

PUPPY TALES

April 2020

Thank You, Volunteers!



National Volunteer
Week April 19-25,
2020

We love our volunteer puppy raisers!

Our Thanks...

Dear Puppy Raisers,
From our hearts, a massive thank you. You continue to leave us in awe of your immense talent, support, and strength.

National Volunteer Week is approaching. While many activities on campus have been postponed, Puppy Development plans to formally celebrate with you in the very near future.

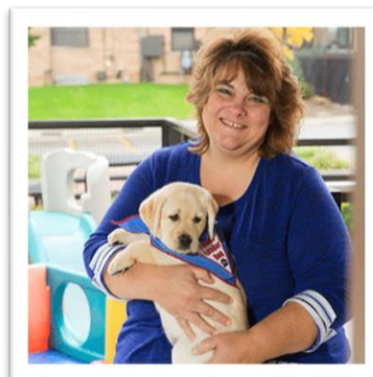
As you are aware, 75,000 people become blind or visually impaired every year.

Each one of you have taken on a commitment to do what is right, show respect and compassion, work as a team, demonstrate passion for the work, and help to deliver a superior experience, all in accordance with our mission and values.

At Leader Dogs for the Blind, we pride ourselves on our committed individuals who represent us and truly demonstrate good citizenship.

It is by your example, that we as a team grow and develop to better serve our clients. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your commitment to serve.

Sincerely,
Beverly Blanchard
Manager of Canine Development



Beverly Blanchard



IFT Skills



The monthly skills can be reviewed in the manual found under Training PDFs here:

www.leaderdog.org/puppyraisers.

The Circle of Life!

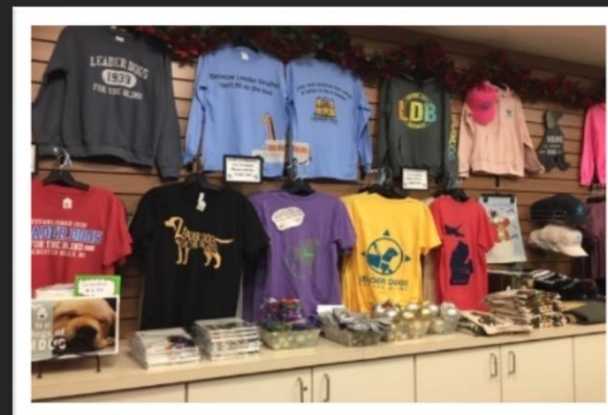
Dam x Sire	Pups	Breed
Toula x Briggs	8	F2- Labrador retriever
Glori x Wally	1	Labrador Retriever
Karma x Dobby	4	Labrador Retriever
Daisy x Teddy	7	Labrador Retriever
Edith x Luca	10	F2- Labrador retriever
Rue x Whisky	8	Labrador Retriever
Josie x Myles	9	Golden Retriever
Uli x Alphie	9	F2- Golden Retriever
Tess x Kapten	4	Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever
Tula x Tatie	2	Labrador Retriever
Olive x Luca	7	Labrador Retriever
Misty Ryder	6	Labrador Retriever
Liza x MacGyver	4	Labrador Retriever
Lucy Rose x Quest	9	German Shepherd Dog
Winnifred x Barney	6	Labrador Retriever



All **current** puppy raisers, breeding stock hosts, puppy counselors, and prison puppy raisers are eligible to receive a 15% discount at the Leader Dog gift shop and online as well. You must enter code **PUPPY** at checkout to receive the discount. Only one discount code may be applied per purchase. If offer specials online for free shipping, you may choose **either** the 15% or the free shipping option but not both. Please contact Kimberly Thomas, Gift Shop Coordinator, with any questions at Kimberly.Thomas@LeaderDog.Org

Gift Shop

The gift shop will be closed until further notice but will continue to process online orders.



Leader Dogs for the Blind Gift Shop
1039 S. Rochester Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Call us: 248-218-6347

