

## **Harness & Leash**

### **Edition 23**

#### **Message from David Locklin, Director of Programs**

The leaves on the trees are turning color and falling so, of course, my mind turns to warm weather training in Florida! The class date for this year is February 18–March 1 for 10 solid days of instruction. Since we love trying new things at Leader Dog, this year we are expanding the class to include blind clients, Deaf-Blind clients and O&M clients all at the same time. Though open to everyone, we prefer warm weather training clients be people who never need to work in snow and cold weather, so generally people who live in warm climates. Also, anyone with a health condition that is negatively impacted by cold weather.

We have scheduled the dates for urban training in Chicago for April/May 2017. Training starts on April 23 in Rochester Hills and moves to Chicago for May 7–12. 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](mailto:clientservices@leaderdog.org).

Another great change at LDB is that the client services department phones are now being answered by a live person Monday–Friday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. EST. Of course, if all client service representatives are on the phone with other clients, you may periodically get voicemail.

As always, please contact the client services department if you have questions or concerns regarding your dog or training. Reach us at [clientservices@leaderdog.org](mailto:clientservices@leaderdog.org) or 888-777-5332.

## **Regionalizing our Field Representatives**

One more way we're trying to serve you better is by assigning our field representatives to specific regions of the U.S./Canada. The new structure allows the field representatives to be in charge of their own workload and should improve efficiency. This means that response times will be shorter when clients have an issue that needs hands-on attention.

## **IRIS Guide Dogs**

As part of Leader Dog's envisioned future to serve Central and South America through partnerships with local providers, in October we hosted four clients from IRIS, the Brazilian guide dog organization, for training. We provided the dogs and facility, and IRIS provided their own guide dog mobility instructor. Several administrators from IRIS also came to Leader Dog to learn more about us including how we train dogs, run our facility, raise funds and market our services.

## **Client Services Department Update**

In August, we were happy to welcome Melissa Priester as our new client services supervisor. Her background includes human

resource management, marketing, finance and corporate consulting. Melissa lives locally with her family, which includes a yellow Labrador named Rocky.

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

## **Retirement Toolbox Online**

We have recently added information on our website to assist clients in determining if it is time for their Leader Dog to retire. We understand that this is a hard, but necessary, decision that all guide dog clients will need to face. With the assistance of the Voice of the Client Advisory Team (VOCAT) we put together information on canine aging, retirement, terminal illness and euthanasia. The toolbox is located on the Current Clients page of our website. Find it fast by typing "retirement toolbox" in the "search" box located near the top-right corner of the website.

Remember, we are here to help when you're recognizing signs of aging in your dog and thinking about retirement and applying for another dog. Feel free to contact us at 888-777-5332 or [clientservices@leaderdog.org](mailto:clientservices@leaderdog.org).

## **Ranking of Best Colleges for Disabilities**

Is college in your future? If so, you may want to check out the 2016 list of the best disability-friendly colleges and universities at [www.collegechoice.net/50-best-disability-friendly-colleges-and-universities](http://www.collegechoice.net/50-best-disability-friendly-colleges-and-universities).

## **Gift Shop Online**

The Leader Dog Gift Shop is now online! You can access it by typing "gift shop" in the "search" box located near the top-right corner of the website.

Not all items available in our on-campus store are available online, but new selections will be added on a regular basis.

If you need more information about a product or to place an order over the phone, please call 248-218-6347.

## **Chief Financial Credit Card**

Show the world your support with the Leader Dogs for the Blind credit card from Chief Financial Credit Union! Earn rewards for yourself and increase the Share the Rewards monthly donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind with every purchase. Learn more at [www.leaderdog.org/chief](http://www.leaderdog.org/chief).

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.

