

May 2025



A Message from Bev Crandell, CEO of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

As we approach our annual Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Every bit of support makes a meaningful impact in our mission to provide life-changing Dog Guides to Canadians living with disabilities.

Each Dog Guide costs \$35,000 to breed, train, and place, and thanks to your generosity, we're able to offer them at no cost to those who need them most. This year's Walk theme is all about creating brighter futures and unlocking countless possibilities. With your continued support, we can make that vision a reality.

But we're not done yet. Our goal is to raise \$1.6 million at this year's Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. If you haven't already, please register and join us in supporting Canadians in need.



Events



The Countdown Is Officially On!

Want to connect with our staff and meet some of our amazing Dog Guides in person? Come out to our featured Walks:

[Toronto Walk](#) – Friday, May 23 @5pm

[Oakville Walk](#) – Sunday, May 25 @10am

Join us for Yappy Hour at both locations and enjoy refreshing drinks, tasty bites, and great company!

Your participation helps provide Dog Guides, free of charge, to Canadians in need — and as we celebrate 40 years, we're working toward a \$1.6 million national goal to change even more lives.

See you at the walk!

[Register Now](#)

Thank You to Our Signature Walk Sponsors

Oakville Walk

- **Scotiabank** – \$2,000 Refreshment Sponsor
- **Turner Construction** – \$5,000 Community Partner
- **The Works Oakville** – Food Sponsor
- **McDonald's – Piper Foods** – Coffee Sponsor
- **Jacqueline Watty Consulting** – Wilson Street Sponsor

Toronto Walk

- **When Hounds Fly** – \$1,000 Supporter
- **University Pension Plan (UPP)** – \$2,000 Refreshment Sponsor
- **Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)** – \$5,000 Community Sponsor

We're grateful to our sponsors for their unwavering support—and to every volunteer helping make these events unforgettable.

Join Our Special 40th Anniversary Celebrations!

Landmark Light-Ups Across Canada

Our message is lighting up the nation! Don't miss these special light displays:

- **Calgary Tower** – May 23
- **3D Toronto Sign** – May 23
- **Toronto CN Tower** – May 24 (**live cam**)
- **Mississauga Clock Tower** – May 24
- **Niagara Falls** – May 24 (**live cam**)
- **City of Vancouver** – May 25

Let's raise the flag—and the roof—in support of greater independence for Canadians living with disabilities.

In the News

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteer Walk Organizers, local media are taking notice and sharing the love:

[Clark's Crossing Gazette \(Martensville, SK\)](#)

[Lake Cowichan Gazette \(Victoria, BC\)](#)

[Guelph, ON](#)

[Vancouver Island, BC](#)

It's That Time Again – Ride for Dog Guides Returns!

On June 21, we're hitting the road for a cause that changes lives. Join us for the Motorcycle Ride for Dog Guides, a scenic 3-hour ride from our Oakville Training School to our Breslau facility (near Guelph), supporting Canadians living with disabilities.



Our Goal: \$40,000

The funds raised will help match more life-changing Dog Guides with those who need them most, empowering freedom, confidence, and independence for individuals across the country.

Why Ride with Us?

- **Cruise through the stunning Southern Ontario landscapes**
- **Enjoy a BBQ lunch, live music, and great company**
- **Make a meaningful impact**

Registration is now open!

[Sign up](#), start fundraising, or learn more

Have questions? Reach out to us at events@dogguides.com.

Let's rev up and ride for a powerful purpose!

LFCDG Happenings

Dog Guide Program Update

Hearing Dog Guide Expression of Interest Opening June 16

We're excited to announce that our [Hearing Dog Guide Program](#) Expression of Interest will open on June 16, with only 15 spots available. The Expression of Interest will close on June 30 or as soon as all spots are filled.

Hearing Dog Guides are specially trained to assist Canadians aged 16 and older who are deaf or hard of hearing. These dogs alert their handlers to important sounds like doorbells, alarms, ringing phones, and even fire alarms—enhancing safety, awareness, and independence at home.

If you or someone you know is considering applying, be sure to read our [Discovery Package](#) beforehand. It outlines the qualifications and key information to help you decide if this journey is right for you. Applicants must be prepared to care for and handle a Dog Guide independently and commit fully to the application process.

A Dog Guide isn't just a helper—it's a partner in everyday life.

Learn more and prepare to apply starting June 16.



