

Harness & Leash

Edition 22

Message from David Locklin, Director of Programs

Soon I will be celebrating two years of living in the U.S. and working at Leader Dog, and I've truly enjoyed the experience. I was privileged and honored to represent LDB at this year's International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) conference in Croatia. I attended many great presentations and learned new techniques and ideas to bring back to LDB. A few of the presentations were on training guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI) on how to recognize the impact of a client's social, emotional and psychological issues during training; new techniques in temperament testing for future guide dogs; and technology's evolving role in assisting in diagnosis of guide dog issues.

Soon we'll be changing the overnight duty structure for our GDMIs during class. Instructors will have overnight duty for the first three nights after dog issue, then resident assistants will be handling all overnight duties for the remainder of class. We will also be increasing the support clients receive during class from our dog care team. This means that clients get the chance to meet and interact with more LDB staff during training.

We will continue to have urban travel training in Chicago twice a year and warm weather training in Florida during the winter. If you or someone you know is interested in either of these

unique training opportunities, please contact our client service department at clientservices@leaderdog.org.

Meet Field Representative John Bertram

John has been with Leader Dog since 2013 and a field representative since 2014. He has been a guide dog mobility instructor (GDMI) since 1984 working for both Pilot Dogs and Seeing Eye.

John likes field work because it allows him to work with clients in their home environment and assist them in taking on real challenges that they face in their local community.

John has led an interesting life including three years in the Peace Corps in Liberia where he worked in the Ministry of Agriculture education program. Today when he is not on the road assisting clients, John operates a small fruit and vegetable farm with his brother.

Meet Jim Dugan, Manager of Client Services

We are excited to have Jim Dugan on board as our new manager of client services. Jim began his career working as a K9 handler for the U.S. Army Patrol and Narcotic Detection. After achieving the rank of staff sergeant and a degree in criminal justice, he worked with the U.S Customs Narcotics Division in Europe. He has been a guide dog mobility instructor since 1992.

Most recently Jim was the operations manager at Guide Dogs, South Australia/Northern Territories where he oversaw puppy raising, training and client services. Recognizing personal challenges of being away from his family, he decided to seek employment a bit closer to home. We are excited to have Jim and his 24 years of experience in the guide dog industry on our team!

Client Services Coordinator Update

We recently said goodbye to Client Services Coordinator Barb Upmeyer as she decided it was time to indulge her love of travel and become a flight attendant. Barb truly enjoyed working with all LDB clients and we wish her well in her new endeavor.

At the end of June, Client Services Supervisor Stephanie Steele will be moving into her new position at LDB as the manager of volunteer engagement. In this position she will work with the 500+ people who volunteer on LDB's campus each year.

So we get to welcome two new client services coordinators. The first is Ana Donato who many clients may know from the years she spent as a resident assistant. Ana is fluent in Spanish and will be working largely with our Spanish-speaking clients.

Our second new coordinator is Juliana Whitted who has been with LDB since 2014 as a resident assistant and food service aide. Besides enjoying working with our clients, Juliana loves dogs and has a Labrador retriever named Hank.

Please remember that the fastest way to receive a response to a question or concern is to email clientservices@leaderdog.org. One of our coordinators (Ana Donato, Juliana Whitted or Allison Jones), will respond to your request for assistance.

Veterans Assistance

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers many services for honorably discharged veterans who are legally blind. The free services they offer include medical care, medications, low vision aids and adaptive devices, and an annual Visual Impairment Services Team review.

To learn more, go to www.rehab.va.gov/blindrehab.

Social Security Administration Alert

The following is from the Division of Consumer and Business Education.

Scammers are trying to get personal information from people by pretending to help with applications for disability benefits and claims. Scammers contact people by phone and offer to help you to “complete the process” by providing Social Security and bank account numbers.

To protect yourself, remember to never give your Social Security or account numbers to someone who calls you and don’t wire or send money using a prepaid debit card. If you have

disability benefits, regularly check their status and your statements to make sure they are correct.

If you have questions about disability benefits, or feel you were contacted by a scammer, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

Canine Development Center Update

In case you haven't already heard, we have met the \$14.5 million goal for our Canine Development Center campaign! Though work on fundraising has come to an end, we are still working on the renovation of the kennel.

