

Leader Dog Puppy Tales November 2019



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| Bev Blanchard | Manager of Canine Development | 248-650-7113 or 888-777-5332 ext 1113 | bblanchard@leaderdog.org |
| Deb Donnelly | Puppy Development Supervisor | 248-650-7114 or 888-777-5332 ext 1114 | ddonnelly@leaderdog.org |
| Laura Fisher | Puppy Development Coordinator | 248-218-6422 or 888-777-5332 ext 2075 | lfisher@leaderdog.org |
| Melissa Spooner | Coordinator of Prison Puppies | 248-218-6686 or 888-777-5332 ext 2086 | Melissa.Spooner@leaderdog.org |
| Vijay Joshi | Coordinator of Prison Puppies | 248-218-6091 or 888-777-5332 ext 2513 | Vijay.joshi@leaderdog.org |
| Zach Jirik | Puppy Development Administrative Assistant | 248-650-7108 or 888-777-5332 ext 1154 | Zachary.Jirik@leaderdog.org |
| After hours/emergency | Please use the 888-777-5332 for any emergency calls | 248-651-9011 and listen to menu for extension if local | For true emergencies dial 888-777-5332; press 6 at the prompt; then press 0 at the prompt, if distance |
| Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee | Represents all puppy raiser concerns | | PuppyAdvisory@LeaderDog.Org |
| Leader Dog Puppy Raiser and Breeding Stock Facebook group | To ask to be invited: https://www.facebook.com/groups/145843429080738/ You must have a Facebook page to participate. To be approved the name of the FB account must match the name on Leader Dog records, or notify us if you use something other than your full name | | Closed Facebook group only for puppy raisers and breeding host families. A place for raisers to connect with host homes, siblings, and other puppy raisers, as well posts from Leader Dog puppy development and breeding. |

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| Puppy Raiser Page on Website | www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers | Puppy raiser calendar; IFT assessor list and information; puppy manual; past issues of newsletter; thank you certificate |
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Who Do I Contact?

For questions regarding puppy counselors, bi-monthly training, counselor training, puppy counselors, IFT assessments, puppy raiser newsletter, updates on dogs in training or dog training problems, contact **Deb Donnelly**.

For questions about dog returns, puppy questionnaires, grad photos, updates on dogs in training, RSVP for bi-monthly training, contact **Zachary Jirik**.

For questions on when you are getting a puppy, puppy placement, pick-up, puppy jackets and dog training problems contact **Laura Fisher**.

For questions regarding prison puppy raising please contact **Melissa Spooner or Vijay Joshi**.

For questions about health or medical concerns, contact the **Veterinary Department** at extension 1118 (248-651-9011 or 888-777-5332).

For questions on breeding stock, puppy or dog donations, contact **Dana Hunter**, breeding program manager, at extension 1140 (248-651-9011 or 888-777-5332).

The **Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee** is a volunteer group that addresses puppy raiser concerns. You can contact the committee through the email address provided.

The **Canine Development Puppy Raiser/Breeding Host Facebook page** is a closed group available to puppy raisers and breeding host homes. You must have a Facebook page and be actively volunteering as a puppy raiser, puppy counselor, breeding host home or prison puppy liaison. You must click on the invitation on the above chart to be a part of the group. This is a fun social activity that is a great way to connect with puppy raisers and breeding host families.

To view the puppy manual, IFT skills & self-assessment for puppies up to 9 months, contact IFT assessors, look for photos of Leader Dog Moms and Dads, look for counselor and puppy raiser events on the calendar, review all the past issues of this newsletter, puppy raiser job descriptions, order puppy raiser contact cards, or look at puppy raiser FAQs for a guide dog instructor, please go to the puppy raiser page of the Leader Dog website at www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers.

Puppy Raiser YouTube Channel: Check out our puppy raiser you tube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE01vnQBHp9Vb1MG41jnJlw>. Our goal is to add one video per week, so hit the subscribe button so you can receive notifications!



2020 Puppy Raiser Training Weekends

The 2020 dates are January 25-26; March 7-8; May 16-17; July 18-19; September 19-20 and November 14-15. All attendees except raisers in the under 4 months class must show proof of vaccination for the H3N2 canine influenza series of two vaccinations 2-4 weeks apart, completed 7 days prior to the event. The 4-8-month class will be on Saturday; the under 4 months and 9 months and older classes will be on Sunday.

