (905) 842-2891 Ext. 223. You will then need to contact your lawyer or Quebec notary to make the necessary changes.

LFCDG has partnered with Will Power and their website has a wealth of helpful information about Wills. Visit Get Started to learn more.



Volunteer Corner

Day School Volunteers Needed

Dog Guides in training need your help! Some are looking for a loving home where they can go after a long day at school, training to become the best they can be.

Some of our Dog Guides in training may exhibit signs of stress when staying in the kennel, which can interfere with their performance and progression in their training program. To help these dogs succeed, the Day School Program was created!

In the Day School program, volunteers bring the dog back and forth to our training facility in Oakville Monday-Friday, and provide housing for the dog each weekend, including statutory holidays.

Day School volunteers make a big difference in helping us graduate Dog Guides. Gina Lijoi, Director of Programs and Client Services explains why:

"Kennel stress is a real issue for some dogs - our Day School program has been the answer for us. Dogs that may have been unsuccessful are being matched with clients and changing lives due to Day School. That is why we are all here, and giving a dog a temporary home is a simple and wonderful way to ensure that happens. Day school provides a wonderful way volunteers can contribute to our mission."

If you would like to open your home to a Dog Guide in training and help prepare them for their future, please visit [Day School Program](#).

Preparing Foster Puppy Barney for his Future

Foster Miriam Giron is currently looking after Future Dog Guide Barney and preparing him for his training at Dog Guides University. Miriam is doing such a great job turning Barney into a confident, secure dog. She often brings Barney to her work at the Canadian Health Care Agency. Take a look at this informative [video](#) they posted.

We are currently looking for fosters to help us raise and train future Dog Guides like Barney. Currently we have two litters looking for foster families.

Visit [Foster Puppy Program](#) to learn more.

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 21 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

- A Litter: Amber and Taco – 6 puppies born on January 23, 2024
- B Litter: Foxy and Ollie – 3 puppies born on January 29, 2024
- C Litter: Ebony and Ozzy – 9 puppies – born on January 29, 2024
- D Litter: Padme and Freddy – 3 puppies born on February 2, 2024