We are happy to report that team members and dogs are really enjoying phase two of the Canine Center. The south wing includes villages 1–5, a tack shop where leashes and harnesses are assembled, and a bathing room. Because the new housing suites are so large, we have been able to start cohabitating dogs, which many of them prefer rather than being housed alone.

Demolition on phase three, the final phase, of the Canine Center has begun. The interior of the east wing is a mess, which is good because that means old floors, walls and ceilings are being removed and construction will begin soon. We anticipate the final phase will be done some time during October, 2016.

Leader Dog Thaddeus Receives Posthumous Award

When Leader Dog Thaddeus passed away just short of his 9th birthday, Leader Dog Client Ken Baker posted information about him on the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation's memorial website. Each year the Foundation sponsors a Pet of the Year competition where website viewers vote for their favorite departed pet based on the pet's history and owner's comments. This year LD Thaddeus received over half of the votes placed for the six contestants!

Though we all know our Leader Dogs are amazing, it is nice when others acknowledge their dedication and importance.

Nylabones

We've had some questions from clients regarding the use of Nylabones with their dogs. So we asked Dr. Smith for his input on the benefits or drawbacks of using Nylabones.

He feels that though we have seen some dental damage to the teeth of dogs chewing on standard Nylabones, the percentage is low and the rewards outweigh the risk. The benefits of chewing include calming the dog, providing a positive outlet for excess energy and less self-mutilation (such as excessive licking of paws). Also, there is a much lower incidence of damage in dogs chewing on Nylabones than those chewing on antlers. He suggests making sure a dental exam is done during your dogs' annual veterinary exam.

Blind New World

Perkins School is sponsoring a public awareness campaign called Blind New World. The goal of the campaign is to demystify blindness and advocate greater inclusion of people who are blind or visually impaired in society.

You can learn more at blindnewworld.org or follow the campaign on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Two New Ways to Support Leader Dog

We are often asked by clients how they can help raise funds to support Leader Dog. We really appreciate everyone's desire to help us continue to be able to provide our services free of charge.

Recently, our philanthropy department launched two new programs to support us which were grouped together under one campaign "New Ways to Give."

The first is called myLeaderDog. This is a fundraising platform that allows someone to create their own fundraising page to support Leader Dog. Pages can be created to raise money around an event such as a race or walk, in honor of a person or pet, or for donations to go to LDB in lieu of birthday gifts. If you are interested in creating your own myLeaderDog page and would like some assistance with setting it up, send an email to myLeaderDog@leaderdog.org and a member of our philanthropy team will get back with you.

The second way to support us is a monthly giving program called LDBLeader. This allows you to make a small gift every month instead of one larger annual gift. If you would like more information about LDBLeader, email us at leaderdog@leaderdog.org.

Please remember that donating to or raising funds for Leader Dog is never a requirement to become or remain a client of Leader Dogs for the Blind. You are being offered this opportunity as a member of the Leader Dog community.

Chicago O'Hare Airport

Good news for anyone traveling to Chicago or connecting through O'Hare Airport, they now have a dog relief area in Terminal 3.

Circle of Life

Births

Piper (hosted by Laura Bandy) x Gunner (hosted by Elizabeth Mattei) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Calypso (hosted by Rhonda Morris) x Wally (hosted by Tammy Bartz) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Pandora (hosted by Candace Goemmel) x Heath (donated) - 4 Labrador retrievers

Lucille (hosted by Ellen Waller) x Ryder (hosted by Robin Biebuyck) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Kori (hosted by Fay Grubish) x Heath (donated) – 3 Labrador retrievers

Luna (hosted by William and Cheryl Kaechle) x Gundy (hosted by Marianne Fish) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Luna (hosted by Jennifer Hynes) x Kasey (hosted by Paul Colombo) – 10 golden retrievers

Kadie Jo (hosted by Patrick Dimmer) x Walker (hosted by Jerry and Cathy Sikorski) – 5 Labrador retrievers

Alayna (hosted by Carol Thompson) x Emmett (hosted by Jennifer Ladd) – 1 German shepherd

Bella (hosted by Bob & Judy Kjellander) x Shaq (hosted by Anne Mitchell) – 5 Labrador retrievers

Nelcie (hosted by Kristin Shively) x Tom (hosted by Wendy Miechiels) – 8 Labrador retrievers

