



April 2023



Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 16 - 22, 2023

Virtual Quarterly Meeting
"Whelping"
April 22, 2023
10-12pm

Leader Dogs for the Blind

Message from the Breeding Program Manager,
Dana Hunter

I hope you are enjoying the nicer weather and finally getting some critical Vitamin D! If you haven't already, you will be receiving a gift of appreciation from our team to yours. It's a small token of our thanks for all you do to ensure we have quality future Leader Dogs for our clients. I also hope you are able to take advantage of the reciprocal admission discounts to some Detroit metro establishments.



Host Home Mentors:

- Ann Bonds –
annbonds@gmail.com
- Emma Jo Haden –
emmajo.haden@gmail.com
- Pam Kirk -
gymteachk12@aol.com

Breeding Specialists

Alex Guigar, LVT & Sam McCormick, LVT
248-218-6403, breeding@leaderdog.org

Manager of Breeding and Puppy Care
Dana Hunter
248-218.6327
dana.hunter@leaderdog.org

Litter Letter

April 2023

Happenings of Interest

Welcome on-board Christina Rybicki, Breeding Assistant!!

While not new to Leader Dogs (she comes to us from Puppy Care), Christina has taken a new position as our Breeding Assistant. She will be supporting the breeding team with daily aspects of canine breeding and data entry. You might encounter her through appointments and host family communications. Christina is excited to work more closely with your LDMs and LDDs and share her passion and love for our breeding stock community!



Nova's Litter

Our first IBC (International Breeding Co-operative) dog, Nova, has had her 4th litter. We are so fortunate to support the co-operative by hosting her and her very large litter of puppies! Five of her puppies will become future Leader Dogs and six of them will head out on new adventures with other ADI schools. Special thanks to her temporary host, Dawn Gialanella and family.



MISSION MOMENT



"Already things have changed. I'm way more independent, way more confident. It's like having a person with you, a great emotional support. And people talk to me!"

#MissionMonday

Our mission is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

Litter

Letter



Did you know that grooming your dog not only keeps them looking good, but it is also essential for their overall health and well-being?!

It never hurts to “brush up” on your skills at home. Grooming your dog is a nice way to spend some extra bonding time, and it assists in making your dog more comfortable with being handled. Reward your dog along the way with treats/kibble. It should be a relaxing and enjoyable experience for them.



Top Five Tips for Grooming at Home

1. **EYES:** Start by washing your hands and then checking your dog's eyes. If there is any discharge, use a clean, damp cloth or cotton ball and wipe away from the eye. Notify the vet team if you notice any changes or abnormalities.
2. **EARS:** Next, check your dog's ears for signs of redness, discharge, or other problems. Breeds with floppy ears and those who like swimming, like Labs and Golden Retrievers, are prone to infections and need their ears cleaned more regularly than other dogs.
3. **NAILS:** Now work your way around the rest of your dog's body including their paws, feeling for new lumps, bumps, and ticks. Trim nails with the use of a dremel or a claw nail clipper.
4. **TEETH:** Oral hygiene is important for the general health of your dog, not to mention a good preventative measure to avoid tooth loss and the risks associated with anesthesia. Use a brush and paste at least 3x/week. Contact us if you need more paste or a new toothbrush.
5. **COAT:** Massage your dog gently to loosen the undercoat. Using a rake, especially if you have a Golden, or a paddle brush or Zoom groom tool, brush from tip to tail avoiding the face. A dog's ears, abdomen and legs receive less pressure because these areas are more sensitive. And take some extra TLC brushing through tangles on tails. Start at the bottom of long fur and carefully work your way up.



[For quick tips click here](#)

Grooming Appointments - Now Available!!

Breeding and Puppy Care attendants will now be offering our host families grooming appointments on Thursdays from 2 – 3PM. If you are unable to drop-off and pick-up during that time, you can leave your Leader Dog dad or mom with us for daycare. This is not approved for dogs on quarantine.

Call ahead and schedule a spa visit today!

Contact the Breeding Department to schedule your dog's visit 248-218-6403



April 2023

Puppy Food Change

Going forward, Purina ProPlan Large Breed Puppy will be Leader Dog's food of choice for all of our puppies from weaning through their return to Leader Dog for formal training. To make this transition easier for you and your litters, please read through the following:

Q: When does this change go into effect?

A: As of May 1, 2023, the free bag of puppy food you pick up from Premier Pet Supply will be the Large Breed Chicken and Rice (see photo)

Q: If I currently have a litter at home, do I need to change them over?

