



The Brigadoon Barker

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What Is It Like Being a Brigadoon Volunteer?

By Edwina Kleeman

Well, first you have to find one step forward and two Brigadoon. There are back and sometimes it is many ways—word of three leaps forward. I mouth, going to the dentist, have not been to a finding us on our or some- graduation where dogs one else’s website. I found are graduated with their out about Brigadoon by new owners. But I have going to the dentist and seen dogs come back to having my teeth cleaned— visit and I have been but that is a whole other amazed. When I left for story!

I was unsure about volun- were still in training, still teering and having them not quite there. Then all dependent on me since I of a sudden, the puppies am retired and travel quite realized they have a job a bit in the spring and fall. and the change is amaz- But it has not been a prob- ing. The dogs have now lem. I have been volun- settled and become fo- teering for about a year. cused and very attached

I help to train the dogs. Their hu- My only prior dog experi- man partner is so happy ence was MANY years and pleased. It really does ago—we had two labs. bring tears to your eyes. Boy, things have changed Lest you think that only since then! Denise has trainers work with the been a wonderful teacher dogs—be assured that is and now we also have Kathleen who is our full- not the case. We have dog time trainer. walkers, dog groomers and volunteers who can help do miscellaneous chores.

I volunteer 3-4 hours a week. It is always a fun, challenging, frustrating and rewarding job. There are days I think I am finally “getting it”. It has been amazing to follow the dogs from puppy to adolescent to adult. Sometimes it is

one step forward and two back and sometimes it is three leaps forward. I have not been to a graduation where dogs are graduated with their new owners. But I have seen dogs come back to visit and I have been amazed. When I left for vacation, the puppies were still in training, still not quite there. Then all of a sudden, the puppies realized they have a job and the change is amazing. The dogs have now settled and become focused and very attached to their person. Their human partner is so happy and pleased. It really does bring tears to your eyes.

Lest you think that only trainers work with the dogs—be assured that is not the case. We have dog walkers, dog groomers and volunteers who can help do miscellaneous chores.

So, come and volunteer at Brigadoon. We could use your help, and maybe you need us!

The Most Powerful Exercise for Your Dog!

The single most im- portant exercise for your dog is walking. It can help connect with all aspects of your dog’s mind. To have the ability to truly bond with your dog as a pack leader you must master the walk. It is the foundation of your relationship. It is also where a dog learns to be a dog. There are many things a dog can learn on a walk. It can learn about things to be avoided such as bikes and skateboards, about dangers such as cars, and about animals and humans in the environ- ment. It gets to really know its territory and pee on trees .

A regular, structured walking schedule is vital, especially for dogs with behavior problems and issues. Allowing your dog to simply roam around all day by itself isn’t providing it with the struc- ture it gets when it mi- grates with its pack leader. Substituting a big backyard for a primal walk with your dog does not give it structure.

Largest Dog

The worlds largest dog—heaviest as well as longest dog—ever recorded was an Old English Mastiff named Zorba. In 1989, Zorba weighed 343 lbs. and was 8 feet 3 inches long from nose to tail!

“Offering a Helping Paw to Make Miracles Happen”



Brigadoon Birthdays

Six smooth collies celebrated their **1st birthday** on March 21st. The girls are: *Lily* and *Gypsy* and boys are *Bond*, *Irish*, *Tate* and *Tommy*.

Beau also celebrated his **1st birthday** on April 24.

Nugget one of our golden retrievers celebrated her **second** birthday on March 14th.

History of Guide Dogs

Dogs were first used to guide people who were blind in 1819 when Herr Johann Wilhelm Klein founded an institute for the blind in Vienna. His ideas were later put into practice in 1916, when Dr. Gerhard Stall- ing established a school to train dogs to assist German soldiers who had been blinded in WWI. By the late 1920’s a school had been established in the USA and by 1931, in Italy and England.

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.

Thoughts from Denise

“What makes a good service dog?” The first thing that comes to mind is the dog must love people and have a willingness to please. There are many things that will cause a dog to fail the program, such as fearfulness, or perhaps it growled at a child, or chases squirrels.

All dogs do doggy things, we expect it. However, dogs in a service dog uniform are expected to behave un-dog-like. Such as, not to react to moving objects or animals, not to bark at intruders, to lay quietly for long periods of time under a table or next to its human partner and to ignore other dogs. They may have to retrieve items other than their toys, open doors or turn on a light switch. These are things we expect from a trained service dog that we do not expect from our household pets. They are not permitted to pull on the leash, get up from a down without permission, be calm—yet friendly. Service dogs are to be unobtrusive help-mates in public.

Does this mean they cannot be a dog? Of course not. While at home they are allowed to lounge around, play ball in the backyard, sleep in bed with their partner and greet guests when they arrive. Does this mean they do not still help their human partner even though they are not wearing their uniform? Interestingly enough, the dog knows when they are needed, with or without the uniform. In order to be easily identified in public we dress them in their uniform (vest, cape, or whatever you prefer to call it) and they are transformed into a working animal and proud of it too!

When your pup craves a treat make him a snack!

Strawberry Frost

- 2 3/4 cups frozen strawberries
- 1 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Place all the ingredients in a blender or food processor, cover and blend until smooth. If you are not going to serve the strawberry frost immediately, pour the mixture into a freezer-safe container. Freeze until firm. Remove the container from the freezer and allow the frost to soften before serving. Use a melon baller to scoop into bite-size portions.

Note: Do not serve treats directly from the freezer; this could damage to your dog’s teeth or be too cold for your dog to handle. Instead, introduce frozen items slowly, and serve them softened to a firm, cool treat with the consistency of pancake batter.

Kaleb Slaatthaug, a budding, 9 year-old, journalist recently donated \$150.25 to Brigadoon. The money came from proceeds from the sale of his publication, *The Weekly Puppy, (A Pup-lick-ation for Dog Lovers and their Dogs)*. Brigadoon was featured in his newsletter on April 18, 2008. THANK YOU, KALEB!



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- Leon Costanten, Vice President
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It takes two years to become a Brigadoon service dog!

Most of the Brigadoon Youth and Service Dogs begin their journey with us when they are only eight weeks old. They are cute bundles of joy and energy.

Just as people, dogs mature at different rates. Brigadoon dogs’ maturity means that they must learn to focus anywhere, any time and learn to ignore their environment while working with their partner. For most dogs this takes two years. At the end of two years they will have learned over 80 commands.

- The average expense to Brigadoon for training a certified service dog is \$21,500!
- Our clients are requested to raise donations of only \$5,000—the balance is absorbed by Brigadoon.
- No one is turned away for not reaching this fundraising goal.

Fun Facts!

Did you know that when Dalmatian puppies are born they are all white?

Contributors to Brigadoon—January thru April 2008

There are no words to express our gratitude for your support of our program. We know you believe in our mission and are so grateful for those who have and will continue to contribute to making miracles happen for children and adults with disabilities. Thank you!

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