Email us: Kimberly.Thomas@LeaderDog.Org

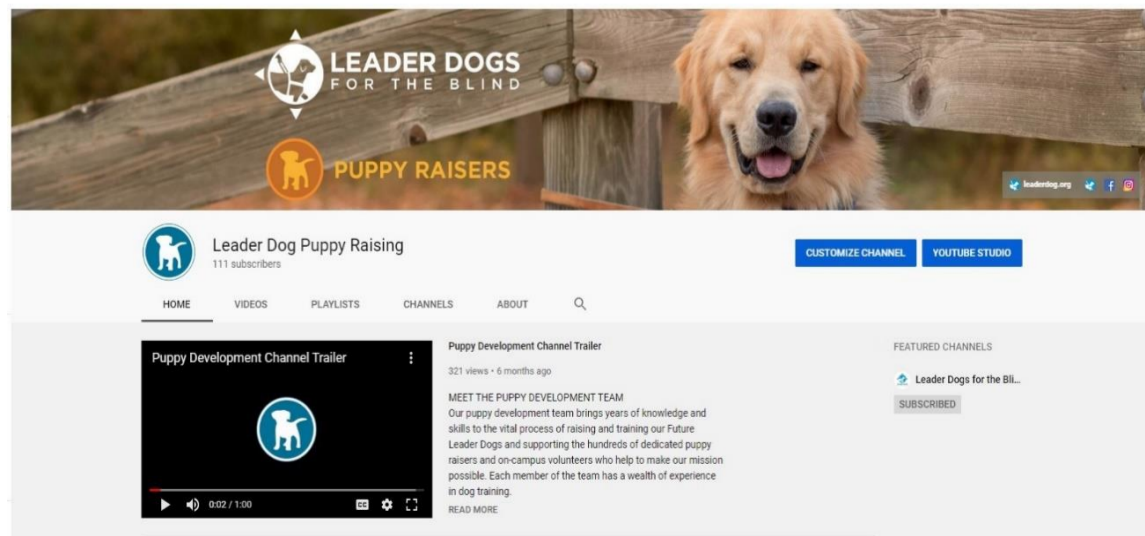
<https://leader-dogs-for-the-blind-gift-shop.myshopify.com/>

Shop with us online!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Email us and let us know how you are doing!
PuppyDept@LeaderDog.Org



PUPPY RAISER YOUTUBE!

Check out our puppy raiser YouTube channel here:
[Leader Dog Puppy Raising!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Recently, we have been collecting small vials with stool samples for a research project. We are trying to find out why some Leader Dog Moms produce litters with normal stools, while other Leader Dog Moms produce litters with diarrhea. We are collaborating with a company, AnimalBiome, to do a 'first of its kind' study on the possible benefits of gut restoration bacteria in our puppies and their mothers. Our host families are invaluable to this study because they are responsible for collecting several stool samples throughout the course of this study.

Diarrhea in adult dogs and puppies can be caused by an imbalance in the gut microbiome, which is the community of bacteria and other microorganisms living in the digestive tract. We know puppies get most of their microbiome from their mothers. For LD Moms that produce puppies with diarrhea, we are trying to rebalance their gut microbiome before pregnancy and whelping.

To conduct this study, our participants are divided into two groups: treatment group and observation group. The observation group includes moms whose puppies did not experience diarrhea in their first seven weeks. The treatment group includes moms who had puppies with diarrhea severe enough to need medical intervention.



Golden Retriever Puppies

"We are collaborating with a company, AnimalBiome, to do a 'first of its kind' study"

The treatment group is then divided into those that receive the gut restoration product and those that receive a placebo. Stools are collected from mom and puppies at the same, regular intervals for both groups.

AnimalBiome will study the differences between the stools of the dogs in the observation and treatment groups to determine if the product worked in the treatment (gut restoration product) group vs. the placebo group.

Our host families already do so much for our moms and puppies. Having to clean up diarrhea is an overwhelming task hosts would prefer to avoid. In some severe instances, antibiotics are needed to clear up symptoms. Results from this research will hopefully reduce the need for antibiotic intervention.

In addition, we will follow these litters and their overall health throughout the raising and training periods as well, in hopes of seeing even more long-term benefits. AnimalBiome plans to publicize the findings for other scientists and veterinarians to help other organizations, breeders and dog owners.

We're Up To Our Elbows

Written by Dana Hunter, Breeding Program Manager

Breeding team and host home volunteers participate in study!



Nursing Golden Retriever Puppies



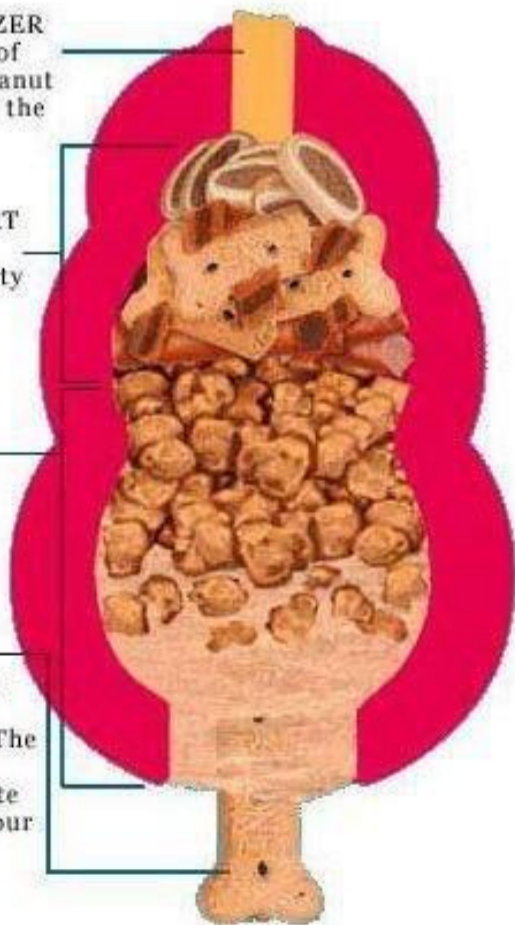
Know someone interested in hosting a Breeding Stock Mom or Dad? Visit the Leader Dog website for more information: <https://www.leaderdog.org/volunteer/host-a-breeding-dog/>

Food Toys!

