



NEADS HERE AND NOW

NEADS World Class Service Dogs change lives

Fall 2022



Cuter by the Dozen

With great delight, NEADS has welcomed the first litter of puppies born in the **brand-new Breeding Center**. The Donut Litter inaugurates a much-anticipated new era for NEADS.

Supermom Lexi delivered a jaw-dropping 12 squishy bundles of joy on July 24. That's double the average Labrador litter, so Lexi really deserves that supermom title. Congratulations, Lexi—and thank you for getting the new Center off and running!

Lexi spent the last days of her pregnancy being cared for in an area especially for pregnant moms, and her pups were born in a **state-of-the-art delivery room**. An additional benefit of the new center is a **private, outdoor yard** directly off the delivery room just for the new moms.

Delivering 12 puppies is a marathon for any mom. Lexi whelped her first at 9pm and finished up at 6am the next morning. Not surprisingly, she didn't much want to eat during labor, so Manager of Breeding and Puppy Development Kate Albertini and Nursery Attendant Corinne Donahue gave her a spoonful of vanilla ice cream between each pup. Corinne and Kate had a long night, too. A staff work hub adjacent to the delivery room and **comfortable staff quarters** in the building made it easier.

Two days after birth, Lexi and her family moved to the **Acadia Whelping Pod**, where Lexi could rest and nurse her babies. Here, the all-important socialization process with puppies begins three days after they are born. Gentle handling and soft voices begin to accustom them to people.

Many thanks to all whose support has helped us create this state-of-the-art Breeding Center, including lead donors Larry and Nanine Costa and those who supported the spaces mentioned in this article: Anthony Matteo & Denise Ranucci (delivery room); James & Eileen Henderson (staff break area); A. Kim Saal (staff lounge); Julie Wolf (Acadia Whelping Pod); and Laura J. Niles Foundation (brood yard).

NEADS World Class Service Dogs

Is pleased to introduce

The Donut Litter

Boston, Chocolate, Éclair, Strawberry, Butternut, Glaze, Maple, Jelly, Coconut, Vanilla, Munchkin, Sprinkles



*Born July 24, 2022, between 9pm & 6am
Weight 10 pounds 4 ounces*

The power wash system and a grooming tub keep dogs and pod safely clean. In a myriad of ways big and small, reports Kate, whelping and raising puppies is more efficient and easier for dogs and staff alike.

What's all this about donuts? When our pups are born, we don't yet know if they'll go into our program or head to another that's a better fit. Our puppies get their "real" names through donations to our Name a Puppy Program when they are accepted as future NEADS Service Dogs. Until then, we use their "litter" names. Breeding Center staff have a lot of fun coming up with these – we've had litters named for pasta shapes, Pokemon characters, and ice cream flavors, among many others. Lexi's adorable dozen immediately made nursery staff think of the joy in a box of donuts! 🐾

From the CEO

Welcome to our fall newsletter.

We are thrilled to have whelped our very first litter in the new Breeding Center, and hope you enjoy our “birth announcement.” The 12 puppies from this litter mark a key milestone. Puppies entering our training program from this and subsequent litters will help secure our future as a leading provider of World Class Service Dogs.



The potential these dogs have to make a life-changing impact is no better demonstrated than through stories like that of Assistance Dog Jonesy. I hope you enjoy reading about Jonesy’s great work in the classroom and the impact he has on the entire school.

Donor support is critical to our mission to breed, raise, train, and match World Class Service Dogs. Taking part in our annual *Get Dressed. Give Back.* fundraising event is one way to get involved. With the Boston Seaport as a backdrop, this festive cocktail party-style event features a few new additions this year, including live music from one of my favorite bands, Martin and Kelly. We hope you will consider joining us on September 30 as a sponsor, silent auction supporter, advertiser, or attendee. You can find more about the event on the back page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry DeRoche'.

Gerry DeRoche, *Chief Executive Officer*

You can make life-changing matches possible by giving today. Fill out the included envelope to get started or give online at neads.org/donate

JOIN THE KENDRICK LEGACY CIRCLE AND CHANGE A LIFE

Planned gifts of any size are a powerful way to support NEADS without impacting your current assets. These gifts are simple to arrange and may offer valuable tax benefits. Please visit NEADS.org/PlannedGiving or contact Melissa Baern (mbaern@neads.org) for more information.

Creating Smiles: Christine Brouillard



Christine Brouillard never stops smiling when she talks about her partner, Assistance Dog for the Classroom Jonesy. Which is fitting, as she says “he creates smiles.”