The invitation goes out three weeks before the event. There will be 10 days to RSVP, and then puppy development will choose the participants in case the classes overfill. Due to the popularity of the events and space limitations we are asking puppy raisers to consider attending every other one. A puppy will only be allowed to attend the 9 month and older class once. Thank you!

2020 Regional Training Sessions

We are looking into having a regional training in St. Louis in October. We are open to bids for a session in June of 2020.



Puppy Raiser Visitation Dates (for raisers to visit their puppies that have been issued to clients) The remaining 2019 date is December 14. The 2020 dates are January 25, February 22, March 28, May 2 and June 13th. The remainder of the 2020 dates are not available yet.

You will be notified by email if the puppy you have raised is issued to a client, but you will only have about a week and a half's notice. Please check with your puppy counselor or with puppy development to keep track of your puppy's progress. You will receive email training updates at the 5th and 13th week of training. In the 13th week update you will be given the date of the puppy raiser visit to save in the event the puppy you raised is matched. This is important because if you cannot come that day, there will be very limited options for a substitute visit. If you are invited, you may bring photos to share with the client. **Please do not bring any treats or toys for the dogs.** This visit is for you and your family only.

Puppy Manual Online and in CD is Available

You can read and print the manual from the puppy raiser page of the website under Training PDFs: www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers.

The audio version of the manual is available on CD. Should you wish to have a copy, please contact Deb Donnelly (ddonnelly@leaderdog.org) or Laura Fisher (lfisher@leaderdog.org).

Expectations of Behavior Skills in Puppies Up to 9 Months Old

Puppy raisers have requested guidance on what to do after they have received the last puppy timeline email. We have created a list of behavior skills that are important in leading up to the puppy's In-For-Training assessment. This is a self-assessment that puppy raisers can use as a guide. It can be found on the puppy raiser page of the website under Training PDFs:

www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers.

IFT Skill Sets for December and January

Winter is coming so get out there and practice your puppy's skills when the weather permits! The monthly skills descriptions can be reviewed in the manual found under Training PDFs here: www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers. For December they are obedience (stay), and traffic. In January, the skills are obedience (sit/down); handlers exam and around. You can also review the monthly skills with your puppy by doing the monthly calendar challenges, which will feature skills assigned to that month.

Leader Dog Puppy Raiser You Tube Channel

Check out our puppy raiser you tube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE01vnQBHp9Vb1MG41jnJlw>. Our goal is to add one video per week, so hit the subscribe button so you can receive notifications!

Leader Dog Gift Shop News



All **CURRENT** puppy raisers, breeding stock hosts, puppy counselors, prison puppy raisers are now eligible to receive their 15% discount through our online store as well as at the physical Leader Dog gift shop.

You **MUST** enter code **PUPPY** at checkout or the discount will not apply and we cannot change it after your purchase is made. Also only one discount code may be applied per purchase. So whenever we offer specials online for free shipping, etc. you may choose **EITHER** the 15% or the free shipping option but not both.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact Kim Thomas at the gift shop at 248-218-6347.

New Faces



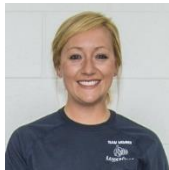
Vijay Joshi

Please welcome Vijay Joshi to the puppy development team as our second coordinator of prison puppies. Vijay is currently raising FLD Bowman, a Lab/golden cross. She volunteers as a training weekend assistant, client activity assistant, a resident orientation guide for Spanish speaking clients and a Spanish interpreter for regional client training. She is also a puppy counselor for a correctional facility. Welcome Vijay!



Gerette Kerby, Director of Canine Operations

Gerette oversees the health and wellbeing of the dogs in the Canine Development Center.



Jennifer Sanderson, Manager of Training

Jennifer oversees all of the training teams in developing the best Leader Dogs possible.



Foxtails

Our veterinary team would like puppy raisers to be aware of the dangers of foxtails, which are being used in landscaping. Foxtails can get in a dog's eye, or between their toes, and cause all sorts of problems. They should be avoided.

