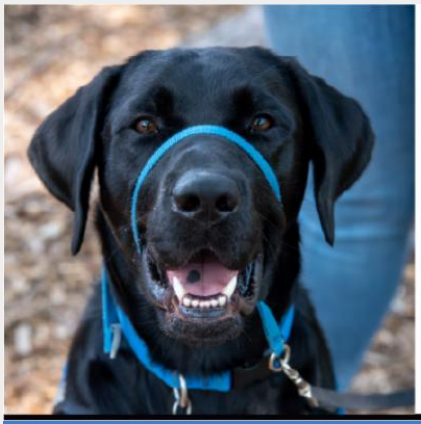


THE CANINE CHRONICLE

News for NEADS Puppy Raisers

APRIL 2025

Greetings Puppy Raisers,

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and there's no better time to celebrate the incredible impact you make every day. Your dedication, time, and love shape the future of NEADS Service Dogs, and we are beyond grateful for all that you do. Keep an eye on your inbox—something special is coming your way soon!

This month, we're also excited to introduce Paw It Forward, a new way to recognize and celebrate the amazing community you've built together. Whether it's offering advice, lending a hand, or simply being there for each other, your support makes a difference. We hope you'll join us in sharing stories of fellow Puppy Raisers who have inspired you!

We're also welcoming new puppies, celebrating recent matches, and reflecting on the ways our program continues to evolve. Thanks to your efforts, NEADS is growing—new Puppy Raisers from Rhode Island are joining our community, and more Service Dogs are on their way to changing lives.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your work doesn't just raise puppies—it builds futures.

With gratitude,

Heather Romanoff
Manager of Raiser Operations

Volunteer Appreciation Month

A Special Thank You is Headed Your Way



Volunteer Appreciation Week is almost here, and we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible impact you make as a NEADS Puppy Raiser. Your dedication, time, and love help shape the future of our Service Dogs, and we can't thank you enough.

Keep an eye on your inbox on Sunday, April 21—something special is coming your way!

A New Way to Celebrate Fellow Puppy Raisers

Introducing Paw It Forward

At NEADS, we know that raising a future Service Dog is a team effort, and our Puppy Raisers are at the heart of it all. Every day, volunteers support each other—offering advice, lending a hand, or simply providing encouragement. Now, we're giving you the chance to recognize those moments and celebrate the incredible community we've built together.

Paw It Forward is a new initiative designed to spotlight the dedication, kindness, and teamwork within our Puppy Raiser community. We're inviting you to share stories about fellow Puppy Raisers who have made a difference—whether they've been a mentor, a source of encouragement, or gone above and beyond in any way.

How It Works:

Submit a short story about a Puppy Raiser who has inspired you, supported you, or positively impacted the NEADS community.

Selected stories will be featured in the Canine Chronicle and other digital platforms. Keep the appreciation going—each featured Puppy Raiser will have the opportunity to "Paw It Forward" by recognizing someone else in the next issue!

Ready to recognize someone special? Submit your story today on the **Puppy Raiser Resource Center** (pw PuppyRaiser or FTRaiser).

Significance of a Name

CHIEF was named by members of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit. The members provided the information on the significance of the name "Chief." Chief is a term used for many Non-Commissioned Officers in the military, particularly in the US Navy and US Coast Guard. They are leaders of ordinary men but as respected as Commanding Officers. They run the show!

U.S. Navy chief petty officers are afforded more responsibility than any other enlisted rank in the world. More than 50 chief petty officers have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

LYNNIE - A group of friends collected funds to name a puppy in memory/honor of Lynn Gardner, weekend puppy raiser and did full time raising during the pandemic. Lynnie is her nickname.

BONNIE is named in honor of Bonnie Raitt. From the sponsor, "We chose names of famous and beloved musicians. We love music because it is uplifting and speaks to all languages. We hope the puppy grows up to lift someone's spirits."

TINSEL is the favorite dog name of the sponsor.