Diagram of a Well-Stuffed Kong Toy

EXAMPLE - Step One: Start with a few clean Kong toys appropriately sized for the largest dog that could access them.
NOTE: Small breeds need medium Kongs for stuffing.

- Step Two: TANTALIZER
Place a little morsel of freeze dried liver, peanut butter or cheese into the little hole on top.
- Step Three: DESSERT
Fill approximately one-third of the cavity with doggie treats such as biscuits, marrow bites, etc.
- Step Four: MAIN COURSE
Fill the last two-thirds with canned food or food roll mixed with kibble or food nuggets.
- Step Five: APPETIZER
Leave a nice tidbit sticking out of the opening. The "easy pickins" will provide an immediate pay off and entice your dog to "get serious" about the job.

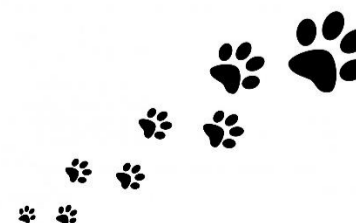


It is great to have a few different types of food toys available for your puppy. Puzzle toys, Nylabones, and West Paws are just a few. Please check your manual for LDB approved puppy toys.

My favorite has always been the KONG stuffed and ready to go. Below is a diagram of how you can stuff your KONG. The great thing about KONGs are you can make the stuffing as simple as soaked kibble, or have different layers, or even a frozen delight. These food toys can keep your puppy occupied while indoors

Looking for stuffing ideas for KONGS? The website below has some great ideas,

<https://www.kongcompany.com/lets-play/recipes>



Cooperative Care: What It Means for Your Future Leader Dog

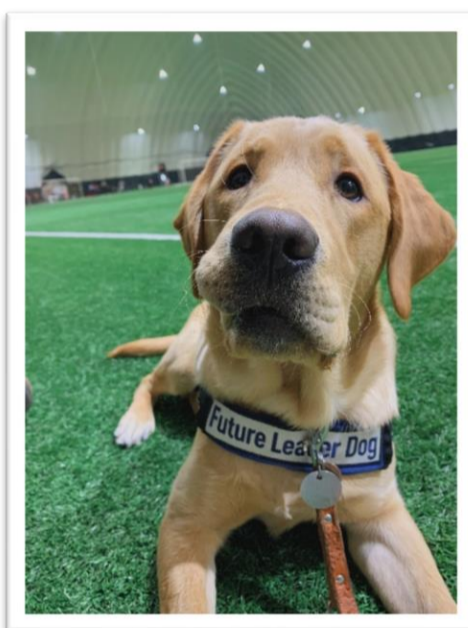
Written by Melissa Raymond

Terminology and phrases such as “cooperative care” “Fear Free®” “Low Stress Handling” are becoming more and more popular in the world of pet lovers. Their meanings similar despite the difference in wording. When utilizing cooperative care, the goal of veterinary professionals is to meet the medical needs of an individual patient while focusing on their mental wellbeing rather than solely their physical wellbeing. Let’s explore an example together.

A team of veterinary professionals are seeing a canine patient with very long nails, the kind that are nearly curling into their paw pads. The owners do not trim the nails at home because the dog is fractious and runs away once the nail trimmers come out of the closet. Though they live close to a groomer and the veterinary office, the dog is afraid of going to both. He whines, wiggles and tries to escape the entire time he is there getting his nails trimmed. A year ago, was the time of his last nail trim and for the first time he bared his teeth during the procedure. It took three of the veterinary team members to hold the dog in place while a fourth trimmed his nails. He is back again, and his nails are worse than ever! This veterinary team knows how important it is to have trimmed nails for any dog. Having long nails can impact the way the dog walks and could cause orthopedic changes in their body. At the simplest level, long nails can cause discomfort. So, the veterinary team has couple of paths that they can take in this scenario. If they were focused solely on the dogs physical wellbeing and insist that the nails should be clipped immediately to alleviate physical discomfort, they may attempt to repeat last year’s procedure where it took the three people to hold the dog in place while the nails were trimmed. If the veterinary teams focus was more on the emotional wellbeing of this dog, their goal would be to trim the nails in a way or at a pace in which the dog stayed under the threshold of being afraid.

