



The Brigadoon Barker

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Denise, our founder with
Int'l Am/Can Champion
Cassidae's Brigadoon

Interview with Brigadoon's founder, Denise Costanten

(Part 1)

Q: Why did you form the non-profit organization called "Brigadoon"?

A: I wanted you use my talents in dog training, breeding, and behavior issues to help people with disabilities.

Q: You say you target children with disabilities, why?

A: Because most agencies will not work with children and I believe a service dog can help a child gain confidence, feel accepted by breaking down social barriers, offer the child a sense of independence and in some circumstances, give the parents a relief knowing there is another set of eyes to watch over their child.

Q: How long does it take to prepare a dog to put in a full day's work for a person with a disability?

A: Generally two years. We raise most of our dogs from puppies. The majority of dogs are not mature enough to handle the responsibility of ignoring the environment and attending to their handler until they are two years of age.

Q: Please explain the process to get a service dog from Brigadoon.

A: The first thing is to complete an application. There are doctor requirements, references and biographies required. Then the application is reviewed to warrant a real need for a service dog. After we decide the applicant can benefit from a service dog, we schedule an appointment for a personal interview. This is very important, as it gives me a face-to-face meeting and conversation with the person and/or family. I can tell a lot from talking with someone after such a meeting. We generally get to know one another. I tell them about Brigadoon, what we can provide, what we expect from the client, the training process, etc. This is to make sure we both understand each other's needs and all the cards are on the table, so to speak. Once it is decided both of us can work with one another, I begin thinking of not only a dog to fit that person's needs, but also their personality and lifestyle. Sometimes that "match" is made within a few months and other times it may take two years or more.

Q: Does the recipient have to pay for the dog they receive?

A: We estimate the cost to Brigadoon to be over \$30,000 to house, train, feed, and pay medical bills over two years. In the past we have asked the recipient to raise at least \$5,000 toward that expense. However, having said that, we would not turn anyone down if they did not reach this fundraising goal. We are going to raise the current fundraising amount to \$7,500.


Q: If Brigadoon absorbs the majority of the cost to train a dog, where does this money come from?

A: We depend entirely on the generosity of individuals and businesses in our community. We receive no Federal or State funding. (to be continued...)

Mission Statement

We provide highly trained dogs to perform tasks and support that would otherwise require human assistance for children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. We engage the youth of the community in this process. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.

New Arrivals:

Candi, a Golden Retriever whelped a litter of 6 beautiful babies Dec. 1, 2008. We kept two pups, Sunni and Spinner. Sunni is being fostered by Kendra Rushing, thank you Kendra! See puppies 

Rain, Denise's Blue Merle Collie gave birth on Feb 8th to a single puppy named "Solo". She is a tri, smooth coat collie.



Updates On Training Kathleen Ball

These brags are based on things the dogs have been having a difficult time with.

Mindy has learned to turn on the lights.

Conner has gotten over his fear of getting in the car. He also is retrieving different items.

Irish retrieves the phone from where it has been placed with about six different items, including a place of salmon treats!

Little Winston, now big Winston, can jump into the car and van.

Brigadoon Tour

Mark your calendars for the next tours ... March 7, and April 4th from 10 to 11 am. Presentation begins at 10 am. Bring a friend! Come visit our facility, meet the dogs, and learn more about what we do. You will not be asked for a donation. Call us and let us know you're coming.

Microwave Dog Biscuit Treats

1 cup whole wheat flour

3/4 cup dry milk

1/4 cup cornmeal

1/3 cup shortening

1 tablespoon bouillon granules

1/2 cup plain flour

1/2 cup quick-cooking oats

1 teaspoon sugar

1 egg slightly beaten

1/2 cup hot water

Combine flour, cornmeal, milk, oats and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add egg, bouillon and hot water. Knead 5 minutes. Roll 1/2 inch thick and cut out into favorite shapes. Microwave at 50% power for 5 to 10 minutes, rotating plate.

Our Wish List

People with an interest in being on our board of directors.

Gift Cards are a great way to help, i.e. Whatcom Farmers Co-op, Walkers Healthy Pet, Pet Stop, Cost Cutter Foods, Petco, Petsmart, or Costco. Other stuff needed...

First class Postage Stamps

Blankets and towels

Copy paper for our printers

Jennie O Jumbo Turkey Franks

HP Inkjet Print Cartridges (#s 95 and 92)

\$\$\$\$\$\$ toward a new Kennel Building

Contributors to Brigadoon-December 2008 to January 2009

There are no words to express our gratitude for your support of our program. Thank you!

First Choice Building Inspection Services

David and Elaine Yancey

Georjan Bridger

Network for Good

Keizer Elks Lodge

Joan and Herman Wolz

Order of Eastern Star-Barzillai Chapter

Vikki Lynn Consentino

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Fun Fact

The oldest dog on record is 29 years old. He was an Australian Cattle-Dog.