A: No, we will make the transition for your puppies once they arrive on campus.

Q: What if I have a few bags of the regular Purina ProPlan puppy?

A: You can continue feeding this formula until you have finished your supply. You will be asked at litter return which type of food you were feeding and we can do the transition once the litter returns.

Q: What if I need to buy another bag of food for a litter that is already eating the regular puppy food?

A: You can buy the new Purina ProPlan Large Breed Chicken and Rice formula and over the course of a week, transition the puppies from the regular puppy food to the new Large Breed formula.

Q: What food should I buy in preparation for this transition?

A: First, remember you do get a free bag of food with each confirmed litter. However, if you want to be fully stocked and you have not yet picked up a bag of the regular puppy food, you should purchase the new Purina ProPlan Large Breed Puppy Chicken and Rice. (see photo)



This change reduces the need for puppy raisers to transition their future leader dogs from puppy to adult food between 4-5 months of age (old protocol). Now they will be transitioned to the adult food when they return for formal training and they have a better established gut biome.

We will be updating our paper handouts and manuals with this updated information. Should you have any questions, please just ask!



April 2023

Litters Born

We would like to celebrate the following LDMs and LDDs on their recent litters

Date of Birth	Dam	Sire	Puppies	Breed
4/6/2023	Tiger	Garcia	7	Labrador Retriever
4/1/2023	Truvy	Hartley	5	Labrador Retriever
3/31/2023	Jazmin	Teddy	9	Golden/Labrador Retriever
3/31/2023	Hazel	Manu	7	Labrador Retriever
3/24/2023	Sophie	Gunner	6	Labrador Retriever
3/19/2023	Theia	Papi	4	Labrador Retriever
3/18/2023	Yoshi	Royal	1	Labrador Retriever
3/2/2023	Nova	Sam	11	Labrador Retriever
2/25/2023	Glee	MacGyver	6	Labrador Retriever
2/18/2023	Koa	Hartley	3	Labrador Retriever
2/17/2023	Charlie	Arbor	8	Labrador Retriever
2/11/2023	Elsie	Boulder	4	Labrador Retriever
1/28/2023	Lilly	Billy	6	Golden Retriever
1/5/2023	Delphi	Teddy	5	Labrador Retriever
1/5/2023	Sylvie	Kapten	6	Labrador/Golden Retriever
1/4/2023	Amber	Briggs	3	Labrador Retriever
1/2/2023	Harper	Manu	8	Labrador Retriever
12/21/2022	Leia	Arbor	8	Labrador Retriever
12/17/2022	Poppy	Rock	1	Labrador Retriever
12/16/2022	Abby	Teddy	3	Golden/Labrador Retriever
12/2/2022	Elsa	Papi	3	Labrador Retriever
11/28/2022	Olive	MacGyver	6	Labrador Retriever
11/28/2022	Xena	Rodeo	5	Labrador Retriever
11/25/2022	Birdie	Davey	5	Labrador Retriever
11/24/2022	Lily	Buddy	1	F2-Golden Retriever

Litter

Letter



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Last Litters

We would like to continue paying tribute to the Moms and Dads that have recently retired. We would like to thank and recognize these breeding stock dogs and their host homes for their contribution to the Leader Dog mission.

Retirement Date	Call Name	Host Home Owner
11/9/2022	Lucy Rose	Lisa O'Brien
11/30/2022	Whisky	Lisa Ann Konczak
11/30/2022	Denim	Jaclyn Bates
1/6/2023	Chloe	Gretchen Waters
2/14/2023	Sage	Erin Grzesik
2/15/2023	Poppy	Greg or Mary Beth Copp
3/21/2023	Mary	Wanda Meissner

RESOURCE PAGE FOR BREEDING HOSTS

<https://www.leaderdog.org/breeding-hosts>

Breeding Host Manuals

[Female Host Home Manual](#)

[Male Host Home Manual](#)

Printable Data Sheets

[Post Breeding/Post Whelp Charts](#)

[Whelping Chart \(Puppy Birth Record\)](#)

[Early Neurological Stimulation Exercises](#)

[Litter Weight Records](#)

Resources

[Tube Feeding Instruction Video](#)

[Swimmer Puppy Massages](#)

[Online Learning Modules](#)

There are two new resources recently added links* to our Host Home Resource Page! Don't forget to review the online learning modules!

General Information

[Quarterly Meeting April 4/22/2023 @ 10 am -- Click to Join](#)

[Host Home Survey](#)

[Social Media Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)