Starting Over Again

John and Elaine Berkheiser

Several years ago, we included an article regarding starting over with a new puppy and the important things to do to be prepared for a new fur baby and what to remember from the past puppies. Much of that has changed since then and some is still relevant.

Still Relevant

- Having appropriate toys for the new puppy, normally we have several for the various sizes and the different types of chewing
- Having the proper grooming equipment for the specific breed of the puppy and in good working conditions has never been problem.

Different This Time Around

The trickier issue is remembering a lot of things that will be different this time around

- This puppy is just starting out and doesn't know everything that the previous puppy knew, after months of working with the puppy.
- This puppy is distinctively different than any other puppy raised though it may have some breed specific "quirks."
- This puppy will learn at his/her own rate and in his/her own way.
- Never compare this fur child with any other puppy either you have raised or with another person's puppy of the same breed, similar age bracket, etc.
- Trying not to call this new puppy by the previous puppy's name.

A Tip from our Vets Regarding Vomiting

Vomiting for >24 hours for most dogs would require at least a consult with the vet on call, but for young puppies those guidelines can change. For very young pups (less than 4 months) we know that they can get dehydrated and hypoglycemic very quickly and missing more than 2 meals can be hard on their little bodies. When in doubt, give us a call and we can let you know what can wait and what needs to be seen.



"Double Down" Pilot

Puppy development is starting a pilot process where a puppy raiser could raise two puppies in the home. Puppies considered for this option will be limited to those puppies currently on campus, without an assigned raiser.

A puppy raiser wanting to "double down" must apply to be considered for this option. Puppy development will verify the following requirements before placing a second puppy in a raiser home:

1. First-time puppy raisers may not participate.
2. The puppy raiser's current puppy is at least 8 months old.
3. The puppy raiser is compliant to monthly meetings and questionnaire submission requirements.
4. The puppy raiser's assigned counselor confirms the current puppy's skills are age appropriate.
5. If an IFT has been done, review the IFT scores and comments to assure the puppy raiser's puppy has age appropriate skills.
6. If there are not two handlers in the home, the raiser must present a plan to make sure both puppies are getting one on one time. For instance, the puppy raiser has recruited a past puppy raiser to take a puppy a couple of times a week for one on one training. The plan will need to be in writing and approved by puppy development.
7. Reconfirm the applicant's pet vaccines are up to date.

To be considered as a "double down" puppy raiser, the raiser should fill out the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMCQTBL>. The raiser will also need to go to <portal.leaderdog.org> to fill out another puppy raising application. The applicant will not need to take the puppy manual quiz.

Sleeping Puppies, Car Rides, Housetraining and Barking

By Deb Donnelly



With each new puppy, no matter how many you have raised, there is something new to learn. I am the queen of the winter puppy, my last two I picked up in February, so I don't have a lot of experience with a puppy in the warmer weather. Here are some things that Keane has taught me:

- He is a minimalist. No blankets, no bed, nothing to keep him warm. Winter puppies like comfort, fall puppies do not! Temperature control is important for good sleeping and sleeping through the night is a priority for me.
- He has a voice, and he likes to use it. People will say to ignore barking, but I say you need to listen to it. Keane has a reason to bark most of the time – he is frustrated because he can't get to something or he is excited to see one of his friends. Sometimes I talk to my barking puppy. He does need to be heard. When he became inconsolable in his sleeping crate, I did purchase a "Snuggle Pup" (toy with a heartbeat) and used it for a

few days with supervision. Once he could remove the heartbeat apparatus from its pouch, I used it on top of his airline crate.

- Every puppy is different to housetrain. My last two have been very easy. Keane, for the first month, gave little to no warning that he needed to relieve. He often would poop 2-3 times before he was empty. I needed to learn patience, because rushing him back inside created accidents. At 3 months old he is much better now!
- Car rides – when my puppy is little, he gets carried to the car and put inside. Inside the vehicle there are always good things to eat (sometimes kibble, sometimes biscuits). As he gets bigger, sometimes he decides he would rather not walk to the car. That's fine, but at this age, it's not a choice. I will pick him up and carry him to the car (you do not want to get into the game of inadvertently reinforcing the stop. Just pick the puppy up!). Again, lots of good stuff inside the car. It takes a number of repetitions, for me at least twice a day for a month, but two days ago Keane runs to the car and jumps in. This is a good thing, because he is getting too big to carry!