Cici (hosted by Vickie Smith) x Miguel (donated) – 2 Labrador retrievers

Beryl (hosted by Barbara Lipinski) x Kapten (hosted by Sherrill Platt) – 6 Labrador retrievers

Peace (hosted by John Maher) x Donny (donated) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Lily (hosted by Dan Vandercar) x Gatsby (hosted by Michael Bond) – 6 Labrador retrievers

Jasmine (hosted by Kathryn Marl) x Bravo (hosted by Delmarie Ehresman) – 8 Labrador/golden

Zoey (hosted by Chris Stauffer) x Ollie (hosted by Jackie Raffler) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Brook (hosted by Gail Haba) x Miguel (donated) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Shimmer (hosted by Susan Nagy) x Decker (donated) – 2 Labrador retrievers

Lucy (hosted by Anne Ritchie) x Buddy (hosted by Brad Mackler) – 4 Labrador/golden

Breeding Stock Retired

Jubilee - Lynne Davis

Duchess - Kimberly Heighway

Ivy - Donna Meyer

Bravo - Delmarie Ehresman

Spinner - Gary King

Bailey - Cheryl Caldwell

Huron - Robert Young

Emma - Kathey Whitaker

Tag - Amy Zauel

Murray - Pat Boyd

Breeding Stock Deceased

None

Leader Dogs Retired

Abby - Donna Elliott

Beauregard - Donald Meacham

Billy - Megan McHugh
Daisy - Deborah Marinos
Dodger - Robert Rehahn
Dooley - Pablo Javier Vello
Ella - Hendrik Stins Beckles
Faith - Dana Cretsinger
Fred - Marvin Bottomley
Ginger - Peggy Yats
Jake - Richard Emanuelson
Jonesy - Rebecca Lewis
Lola - Ruth Smith
Maddox - Deborah Hietala
Max - Salim Abdul Massih Karam
Naitra - Paula Williams
Nala - Dennis Lupton
Rupert - Patrick Engasser
Sammy - Bradley Strause
Trace - Mary Dignan-Rosten
Ty - Gladys Correa
Uri - Alan Escola Font
Willow - Stanford Larkin
Murrey - Brenda Caraway

Leader Dogs Deceased

Athena - Joseph Davis

Bronson - Jose Roque
Cadence - Nikita Wright
Chester - Jill Sprinkle
Clover - William Herzler
Cody - Gary Jones
Dazzle - June Barrett
Donnie - Libertie Perez
Emerson - Mauverneen (Mickey) Puddicomb
Ezra - Patricio Acuna Barraza
Flynn - Kevin O'Callaghan
Grant - Jenny Andrews
Holly - Richard Misner
Kizzie - Marianne Blanchong
Kyla - Wendy Kelley
Leven - James Stewart
Minor - Marsha Katona
Polly - Earl Foster
Riker - John Coxe
Romeo - Chad Foster
Suzy - Laurie Brake
Vonnie - Carmen Herrero Herrero
Wilson - Lilian Hosmer
Zoe - Alice Massa
Zoe - Sara Alfie Turquie

Classes (note: GDMI is Guide Dog Mobility Instructor)

Class 16-06

GDMI Linda Fisher; Apprentice GDMI Sarah Duyck; Craig Rosium and Bear, black lab (puppy raisers: Dave and Lori Johnson); Paul Simonson and Levi, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Sherrill Platt); Nancy Lepkowski and Cleo, black lab (puppy raiser: Philip Statham); Gordan Besaw and Eli, black lab (puppy raisers: Merlin and Mary Wright)

GDMI Christie Bane; GDMI Alyssa Ozrovitz; Ana Sanz Barranco and Faith, black lab (puppy raiser: Gary Kirchner); Zoe Laso Castro and Gabby, yellow lab (puppy raiser: John Cowles); Francisco Valero Agullo and Rex, black lab (puppy raiser: Brian Hyde); Jose Martinez Sanchez and Rocket, yellow lab (puppy raisers: Thomas and Margo Snively); Placido Tova Campos and Walter, black lab (puppy raiser: Dennis Butrick)

Class 16-07

GDMI Denise Adler; Anthony Ray and Hershey, black lab (puppy raiser: Debra Delie); Josephine Grove and Lacy, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Janice Van Wulfen)