The Difference



A Paw-sitive Milestone: Turner and Our Staff Leave Their Mark on Our Future Home

We recently celebrated a meaningful step toward building Canada's first national, state-of-the-art Dog Guide training school — and one special future Dog Guide helped mark the moment.

Turner, a Dog Guide in training, quite literally left her paw print on our progress. Alongside the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides team and our partners at [Turner Construction Company](#), she took part in signing a structural beam that's now a permanent part of the new facility.

This milestone represents more than just construction — it's a symbol of our shared commitment to changing lives through Dog Guides.

It's all part of The Difference campaign: our bold effort to raise the funds needed to bring this transformative facility to life. Once completed, the school will help us train and match even more life-changing Dog Guides with Canadians who need them, expanding both our capacity and our impact.

Turner's paw print — and the names of our dedicated staff — are now part of the building's foundation, a lasting tribute to the people and purpose behind the work that happens here.

[Learn more](#) about the progress of the campaign and state-of-the-art facility

Thank you for Supporting our Mission

Our work is made possible by the generous support of our donors. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides extends our heartfelt thanks to the following grantors for their invaluable contributions:

- **Kazman Foundation**
- **J.P. Bickell Foundation**
- **Merck Animal Health**
- **Parker Hannifin**

Volunteer Corner

Celebrating National Volunteer Week

From April 27 to May 3, we celebrated National Volunteer Week with this year's theme: Volunteers Make Waves. It's a reminder of how powerful volunteer efforts are, creating ripples of positive change across communities and lives.

To show our appreciation, we hosted coffee nooks at both our Breslau and Oakville locations. These cozy gatherings gave us a chance to thank and connect with the amazing volunteers who support us in so many ways—fostering, dog sitting, helping with day school and events, and working behind the scenes.

Your time, energy, and dedication are at the heart of what we do. You help make it possible for Canadians living with disabilities to receive life-changing Dog Guides and gain greater independence.

Thank you for everything you do and for being such an essential part of the Dog Guides family.



Volunteer Opportunity: Breeding Dog Foster Family

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is currently seeking long-term foster homes for a few of our breeding dogs. These adult dogs (around 1-2 years old) have been raised in our foster puppy program and selected for their excellent health and temperament. While we work with Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Standard Poodles, we are specifically looking for families interested in fostering female Standard Poodles at this time.



What fostering a breeding dog involves:

- Providing day-to-day care, ensuring the dog stays healthy and at an ideal weight
- Notifying breeding staff when the dog comes into heat or if any concerns arise
- Traveling as needed to our facilities (mainly in Breslau, just outside of Guelph) for food pickup, vet visits, and breeding
- Delivering the dog to our puppy nursery approximately one week before her due date to deliver and raise her puppies

Benefits of fostering a breeding dog:

- Welcoming a healthy, well-tempered dog into your home
- Contributing directly to the training of Dog Guides for Canadians with disabilities
- Food, vet care, and dog sitting are all provided free of charge during the dog's time in the breeding program
- Ongoing support from our breeding program staff
- Upon retirement (after a maximum of 4-5 litters), you will have the option to adopt the dog at a reduced adoption fee

If you're interested in fostering a breeding dog, please reach out to Sam at shobbes@dogguides.com or 904-842-2891 x 330 for more information.

Litter Update

We're excited to share the arrival of several new puppies who have joined the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides family. Welcome to the world, little ones!

H Litter: Dahlia (black lab) and Danny (golden retriever) – 7 puppies born March 9th, 2025 – 2 yellow females, 4 black females, and 1 black male

I Litter: Opal (yellow lab/golden X) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 8 puppies born March 11th, 2025 – 1 yellow female, 4 yellow males, 1 black female, and 2 black males.

L Litter: Briar (black lab/golden X) and Danny (golden retriever) – 3 puppies born April 2nd, 2025 – 1 black male and 2 yellow males.

M Litter: Pinto (yellow lab) and Alix (yellow lab/golden X) – 4 puppies born April 16th – 2 yellow females and 2 yellow males.

These little puppies will soon be looking for foster homes, would you be interested in helping us raise them? For the first year of their lives, you can take them into your home, care for them, socialize them, and teach them good manners. You will be preparing them for their careers as Dog Guides.

If you are interested, and live no more than 45 minutes away from our Oakville or Guelph facilities, please apply online at www.dogguides.com