Prison Puppies Initiative

That Dear John Letter,

I just finished reading the July [Puppy Tales](#) Newsletter from Leader Dog for the Blind that John wrote. He was a prison puppy raiser and it sounds like he learned a lot from the program as I read between the lines. He said he called prison his home and the reason for that, he said he will miss the simplicity of his time there. I have the other side of the story because I just finished my bit in prison too, as an employee.

I was part of the Prison Puppy Program from 2013 to 2019 at Baraga Correctional Facility. There was a lot of resistance from staff and inspectors about bringing little fluffy puppies into the secure perimeter of the prison. How do we have a crate in a cube that is already filled with seven lockers, seven beds, seven chairs and two tables? How do we keep the puppy from running out of the cube and getting into trouble? How do we address the sanitation issues in the unit, yard and dining hall when some religious groups are against eating in the same space as an animal? How do we choose the right prisoners to be part of the program? Well, the kinks were all worked out after five months of planning, building gates and welding crates that fit under the table in the cube, our two first puppies arrived in December, in a blizzard. Bear was as black as night and smart as a whip and within one day figured out how to get under the bed and out in the hall, bypassing the gate. Axel was smart too, but super lazy and would rather sleep than escape. Their personalities were so obvious.

The part that amazed me was the change in the unit. Not just the guys involved in the program (roughly ten three-man teams at the time and a few rovers) but the whole unit. Every prisoner would laugh or smile or point at the little puppy slipping on the concrete floor or trying to catch

his tail. The biggest angriest prisoner would change his whole demeanor when I put a puppy in his arms. The smallest weakest prisoner would stand taller and be proud of his accomplishment of raising a Leader Dog, even when the German Shepherd was as tall as him. The skills of working as a team helped all of those involved in the program be successful upon release. The guys that had a hard time reading, learned to do it better because they had to read the manual to pass the test, to get their own puppy. The guys that never spoke in front of a group, learned to do it, because each person had to present a training skill at our monthly leader dog meetings with the puppy counselor from Rochester. The new teams learned from the older established teams, on the phases of the puppy and how to deal with it when your teammate let the puppy chew up your shower shoes. The group worked together to pull one another up so everyone was successful, most of the time. We had our “puppy drama” where the team members would argue over the correct interpretation of the puppy manual verses something heard in training. Or they would come to me saying so and so is not pulling their weight. Then it would become a teachable moment to help them create a time management solution which benefited the puppy and the team.

At the end of the first six months of six puppies in the housing unit of 260 men, it was obvious to everyone who came in the unit. It was quiet, guys held doors open for you, puppies and raisers walked up and down the halls with respect of the other prisoners, and it felt less stressful. It was the intangible love of dogs that infiltrated the place. When a new ride in would come in the unit and see the dogs he would be shocked. Usually it was the first thing they asked me, “How do I be a part of that dog program?” not where is my property or when is chow.

Over the course of my time running the Leader Dog Prison Puppy program we went through the alphabet almost twice. Every single dog had its own unique personality and was just a joy to have in the unit. We had a few that learned “count time” better than the prisoners, a few who seemed to get injured every weekend, and a few who liked to sneak up on the bunk to sleep. Just like John, I will miss the dogs the most, but I am glad my bit is over. Hopefully, I can make it on the outside.

Tammy Gajewski, Retired Prison Counselor

Join our team of Prison Puppies Counselors!
An informational meeting will be had at the
Leader Dog campus with a Skype option available.
December 2, 2019 6:30-7:30pm.
RSVP at prisonpuppies@leaderdog.org



TAGteach Certification

Congratulations to the 24 Leader Dog team members and volunteers who became TAGteach Level One certified recently. A generous benefactor provided the opportunity to have a weekend filled with fun, laughter and learning.



Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee Meeting November 18, 2019

In Attendance: Mike Pikelis, Mike Mordarski, John Berkheiser, Jeff Schafer, Sherry Perkowitz, Deborah Worpell, Deb Kaminski, Bev Blanchard, Deb Donnelly, Connie Beckett

Retiring PRAC members – Mike Pikelis and Deborah Worpell, thank you for your service!