## **Circle of Life**

### **Births**

Millie (hosted by Eileen Delaney) x Walker (hosted by Jerry and Cathy Sikorski) – 8 Labrador retrievers

Raini (hosted by Penny Bateman) x Kapten (hosted by Sherrill Platt) – 8 Labrador/goldens

Lucy (hosted by Anne Ritchie) x Briggs (hosted by Mike Malloy) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Josie (hosted by Bethany Spencer) x Buddy (hosted by Brad Mackler) – 6 Labrador/goldens

Brooklyn (hosted by Michael Rager) x Kasey (hosted by Paul Colombo) – 11 golden retrievers

Shimmer (hosted by Susan Nagy) x Wally (hosted by Tammy Bartz) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Mensa (hosted by Carol Beavnier) x Ryder (hosted by Robin Biebuyck) – 5 Labrador retrievers

Hazel (hosted by Susan Hackman) x Sawyer - 1 German shepherd

Perrie (hosted by Rebecca Cobb) x Alphie (hosted by Geri Dunn) – 8 golden retrievers

Emma (hosted by Susan Kessel) x Gatsby (hosted by Michael Bond) – 1 Labrador retriever

Kizzy (hosted by Carol Kirkbride) x Tom (hosted by Wendy Miechiels) – 9 Labrador retrievers

Scarlet (hosted by Cathy Topping) x Joey – 5 Labrador retrievers

Libby (hosted by Kristina McCliment) x Kapten (hosted by Sherrill Platt) – 5 Labrador/goldens

Torii (hosted by Susan Smith) x Ryder (hosted by Robin Biebuyck) – 8 Labrador retrievers

Riley (hosted by Nancy White) x Ollie (hosted by Jackie Raffler) – 10 Labrador retrievers

Krista (hosted by Jeff DeHerder) x Buddy (hosted by Brad Mackler) – 8 golden retrievers

Faithful (hosted by Carol Bolterstein) x Ryder (hosted by Robin Biebuyck) – 5 Labrador retrievers

Serene (hosted by Elaine Berkheiser) x Sergeant (hosted by Amy Schuster) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Kona (hosted by Kimberly Knowles Mudgett) x Shadow (hosted by Faye Arndt) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Josie (hosted by Sue Novak) x Alphie (hosted by Geri Dunn) – 7 golden retrievers

Penny (hosted by Michelle Porter) x Rodeo (hosted by Mary Ann Grutza) – 2 Labrador retrievers

Frankie (hosted by Nan Nellenbach) x Cruiser (hosted by Julie Gardner) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Chanel (hosted by Ann Bonds) x Gunner (hosted by Elizabeth Mattei) – 7 Labrador retrievers

Remi (hosted by Melissa Mazat) x Wally (hosted by Tammy Bartz) – 1 Labrador retriever

Tess (hosted by Elizabeth Barr) x Tug (hosted by David Creech)  
– 1 Labrador retriever

Phoebe (hosted by Jeanne Holmes) x Tom (hosted by Wendy  
Miechiels) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Chime (hosted by Janet Miller) x Kasey (hosted by Paul Colombo)  
– 9 Labrador/goldens

Bear (hosted by Shannan McNair) x Briggs (hosted by Mike  
Malloy) – 4 Labrador retrievers

Grace (hosted by Janet Skillman) x Alphie (hosted by Geri Dunn)  
– 8 Golden retrievers

Lola (hosted by Betty Crowder) x Walker (hosted by Jerry and  
Cathy Sikorski) – 5 Labrador retrievers

Willow (hosted by Eydie Yemmans) x Rodeo (hosted by Mary Ann  
Grutza) – 6 Labrador retrievers

Gracie (hosted by Marjorie Frazier) x Gatsby (hosted by Michael  
Bond) – 4 Labrador retrievers