To stay under the threshold of fear, the veterinary team may need to prescribe medication to decrease fear. They may need to break the aspects of the nail trim down in small pieces to make it a more comfortable experience for the dog, such as having a single nail trimmed each day. The vet team may teach the owner how to prepare the dog for nail trims at home and/or introduce high value treats into the procedure to make it more enjoyable, etc.

The list does not end there. There are lots of cooperative, Low Stress and Fear Free methods that can be implemented to make this experience much more comfortable for the dog.



Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind as you train cooperative behaviors: Everything must be voluntary and completely willing on the dog’s (or any learner’s) behalf. Cooperative behaviors should not include forceful actions. For example; if you are attempting to teach the dog to be comfortable with his foot being grabbed or held in preparation for a nail trim or paw wiping, and the dog wiggles, pulls or jerks his paw back, even just a little then it is important to make note of this. This is not cooperative. Though it is subtle, the dog is demonstrating to you that there is a level of fear or discomfort present. In order to be successful, you are going to need to do less. Less may look like acting like you are going to grab the paw without doing so or holding the paw for a minuscule amount of time be for wiggling or jerking begins.

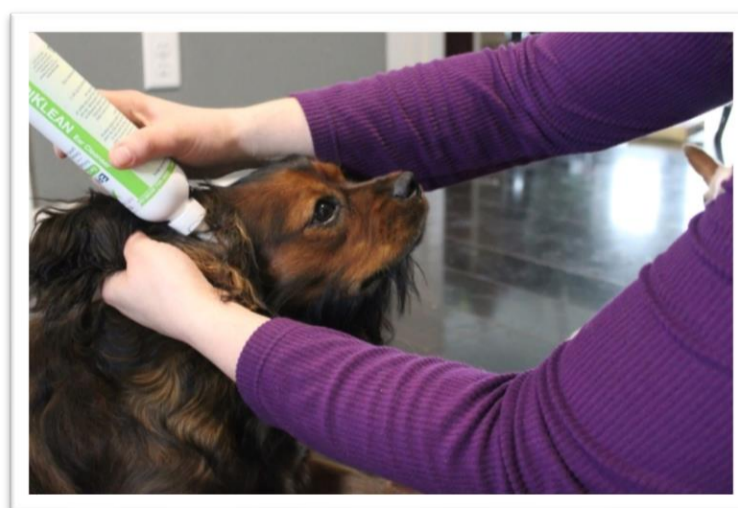
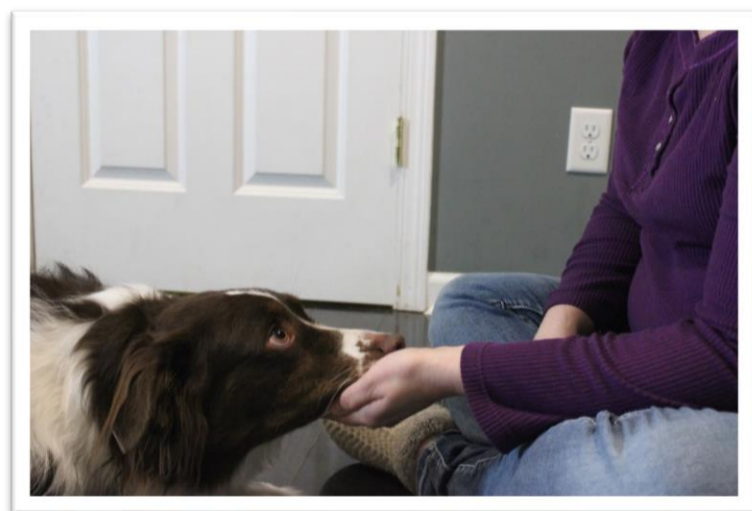
Be sure to mark the moment! Communicate to your dog that you like that behavior and you want to see more of it by marking with “YES.” In this scenario holding on to the paw until the animal stops resisting is not teaching cooperation. That technique could make paw wiping or nail trimming more difficult in the future. Remember that cooperation is all about the animal telling you what they are comfortable with and you listening.

If teaching cooperative behaviors is new to you and your pup, remind yourself to practice short sessions. Learning is exhausting for both ends of the leash. Consider setting a timer for 2-5 minutes or whatever short amount of time you feel comfortable working at. You can also set aside a certain number of treats for that session. Once you utilize all your treats your session is over. Another helpful tip is to practice outside of the context of the necessary situation. For example: If your pup is diagnosed with an ear infection, it would not be the best time to begin cooperative care training for medication application. It would be recommended that you use similar techniques to make the most out of the situation and ease your dogs’ current discomfort, however their level of sensitivity is likely to be heightened so taking on a new training task is not ideal. Think of cooperative care as training for the future “what if.” If your pup requires a specific type of care in the future, you and he will be prepared to work through the process comfortably.

