**Harness & Leash**

**Edition 38**

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

I am very excited to announce that Leader Dog is now open to all US and Canadian clients for O&M Training and Guide Dog Training! Our first on-campus Canadian client arrived on October 31. We can’t wait to have more people on campus soon.

Because we are bringing more clients to campus, we continue to observe safety protocols in class including requiring masks to be worn in common areas and when within six feet of others.

Don’t miss the information on our second virtual T.O.M. Talks (Technology, Orientation and Mobility) later in this newsletter.

We continue to be here for your needs. Please contact the client services department at 888-777-5332 extension 1 if we can assist you in any way.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays.

**Two Ways to Stay Connected with LDB**

If you haven’t already participated in one of our Alumni Hour virtual events, give it a try. It is a great way to meet other alumni, hear from LDB team members and share your own experiences. All Leader Dog graduates are welcome to join and share stories regarding travels with their white cane or guide dog.

Alumni Hour is held the first Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. EST. This is exclusively for LDB alumni, so do not share the link or call-in number outside of this group. You can join online via Zoom or by phone.

To join online, enter the following link into your browser: https://leaderdog-org.zoom.us/j/95644864327?

pwd=bkdON0s5TzZ2TVlhbnZEUFN0elFvdz09

To join by cell phone, dial 1-646-558-8656 then enter meeting ID 95644865327 and passcode 061366 when prompted.

If you are calling long-distance on your home phone, use a phone number below for the location closest to you and enter meeting ID 95644865327 and passcode 061366 when prompted.

Chicago 312-626-6799

Houston 346-248-7799

New York 646-558-8656

San Jose 669-900-9128

Tacoma 253-215-8782

Washington DC 301-715-8592

Another great way to stay connected with LDB and learn more about other services provided by organizations serving the blind and low vision community, is to join our Collaboration Events. These are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. EST.

To register in advance for these meetings, go to https://leaderdog-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/

tJEucuioqzgpGd0iiUjtV6Td3V\_cvm0FX032

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**O&M Corner – Different Tips for Different Trips**

Long white canes come in many different makes and models, but so do the tips that go with them. Some canes have interchangeable tips, like Ambutech’s hook tip that attaches to a bungie cord at the end of the cane. Here are some commonly used tips and which environment fits their design.

Small tips include the pencil, ceramic and metal glide. The pencil tip has a plastic pencil-like shape, is about two inches long with a rounded end and is about the same diameter as the long cane. The ceramic tip is shaped like a convex half-circle. The metal glide tip is shaped like a small pancake and has a slightly greater diameter than the cane. These are fixed position tips which means they do not roll. They are small which provides a high amount of tactile feedback because the smaller the tip, the more feedback is felt. These tips are commonly used indoors because the surface is usually smooth. They are lightweight, making them good to use in conjunction with the two-point touch or constant contact cane techniques.

The marshmallow tip is plastic with a marshmallows’ shape and size but not its delicious taste. This tip can come as a roller tip that can rotate laterally, or a fixed tip, which is slightly smaller than the roller. Many cane users like this tip because it has a good balance of size, weight and tactile feedback. The rolling marshmallow is great for constant contact cane technique because the rolling feature results in less friction with the surface; for this reason, this tip can be effective in indoor and outdoor environments because it rolls over smaller cracks in the surface.

The category of large tips includes the rolling ball and jumbo roller. These tips are characterized by their round shape and lateral rolling movement which make them ideal for constant contact technique. The rolling ball is about the size of a tennis ball; the jumbo roller is the size and shape of a hockey puck, but thinner. These tips are the heaviest which causes fatigue when using two-point touch. The tips roll over most cracks or bumps on the surface which makes them great for outdoor use, like trail walking on dirt or gravel paths.

The Dakota Disc is shaped like a small Frisbee and is plastic and hollow. This tip is great for walking through sand or dirt trails because it stays on top of the surface. However, with its larger size this tip offers a lower amount of tactile feedback.

These are some of the more commonly used tips, but there are others. In the end, tips are subject to the preference of the user.

**T.O.M. Talks (Technology, Orientation and Mobility)**

Back by popular demand, T.O.M. Talks presents an awesome lineup of virtual activities focused on the next steps for independent travel, professional readiness and networking for people ages 18–24.

To accommodate the busy schedules of this age group, the weeklong program is partly self-guided and partly live via Zoom. Daily content is 60–90 minutes in length with live sessions taking place at 8 p.m. EST. The program runs from January 10–14, 2022. You can learn more and apply at Leaderdog.org/programs/tom-talks/

**In Memory of Sebastian McPherson**

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Sebastian McPherson. In his most recent role with Leader Dog, Sebastian was our apprentice supervisor. He did wonders in this position and taught our up-and-coming guide dog mobility instructors (GDMIs) with knowledge, patience and humor. His work will touch many of you for years to come as the GDMIs he trained become your skilled instructors.

Before coming to Leader Dog as a GDMI, Sebastian worked for Guide Dog Foundation in New York as their apprentice program manager and prior to that, at Guide Dogs in the UK starting his career in 1986! The guide dog industry feels the loss of this very talented individual.

**Do Your Holiday Shopping Now and Get 15% Off**

All clients receive 15% off at our online gift shop. Enter code “15OFF” at checkout to claim your discount. If you have questions or issues with the gift shop website, contact Kim Thomas, gift shop coordinator, at 888-777-5332.

**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 them at clientservices@leaderdog.org.

**Questions, Comments or Suggestions**

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