### **Breeding Stock Retired**

Beryl - Barbara Lipinski

Blitz - Colleen Richards

Macy - Pamela Odom

Rodeo - Mary Ann Grutza

Peace - John Maher

Xaris - Lisa Sieger

## **Breeding Stock Deceased**

Kaia - Carol Beavnier

## **Leader Dogs Retired**

Albert (Einstein) – Harold Green

Alexi – Karyn Liard

Arieh – Duane Hudspath

Ava - Evelyn Jean DeMille

Banff – Deborah Caldbeck

Baxter – Billy Specks

Brash – Joan Hodge

Chanel – Brenda Waller

Chip – William James

Cory - Scott James

Derbe – Jay Miller

Derby – Jeanne Donovan

Jazz - Lee Anne Atkinson

Joe – James Reynolds

Kacey – Theresa Lambert

Lincoln – Julian Horn

Ranger - Robert Ogden

Rylee – Jenifer Rogers

Sadie – Rondall Bever

Silk – Jerold Mueller



Sunshine - Juan Jose Medina Pleiter

Zoe - Amber Broad

### **Leader Dogs Deceased**

Abby – Diane McGeorge

Abby – Lori Spitalli

Alvin – Kevin Janecke

Boz – Ronald Kolesar

Cinder – Maria Barrientos Urra

Cooper – Vincent Llanas

Corey – Eva Gill

Dixie – Brandi Jenkins

Dolly – Victor Harris

Douglas – Sharon Gibbs-Felix

Gunner – Marco Fonseca Guzman

Ingrid – Andrew Stone

Jetta – Jessica Tuomela-Hodges

Juki – Jane Jibson

Lehla – Roger Weiss

Lyndi – Jennifer Dubbin

Maggie – Steven Alton

Micah – Marsha Lemery

Miracle – Leah Irish

Mya – Lynn Westphal

Naitra – Paula Williams

Riley – Daniel Lanier

Sammie – Elizabeth Ulrich

Sonnet – Robert Roemmich

Sparky – Sylvia Smith

Stanley – Richard Benac

Viggo – John Bruce

## **Classes (note: GDMI is Guide Dog Mobility Instructor)**

### **Class 16-11**

Senior GDMI Christie Bane; Uri Cohen and Emmett, German shepherd (puppy raiser: Jennifer Ladd); Carrie Lange and Benjamin, golden retriever (puppy raiser: James Lampman); Karen Laroche-Hughes and Sawyer, golden retriever (puppy raisers: Paul and Nancy Colombo); Alice Massa and Willow, black lab (puppy raiser: Penny Joyner)

GDMI Linda Fisher; Armando Alvarez Carrillo and Cisco, black lab (puppy raisers: Thomas and Andrea Owen); Sara Alfie Turque and Daizy, black lab (puppy raisers: Michael and Tracy Zeckmeister); Victor Cruz Angeles and Friday, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Karen Voss); Erika Bernal Gallegos and Dozer, black lab (puppy raiser: Lino Lakes Correctional Facility)

Apprentice GDMI Lauren Brady; Sean Borah and Brady, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Natalie Spahn); Alison Roets and

Piper, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Pauline Brady);  
Geoffrey Parker and Aslan, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy  
raiser: Lori Gilliana)

GDMI Denise Adler; Sarah Wilkinson and Sierra, golden retriever  
(puppy raisers: Lee and Linda Techlin); Chris LeBombard and  
Polo, golden retriever (puppy raiser: Laura Guerin); Carroll  
Jackson and Will, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser:  
Cheri Baker)

GDMI John Bertram; David Brodzinski and Flynn, black lab (puppy  
raisers: Sue and Rob Kulbeik); Jacklyn Meeks and Echo, golden  
retriever (puppy raiser: Heather McLaughlin); Ashley Robinson  
and Titus, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Finus Atwood); Nancy Ryder  
and Nissan, black lab (puppy raiser: Pamela Stamm)

Home Delivery: Mary Godwin and Lady Freedom, yellow lab  
(puppy raiser: Tyler Wirtjes)

## **Class 17-01**

GDMI Catherine Martin and Apprentice GDMI Ashley Nunnally;  
Andrea Washington and Kayla, black lab (puppy raiser: Dick  
Spence); David Reiersen and Teddy, black lab (puppy raiser: Gary  
Kirchner); Norine Labitzke and Masi, black lab (puppy raiser:

Phyllis Krebs); Madison Russell and Hayley, black lab (puppy raiser: Susan Smith)

GDMI Alyssa Ozrovitz; Kortnee Barton and Juno, black lab (puppy raiser: Kristin Zolynsky); Linda Rhoades and Rue, black lab (puppy raiser: Jessica Troester); Kevin O'Callaghan and Sailor, black lab (puppy raisers: Larry Dahlenburg and Morgan Dahlenburg); Nakita Wright and Deus Aion (was Granite Rose), (puppy raiser: Beverly Kramer)

GDMI Randy Horn; Kayla Myers and Millie, black lab (puppy raiser: Patrick McAmis); Aziz Zeidieh and Maximus (was Bauer), black lab (puppy raiser: Wendy Scully); Daniel Meek and Finley, black lab (puppy raiser: Lisa Davis); Dennie Pierce and Dexter, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raisers: Kenneth and Nora Zurek)