Cooperative care behaviors can be fun to teach and very useful for raisers, veterinary team members, trainers and clients. They ease stress and turn uncomfortable examinations into fun reward-earning games. While they are not always taught quickly, initially, once the basic skills are learned the concepts become faster and faster to grasp. These training games can be enjoyable for the dog and handler alike.



Melissa Raymond



Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee



Committee notes from 3/16/20

Roll Call/Introductions – John, Connie, Bev, Lorene, Lexie, Sherri D, Annie, Trish, Deb, Linda, Jeff, Sherry P

Update from Leader Dog – 1st meeting of this year. Normally meet 4x a year. We have two 1st time raisers – one starting and one part way through. Typically, PRAC is a 3-year role except for the 1st time raisers. PRAC role is to help us with process issues and concerns, projects that we may or may not be able to do, and front line for raisers. PRAC has an email account but very few emails received.

PRAC has improved communication, things such as puppy sitting form and other items on web page for raisers is a result of this committee. If you have topics, please bring them forward.

Puppy Development Department is being restructured to avoid adding another layer. Good opportunity for succession planning within department. Bev will be supervising and managing the four coordinators: Laura, Melissa, Vijay, and one open position. Want to divide the work equally between them. Will build stability and relationships with our Puppy Raisers (PR). Zach will continue in administrative role. May open a supervisory position later. Each coordinator will work with 100-125 raisers. This will standardize communication and raising. Feedback will be important. Raisers will have one person as their POC in office and their puppy counselor.

Our past litters were normally 5+; lately they have increased to 8+ which required many additional PRs and additions to groups. This may require some restructuring of PR groups or adding if necessary.

We know communication is important. A condensed version of PRAC minutes is included in Newsletter to be published end of March. All members will be listed.

Concerns from Long Distance Raisers

Travel – Process states 1st time raisers must come to pick up puppy. This allows us to meet them and for them to visit the facility. After that, other arrangements can be made. “Puppies in Flight” comes with some logistical issues but can be done. Retired airline employees fly free. Perhaps that is something that could be looked into.

Vet Care – PR can ask vets to be reimbursed for anything that is not routine. This needs to be communicated better. Possible to seek out Lions Clubs for funding for vet care or travel. The challenge is that it’s not a donation to LDB but a donation to the PR even though it’s for LDB. Lions’ leadership changes every year so it requires additional communication.

Use of Gentle Leader during IFT – This will need to be discussed with our PD team. There is a small group revising the IFT standards which should be completed soon.

Current State - Foundation of Puppy Raising – Processes for planning and development are currently being worked. Right now nothing to share. We found that our PRs and prison PRs were beginning to go down different paths. This needs to be corrected. Department being restructured to support our teams and PRs.

Safety of our dogs in kennel has not changed. Volunteers and team members still come in to spend time with dogs. Restructuring of dog care just completed so dogs get more attention. New enrichment processes being developed for any dogs which may be struggling.

Roundtable and Other Discussions

Gift cards were a great idea. It encouraged some to start raising earlier than they may have. Premiere Pet Supplies (Corporate partner) donated them plus PRs get 20% off purchases. In the future would like Corporate to reach out to Chewy to become a partner.

Introducing additional LDB team members on FB. Enjoy learning about other employees/departments and what they do. How can we best roll out additional introductions; using technology?

Could a LD app be developed? Instagram account has a setting that will allow a person to post to both FB and Instagram at the same time. Heja app used by counselor. Allows all events coming up to be listed with description, address, directions, POC.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting June 15

The PRAC

First Year

Linda Gimble
With Husband Tonya re raising FLD #21. Also a Puppy Counselor and IFT assessor from IL.

Lexie Medford
Currently raising FLD #4 (Reef); High School student in Michigan.

Patricia (Trish) Agnew
Currently raising puppy #5, with husband Jeff, and also a Dog Transition Assistant Volunteer on campus.

Second Year

Jeffrey Schafer
Raising FLD #9; independent puppy counselor for the southern area, Lions Past Council Chair/Past District Governor in Indiana; member of Multiple District 25 (MD-25 Indiana) Lions Leader Dog Committee; lives in Indiana.

Sherry Perkowicz
Raising FLD #9, IFT assessor and Lions District 1-F Leader Dog Committee Chairperson. Lives in Illinois.

Third Year

John Berkheiser
PRAC Chairperson
Chairman of the PRAC. With wife, Elaine, raising FLD #31. Have hosted 3 breeding stock moms (all retired). They are also puppy counselors and IFT assessors. Both are Lions and serve as District 12-I Leader Dog Chairs and MD-12 Leader Dog Coordinators; lives in Tennessee.