Leader Dog updates:

- A successful TAGteach certification seminar was held this past weekend. Another one is scheduled for Leader Dog team members in January.
- A breeding female was donated to a new Brazilian guide school. Leader Dog has worked with the head of this school for many years
- Noted speaker and trainer Kathy Sdao spent 3 days this week working with the training and puppy development teams on guide training.

Puppy Raiser Recruitment

- Ideas were discussed, including church bulletins.
- Vijay Joshi will be overseeing campus puppy raising models at Rochester University, MSU and Oakland University
- A puppy raiser exit interview process is being worked on.

Discussion was held on the Double Down pilot and providing support for puppy raisers who feel they should be doing all the things with their puppies that are posted on social media.

Round Table Discussion

- Should a breeding host be part of the committee?

- Quarterly meetings appear to be sufficient
- Breeding stock photos need updating on the website
- Discussion on why transitions volunteers are not allowed to interact with a puppy they have raised on their shift. It is not good for the dog; it encourages “owner seeking” behavior and creates stress.

Next meeting January 27, 2020.

Circle of Life

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Jimmy Stewart x Meikka | 8 Lab/gol |
| Brady x Maeve | 9 Labs |
| Krammer x Leuci | 6 Lab/gol |
| Gunner x Dixie | 6 Labs |
| Granite x Gem | 7 Labs |
| Briggs x Ashby | 8 Labs |
| Kapten x Frannie | 10 Lab/gol |
| Brady x Eleanor | 12 Labs |
| Whiskey x Lilo | 7 Labs |
| Krammer x Hope | 8 Goldens |
| Ryder x Libby | 8 Labs |
| Gatsby x Everest | 7 Gol/Labs |
| Huron x Tikvah | 9 Labs |
| Shaq x Lucy | 8 Labs |

Congratulations to the graduates of Class 20-04

| S/C/B | Name | Graduated to | Raiser |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| MBL | Simon | IA | Prison Puppy |
| MBL | Blue | MO | Prison Puppy |
| MYGol/Lab | Chance | IN | Prison Puppy |
| FBL | Demi | Spain | Prison Puppy |
| FBL | Lucy | Spain | Scott Graham |
| FYGol/Lab | Zoey | IL | Prison Puppy |
| MBGol/Lab | Sully | Spain | Patti Hoekstra (MI) |
| FGol | Lulu Mae | OH | Maddie Kaminski (MI) |
| MGol | Prodigy | AL | Michael Rager (MI) |
| FBL | Ramona | Spain | Prison Puppy |
| MBL | Kylo | TX | Beverly Bewick (IN) |
| FBL | Mocha | MN | Prison Puppy |
| MBL | Loki | MI | Claire Kapral (MI) |
| MBL | Logan (Lonesome) | WI | Prison Puppy |

Congratulations to the Class of 20-05

| Call Name | STATS | Graduated to | Raiser |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Ripley | MYL | ON, Canada | Harold Owens (IL) |
| Ayla | FGOL | HI | Mary Hattis (MT) |
| Mason | MGOL GOL/LAB | WI | Prison Puppy |
| Ivy | FBL | IL | Prison Puppy |
| Owen | MGOL | QC, Canada | Prison Puppy |
| Lily | FGOL | IN | Tammy Bolongaita (MI) |
| Max | MYL | CA | Pat Ziebron (MI) |
| Century | FGOL | MI | Annemarie Eichberger (MI) |
| Abby | FYL | MI | Prison Puppy |
| Jovie | FB GOL/LAB | Spain | Jill Pontillo (MI) |
| Vincent | MGOL GOL/LAB | Spain | Prison Puppy |
| Jack | MYL | Spain | Prison Puppy |
| Zion | FYL | Spain | Laura Brunsgaard (AR) |
| Udele | FYL | DE | Prison Puppy |
| Koda | MGOL | WV | Prison Puppy |
| Patron | MGOL GOL/LAB | MI | Anu Joshi (MI) |
| Pluto | MGOL GOL/LAB | ID | Prison Puppy |