Christine is an elementary school counselor at Mill Pond School in Westborough, MA. Jonesy joined her on her birthday in October, 2021, and she says he’s not only the best birthday gift she’s ever gotten, “he’s just the BEST.”

“Jonesy has a way of generating smiles, laughter, and connections that make our school an even kinder, happier place to learn,” Christine says. The team begins each day by welcoming Christine’s 300 students as they arrive at school. He loves to be patted hello or just waved at. Christine says she’ll often notice that a student who may have been having a tough morning will greet Jonesy and blossom into smiles.

Christine says he’s made a tremendous impact on her students. During the day, an upset child can often be calmed by a quick walk with Jonesy and Christine or just a warm doggy hug. “We take a few minutes with Jonesy, practice some coping strategies and then the child is ready to



learn again,” explains Christine. Children who struggle with reading find a nonjudgmental listener in Jonesy and their confidence grows. Suddenly they clamor for the opportunity to do something they thought was extremely challenging.

It’s not uncommon for students to arrive in Christine’s office in tears. And then Jonesy gets to show off a little. “When Jonesy brings you tissues when you’re crying,” Christine laughs, “you don’t need the tissues anymore!”

Every area of her students’ wellbeing has flourished, thanks to Jonesy. By calming and loving them, he helps children find the right mental state for learning. Jonesy both inspires and extends compassion and empathy.

But it isn’t only their emotional and academic lives that are affected. He encourages physical activity with fun on the playground and when kids help Christine walk him. When they play with him or tell each other how much they love dogs, he helps them build new friendships.

d and Assistance Dog Jonesy



“For some reluctant students, Jonesy is a key factor in helping them feel comfortable to come to school,” Christine says softly. As she prepared for this new school year, she heard from students who told her they were anxious about new teachers and new classrooms but they couldn’t wait to see Jonesy.

It’s not just the students who lean on Jonesy for support. Teachers frequently visit Christine’s office after school, asking “Can I have some Jonesy time?” Christine points out that teachers have long days and hard jobs—“they care so much and go out of their way to meet their students’ needs.” Jonesy seems to understand this and is always eager to offer his support. Jonesy’s impact has been just as important for them.

Jonesy and Christine end each day as they began it, warmly wishing each child goodbye. Jonesy is off duty now. “I’m so lucky I get to take him home,” Christine says. He’s a beloved part of their family when he’s not working. And every morning, he’s eager to get back to school for another day of creating smiles. 🐾



Community Fundraising Your Way

NEADS welcomes individuals, community and school groups, companies, and clubs to join our Community Fundraisers — a passionate group of individuals and organizations that support the NEADS mission. If you have a love for running, biking, baking, or just coming together with good friends around a common cause, you can turn that passion into raising crucial funds that help NEADS change lives. Visit neads.org/community to join.

Each year, our Community Fundraisers find many unique ways to fundraise on our behalf. Here are just a few of the creative fundraisers we’ve seen in recent months.



PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

When our friend Teagan turned 5 earlier this year, instead of presents, she asked her friends and family to send her a TON of stuff from the NEADS wish list. We think that’s pretty awesome! 🐾



A YEAR OF FUNDRAISING

The Ashland HS National Honor Society hosted several fundraisers throughout the school year, raising nearly \$4,000 for NEADS, which they presented during a school assembly. NEADS Service Dog Ambassadors Loring and Verna were in attendance. 🐾



THE SWEET SPOT

McCrea’s Candies, known for their incredibly delicious caramel confections, donated a portion of sales from their adorable advent calendar last holiday season. What a sweet treat! 🐾



DINING FOR A CAUSE

3 years ago, Sarah and NEADS Service Dog Edison visited Otus Thai Kitchen in LA. The staff was enamored with Edison and decided to host a percent of sales fundraiser, the first in the restaurant’s history and a tradition they’ve continued. 🐾



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NEADS World Class Service Dogs change lives



Join us for an evening on Boston Harbor featuring fantastic food, live music, an open bar, exclusive shopping, and a silent auction.

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Melissa Moore &
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Get Dressed. Give Back.



When Sept. 30, 2022
6:30 - 11:00 p.m.



Where THE EXCHANGE
212 Northern Ave.
Boston, MA
FREE on site parking

SPONSORSHIPS

Include tickets to the event, a reserved table, a program ad, and recognition on the NEADS website

New! SILENT AUCTION SPONSORSHIPS

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TICKETS

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neads.org/GDGB2022

after party snacks
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