Michael Mordarski
raising FLD #13. Volunteers on campus as Dog Transition Assistant. Lives in Michigan.

Deb Kaminski
Currently raising raising FLD #6; Lions member and lives in Michigan.

First Time Puppy Raisers

Sherri Dodge
Almost finished with raising puppy #1, past LD employee in dog care and lives in Michigan.

Anne Fuelle
Just started raising puppy #1, Helped start the Oakland University puppy club, loves in Michigan.

Administrative

Connie Beckett
PRAC secretary
Part time LDB Philanthropy team member and on-campus Canine Support Assistant volunteer.

Bev Blanchard
Manager of Canine Development
Has raised 13 puppies, housed 3 dogs for the breeding program and has been a team member overseeing puppy development for 26 years.



Puppy Counselors Needed!

Puppy Counselors are volunteers just like you who give their time, knowledge, and experience back to Leader Dog’s puppy raisers.



Vijay Joshi

We recently had an informational session that we recorded. If you are interested in learning about becoming a Puppy Counselor, please contact Puppy Development for a link to the video.

For additional information, please contact Puppy Development at PuppyDept@LeaderDog.Org

Sniffy Walk—This is a leisurely walk where your puppy is allowed to sniff BUT not pull.
WHAT YOU NEED
 1)Decide how long is your walk going to be?—10-15 minutes is plenty of time for younger pups and as they grow older you can increase the time
 2)Have a destination in mind before you leave your house—it could be just around your home
 3)Have your pouch filled with kibble and high value treats—so you can be ready to reward your pup when he makes good decisions (coming to you when you call, not pulling, and many other good choices that he may show)

LET’S GO
 **Remember to extend your leash so it is long. As you start your walk let your puppy sniff, the minute his head comes up either call his name (if he doesn’t know his name yet you can say, pup, pup, pup). When he looks at you or towards you mark “yes” and reward with a treat from your pouch at left side by your left knee.
 **Your puppy will continue and may get excited and pull towards a bush or something else just as wonderful. If he pulls, stop. When he turns, looks, or you notice the leash loosen say “yes” and treat him (at your left knee).

**The sniffy walk is for your puppy to explore the world with you by their side.
 **The important rule is NO PULLING. You can build on this behavior by rewarding your pup when he stays close to you without pulling.

Loose Leash Walking— Your puppy is walking in heel position and at pace with you.
WHAT YOU NEED
 1) Begin in a room indoors where it is quiet and there are minimal distractions
 2) Have your pouch filled with kibble and tasty treats
 3) Have a time frame in mind—start out with working only 2-4 minutes per session with baby puppies and then gradually build up to longer periods. Remember you can do a few sessions during the day.

LET’S GO
 **Start out by using the marker word “yes” and giving a treat. Repeat two more times always placing the treat at your left knee. Take one step forward. Mark “yes” and place treat at your left knee. Take a second step and do the same. Repeat two more times by taking one step at a time only and marking and rewarding at left knee.
 **Next, take 2 steps then mark “yes” and treat at your left knee. Repeat three more times.

**Lastly, alternate 1 or 2 steps and mark and treat. For example, your walk could be 1 step treat, 2 step treat, 2 step treat, 1 step treat and so on. Always remember to step, mark “yes”, and reward at your left knee.

**You can increase steps taken as your puppy improves. It is also ok to go back to just 1 step and treat. Do this in different rooms of your home.

Observe, Mark, Reward. Puppies are “behaving” every waking minute. Coming to a nice stop on a loose leash deserves a “yes” and a reward. Then do this outside in your driveway, down the block, in your neighborhood, and other environments. Increase time, distance and change of environments as your puppy learns and masters walking at your side and not pulling.

Loose leash walking is a skill that you and your puppy will be working on throughout your time together. Some days will be easy and others not so much. I have confidence that you will do a wonderful job!

From the Puppy Raiser Manual:

Loose leash walking is a fundamental skill that you will be working on and reinforcing every time the puppy is on leash. Dogs instinctively resist pressure on their collar. If a handler tries to pull a puppy along, he will dig his heels in and resist.

The process of teaching loose leash walking rewards a loose leash and giving in to pressure, rather than pulling against it. Loose leash walking can be done by the dog in any position around the handler and on a short or long leash.


Let’s Walk!

Written by Vijay Joshi

Loose Leash Walking or Sniffy Walk... What’s the Difference?!



Spring is in the air! Dogs can get excited and ready to rocket into the outside world without realizing you are on the end of their leash! SO.....LET’S TALK WALK

 Loose leash walking is not a “cued” behavior like “sit” or “come”; rather, it is the way a dog moves with his handler that is fundamental to his future work as a Leader Dog.