Apprentice GDMI Tina Goedertier; Kendall Gibbs and Maya, black lab (puppy raiser: Michael O'Neill); Justin Sutton and Gizmo, black lab (puppy raiser: G. Robert Cotton CF); Bradley Ganey and Leo, black lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Michelle Hall); Sandra Booher and Watson, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Kayla Dever)

Home Delivery: Deborah Caldbeck and Luna, black lab (puppy raiser: Colin Garland)

## **Class 17-02**

Apprentice GDMI Meredith Bryde; Mackenzie King and Presto, golden retriever (puppy raiser: Tammy Bartz); Linda Radtke and Daisy, yellow lab (puppy raisers: Barbara Krueger and Daniel Krueger)

GDMI Debbie Komondy; Anthony Coffield and Gracie, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raisers: Tom and Margaret Bradley); Meredith Bailey and Lucy, golden retriever (puppy raiser: Karen Hicks); Karyn Liard and Katie, black lab (puppy raiser: Vicky Fairchild)

GDMI Paul Meister; Victor Ortero and Keira, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Sherry Tempelman); Jennifer Richards-Isherwood and Sasha, black lab (puppy raisers: Judith and John Snyder); Richard Emanuelson and Maverick (Mr. Moses), black lab (puppy raiser: Cathy Johnson); Phyllis Magbanua and Orchid, black lab (puppy raiser: Kelsey Knutson)

GDMI Sue Hackman; Victor Armores Cano and Nilssen, yellow lab x golden retriever, (puppy raiser: Kristi Lund); Patricia Bueno Baeza-Rojano and Haydel, black lab (puppy raiser: Matthew

Giertych); Ivan Lopez Cuenca and Gabby, black lab (puppy raiser: Melissa Pipitone-Tallacksen); Juan Gascon Garcia and Gilligan, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Delores Blomberg)

GDMI Kate Roberts; Nancy Lepkowski and Gracie, black lab (puppy raiser: Michele Brown); Jerry Bellmay and Mason, black lab (puppy raiser: Janet Crawford); Rachel Pavone and Glory, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Amelia Jernigan)

Home Deliveries: Lee Anne Atkinson and Ava, golden retriever (puppy raisers: Mary and David Hattis); Richard Poncin and Ginger, golden retriever (puppy raisers: Dorothy and Ron Ochs)

### **Class 17-03**

GDMI Katie Wattles; Allen Frietag and Jack, black lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Richard Wilson); Elizabeth Fryseth and Ellie, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Chippewa Correctional); Susan Alhamadi and Pearl, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Jane Catlin); Ron Molles with Faith, black lab (puppy raiser: Michael Runyan)

GDMI Kevin Ihrke; Rondall Bever and Korbe, black lab (puppy raisers: Lisa and Rob Asbury); Lisa Hoskins and Lucian, German shepherd (puppy raiser: Cheryl Sacrates); Robert Ogden and Solo, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Cindee Shaffer)

GDMI Ashley Ayers; Gladys Correa and Septima, yellow lab (puppy raisers: Diane and Michael Waldo); Jose Zuniga Tellez and Lucy, black lab (puppy raisers: Kathryn and Tom McQuater); Barrientos Urra and Lansing, black lab (puppy raiser: Rebecca Wynn); Carmen Munoz Perez del Razo and Kolbi, black lab (puppy raisers: Arlene and Mark Vuturo)

GDMI Carrie Pryce; Duane Hudspath and Sully, black lab (puppy raiser: Julie Haase); Jerold Mueller and Nanook, yellow lab x golden retriever (puppy raisers: Katherine and Steve Holtzleiter)

Home Deliveries: William Fischer and Cleo, black lab (puppy raiser: Leah Bloomquist); Barbara Oeschger and Shelby, black lab x golden retriever (puppy raiser: Michael Pikelis); Bobbi Poling and Roxy, yellow lab (puppy raiser: Tonya Jerome); Jeannette Calvo Araya and Echo, black lab (puppy raiser: Candice Harkrader)

### **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](mailto:clientservices@leaderdog.org).

## **Questions, Comments or Suggestions**

Please send them to [UpdateEditor@leaderdog.org](mailto:UpdateEditor@leaderdog.org) or call 888-777-5332 ext. 1158.