GDMI Randy Horn; Sandra Penn and Cami, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Samantha Engelhardt); Garrahd Paschall and Diesel,

lab/golden (puppy raiser: Chippewa Correctional Facility); Catherine McMahon and Ashley, black lab (puppy raisers: Danna and Denise Dykema)

GDMI Carrie Pryce; Shirley Angulo Esquivel and Eclipse, black lab (puppy raisers: William and Carol McDonald); Bernal Gamboa Mora and Baker, lab/golden (puppy raisers: Linda and Charlie Britton); Fiorella Cespedes Marchena and Echo, black lab (puppy raiser: Candice Harkrader)

Home delivery

Gary Schriver and Honor, yellow lab, (puppy raiser: Mathew Gibson)

Class 16-08

GDMI Debbie Komondy; Randy Zaraz and Ivan, German shepherd (puppy raiser: Baraga Correctional Facility); Bethany Bidwell and Teddie (Lettie) yellow lab, (puppy raiser: Valerie Benson); Dana Cretsinger and Sandy, yellow lab (puppy raisers: Marcia & Craig Bedard); Megan McHugh and Kajun, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Sanger B. Bower Correctional Center)

GDMI Paul Meister; Jordi Fabregat Tena and Toma, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Darwin Cobeena); Olga Martinz Prats and Atlas, yellow lab (puppy raisers: Amy & Andy Schupska); Maria Garcia

Sanchez and Charley, black lab (puppy raiser: Penny Joyner); Maria Suarez Trujillo and Shadow, black lab (puppy raiser: Jeanne Holmes); Marta Ramila Herrero and Harbor, lab/golden (puppy raisers: Steve & Mary Landry); Beatriz Ortega Rosales and Salute, black lab (puppy raiser: Kimberly Prudhomme)

GDMI Sue Hackman; Joseph Michell and Ranjer, black lab (puppy raiser: Dustin McCully); George Penrod and Sadie, golden (puppy raiser: Kim Franklin); Kevin Perrine and Jerri, black lab (puppy raiser: Nicolas Pierce)

Home delivery

Peter Crumley and Zeus, lab/golden (puppy raiser: Marnie Kramer)

Class 16-09

GDMI Kevin Ihrke; Irene Sampredro Cuesta and Ginger, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Jill Gehrke); Maria Paula Gallego and Cody, black lab (puppy raiser: Lino Lakes Correctional Facility); Josue Gonzalez Lopez and Mingus, golden (puppy raiser: Sarah Bixby); Pablo Company Carretero and Clancy, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Debra Kaminski)

GDMI Katie Wattles; Rebecca Hesselmeyer and Connor, golden (puppy raisers: Trudy & Joseph Nowak); Patricia Ellis and Quincy,

golden (puppy raiser: Sheryl Forbes); Dale Paul and Summit,
golden (puppy raisers: Mary & Allen Burd)

Apprentice GDMI Ashley Ayers; Donald Meyer and Oci, yellow lab
(puppy raiser: Barbara Fry); Glenn Baker and Chaos (Caleb),
golden (puppy raiser: Cynthia Beard); Wayne Helms and Patton,
black lab (puppy raiser: Michael Hart)

Home deliveries

Jacquelyn Stahlman and Lacey, black lab (puppy raiser: Carol
Smith); Danny Osborne and Harper, black lab (puppy raiser:
Ronda Stewart); Patrick Engasser and Elvis, yellow lab (puppy
raiser: Rachael Hone); Krista Brodal and Kaiser, golden (puppy
raiser: Breanne Thomas)

Class 16-10

Deaf/Blind GDMI Jennifer Sanderson; Deaf/Blind Apprentice GDMI
Sarah Duyck; Ryan Weber and Pete, yellow lab (puppy raiser:
Dale Davis); Steve Silberberg and Harley, lab/golden (puppy
raiser: Chippewa Correction Facility); Claude Salinas and Torii,
black lab, (puppy raiser: Kali Wissner); Jackie Hollenbeck and
Willow, golden/lab (puppy raiser: Sherry Perkowitz)

Contact Us by Phone, Email or Text

Your first point of contact for assistance is always the client services department. You can reach them by calling 888-777-5332, or email or text us at clientservices@leaderdog.org.

Questions, Comments or Suggestions

Please send them to UpdateEditor@leaderdog.org or call 888-777-5332 ext. 1158.