Positive Reinforcement Training Vijay’s Tips

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TRAINING

“Positive reinforcement training is payment for desirable behaviors and for making good choices. It is proactive, purposeful and specific. It is teaching that is not based on fear. Positive reinforcement training is not permissive, loud, sharp, forceful, painful, reactive or dependent on manipulation of the dog’s body. Leader Dog puppies are raised and trained using positive reinforcement from a few weeks of age through adulthood”, as quoted from our Puppy Raiser Manual. Read this carefully. Sometimes, I find myself reading it many times. The reason we use positive reinforcement is simply because it is effective and has shown to build confident decision making learners (our puppies). Below is an outline for you to review and work with.

DID YOU SAY YES??

The very first part of teaching your puppy new skills is communication! Think about it: Do we speak dog? Do dogs speak us? How magical is it that we can somehow convey to our dogs to give us certain behaviors?! In your Puppy Raiser Manual (page 33 Section 5) you will find “Keys to Effective Training”. The very first step in this process is using a marker. A marker has also been called a bridge of communication. Markers can be a word, sound, clicker, light, or a whistle to name a few. By itself a marker has no meaning. But when we link or pair it with something rewarding (a reinforcer) it becomes a strong communication tool.

When teaching our puppies, we use the marker word “YES”. Here are a few things to remember with all markers:
 The Marker needs to be delivered the same way every time. It must be consistent, distinct, and sound exactly the same each time it is delivered. The marker word we use is “YES”. Think about how you say “YES”. Practice saying a “YES” that is specific and said the same way before working with your puppy. Practice this away from your puppy in another room.
 For the marker to be effective it must be paired or matched with a primary reinforcer. We use food as our reinforcer when working with our puppies. In a quiet room with minimal distractions, practice the “loading” of your marker word. The best time would be before your puppy’s meal. Take ¼ cup of kibble in your pouch and begin. Say “YES” and give your puppy a piece of kibble. Repeat several times until the kibble is done. You are just saying “YES” and then delivering kibble
 Remember the marker is your promise to your puppy— “YES” means you will be reinforced (given a piece of kibble/food). With every “YES” your puppy gets a reward.

OBSERVE---MARK---REWARD

The next step is to observe for the behavior you want from your puppy, mark, and then reward.
OBSERVE—Watch your puppy. Throughout the day you will see behaviors that you can reward your puppy for. Take a moment and think about good behaviors and watch your puppy closely. For example, all four paws on the ground, sitting before meal delivery, or settled at your side.

MARK---The marker word “YES” is critical. As you observe your puppy, when he gives you a good behavior mark “YES”. This relays to your puppy that this is what I am looking for and this is what you will get reinforced for.
REWARD---Immediately following the marker “YES” deliver the food reward to your puppy. Remember, the “YES” is your promise to your puppy. If you do not follow thru with the reward the effectiveness of the marker is diminished and the “YES” becomes meaningless. This sequence is important in training your puppy for the months ahead.

LET’S WATCH FOR THE GOOD

We can train periodically throughout the day but we can always watch for good and reward our puppy. This sends a message to your puppy that there is always an opportunity to earn a reward for good behavior. Your puppy will be looking and thinking of ways to earn a reward. While you are building on the good behaviors you will notice the not so good behaviors gradually fading away.
 As you work with your puppy, remember to look for the GOOD in yourself as well. Training has great days and then, the not so great. Take a deep breath, stop, and then breathe again. We are so fortunate to have you raise one of our wonderful puppies. If your are confused, frustrated, or just do not understand what else to do, please know we are here to support you in any way possible.





Most correctional facilities are set up like college campuses or small cities. The facilities offer many situations and scenarios that puppies would encounter in public including stairs, different footing surfaces, elevators, a variety of noises, traffic from delivery trucks, small recreational vehicles, crowds, squirrels, and visitors.

The Prison Puppies Perspective



Written by Heidi Cudney

Prison Puppy Raisers are those who are incarcerated, but volunteer for an altruistic experience. Not only do the Prison Puppy Raisers provide the hard work of raising puppies, but they in return receive the love from the puppy and the sense of purpose and responsibility by raising/training the puppy per the guidelines of LDB. Some raisers feel that this is their contribution to society while they are incarcerated, with the experience providing a benefit to both LDB for raising the puppy, as well as the recipient of the guide dog.

The Transport Drivers commute a puppy to a new facility, return the puppy to LDB after they have completed their training, or take an ill dog to an appropriate medical facility.

Prison Personnel/Facility Liaisons are correctional facility employees that make puppy raising possible within their facility. This is not a required program within correctional facilities, so it takes extra effort by the facilities to accommodate puppy raising.

“I have learned that this department is truly a “village” with a network of volunteers”

Prison Puppy Counselors enter the correctional facilities to help counsel the Puppy Raisers on training the puppy. These are individuals that mentor and provide a stable, outside, professional relationship to the Puppy Raisers. Some of these Counselors volunteer their weekends or even several days to drive to/from correctional facilities in order to ensure that the puppies are meeting their training needs and that the raisers receive any needed guidance.

Office Volunteers work on-site at LDB that provide support for the program ranging from documenting dog evaluations, paying veterinarian invoices, reimbursing volunteer expenses, making travel arrangements, documenting general information on the puppy, etc.



Heidi and her dog, Ginger



Volunteering with Prison Puppies

Heidi began volunteering for the Prison Puppies initiative in June 2019. Her role as an Administrative Assistant is extremely valuable to the initiative’s success. Heidi’s responsibilities include assisting team members with data entry, email correspondence, placing and receiving calls, organizing receipts, preparing credit card statements, preparing reimbursement forms for other volunteers, creating reports, and other clerical tasks as needed. On occasion Heidi is asked to help prepare items to be transported to prison facilities.



Heidi Cudney

After a lifelong love of animals, especially dogs, I became acquainted with LDB at an open house many years ago. The event was a great introduction to the mission of the organization, as well as hearing about the impact that a guide dog makes on the recipient’s quality of life. After that event, I committed to supporting LDB through various mediums, which led to eventually volunteering at LDB.

After taking a pause from full-time work, I was excited to volunteer my knowledge and skills to LDB. Melissa Raymond was kind enough to offer me a voluntary position with Prison Puppies, where my responsibilities are more office-based than other volunteer positions offered at LDB. This helped me view the organization within a comfortable environment, since I have always worked in a corporate, office setting. I quickly learned that Prison Puppies was a great way to meet the large demand for our guide dogs by providing an alternative location for raising puppies. The correctional facilities provide varying stimuli and environments that foster excellent care and training opportunities for our puppies.

Prison Puppies is an initiative that looks more office-based from an outside perspective. But, I have learned that this department is truly a “village” with a network of volunteers that do the following: raise the puppies during the first twelve months, counsel/train puppy raisers, transport puppies, manage the program within correctional facilities, provide office support, etc. I have learned that there is a reciprocal relationship with our volunteers, due to the many benefits resulting from the Prison Puppy process.

Although I am not going into the correctional facilities, I still feel a part of making this amazing process possible for LDB. I know that I am not alone, but that I am part of a bigger group positively impacting people’s lives. I am very proud to tell people that I am involved with touching the rehabilitation process of those incarcerated, helping LDB meet their mission, and impacting the end recipient’s quality of life. I hope that others will volunteer their talents to LDB, as it is a great way to leverage our professional and/or creative talents for something positive in our communities.

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



For questions on puppy placement, pick-up, supplies, training advice, and questions regarding Prison Puppies, please contact **Laura Fisher, Melissa Raymond, 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).



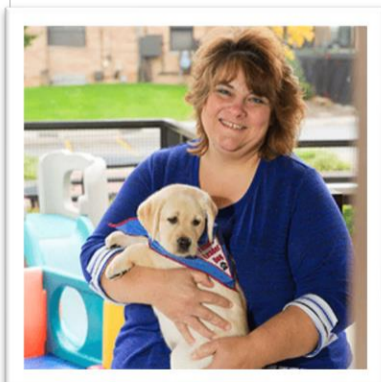
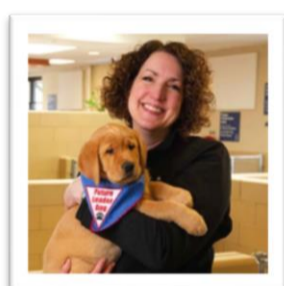
The **Puppy Raiser Advisory Committee** is a volunteer group that addresses puppy raiser concerns.

Puppy Raiser Website & Puppy Raiser Manual

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



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.



Who Do I Contact?



Breeding Team

Contact the Breeding team for questions about breeding stock dogs or dog donations.



Veterinary Team

For questions about health or medical concerns, contact the Veterinary Department at (248) 651-9011.



Puppy Development

Contact Vijay Joshi, Melissa Raymond, and Laura Fisher for training assistance. Contact Zach Jirik for assistance with the puppy raiser application, updates on dogs in training, and scheduling your puppy's return.



For any general questions email Puppy Development at PuppyDept@LeaderDog.Org.



Name	Title	Phone	Email
Beverly Blanchard	Manager of Canine Development	248-650-7113 or 888-777-5332 ext 1113	bblanchard@leaderdog.org
Laura Fisher	Puppy Development Coordinator	248-218-6422 or 888-777-5332 ext 2075	lfisher@LeaderDog.Org
Melissa Raymond	Puppy Development Coordinator	248-218-6686 or 888-777-5332 ext 2086	Melissa.Raymond@leaderdog.org
Vijay Joshi	Puppy Development Coordinator	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.
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