It Takes a Team to Raise a Pup - and Pull a Truck!

Get ready to flex your muscles and have a blast at the annual NEADS **Pulling 4 Paws Truck Pull**. This

exciting event brings together teams to compete in pulling an 18-wheeler, all in support of NEADS World Class Service Dogs. This year marks our third participation as the Redemption Rock Raisers, and we're aiming to make it our best yet!

EVENT DETAILS

- Date: Sunday, June 1, 2025
- Time: 11am-3pm
- Location: Polar Park, 100 Madison Street, Worcester, MA 01608

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

- Team Sizes: Choose from three categories:
    - Tier 1: Individual pullers
    - Tier 2: Teams of 2–5 pullers
    - Tier 3: Teams of 6–10 pullers
- Fundraising Commitments:
    - Individual Pullers: $750 total ($100 registration + $650 fundraising)
    - Teams of 2–5: $2,500 total ($200 registration + $2,300 fundraising)
    - Teams of 6–10: $3,500 total ($300 registration + $3,200 fundraising)

The day promises fun for everyone, including batting practice in the WooSox batting cage, family games like Giant Jenga, and the Zoomies 4 Paws kids' run around the warning track. Delicious ballpark food, beer, and wine will be available for purchase.

Although the day will be a lot of fun, we want to raise funds for NEADS to support the training of future Service Dogs. Team members are encouraged to actively fundraise through social media and daily interactions.

READY TO JOIN?

Spots are limited, so reach out to **Heather** to secure your place on the Redemption Rock Raisers team. Even if you're unable to participate in the pull, we welcome you to come and cheer us on!

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PUPPY RAISERS

Please consult with your Instructor regarding your Service Dog in Training's level to attend the event. If you plan to attend and require a Dog Sitter for the day, inform your Instructor in advance.

Let's come together for a day of strength, fun, and community spirit, all in support of NEADS World Class Service Dogs!

Support Changes



One of the biggest changes we have looked to make over the last three years has been to update and change the ways that we offer support and your access to that support. This can sometimes mean that we try something new that doesn't quite hit the mark.

Earlier this year, we launched the Transition Support Group. This group was meant to offer guided support from a fellow Puppy Raiser and Ambassador to help each community member that may be struggling with the transitions that come with being a Puppy Raiser. Your feedback has shown us that this wasn't the support that you needed.

At this time, we're choosing to close down the group. If we see a need for a support group like this in the future, we can explore its relaunch.

Thank you to Nancy Bodwell for offering this support and for manning the line each and every Wednesday. Your dedication to the community is much appreciated!

Welcoming New Puppies

In addition to the three puppies below, we have two puppies that will travelling to us from a school in Connecticut. They will be available to go home with Puppy Raisers the last week of May.



Nicholas

We're happy to report that Nicholas has found his footing with Team Raisers Ralph Hughes and Heidi Kaufman. Nicholas will be the third SDiT this duo has raised together. Nicholas has been living it up on the Cape with Sue Feit helping him get a great start.



Daybreak

Your eyes do not deceive you; this puppy is nearly all white! Daybreak is a silly girl that loves to play and has a personality that is twice her physical size. She is Riley's sister. Daybreak is being raised by new Full-Time Puppy Raiser Kathy Batchelor.

Riley

Although Riley looks almost identical to his sister, this big guy has a streak of reddish gold on his back. He is a smart guy and is curious about the world. Riley is being raised by new Full-Time Puppy Raiser Anthony Oakes.



Recent Matches

We have three recently matched dogs that are proof that it takes a village to prepare these world class Service Dogs for their future roles. So many of you have played a part in helping these three dogs become exceptional.



Service Dog for a Child Homer

Service Dog for a Child Homer is clearly proud to wear his well-earned reds!

Homer's loving and kind heart will surely mean the world to his new client as they navigate the world together. Homer journeyed through the Prison Pup Journey and had three stops before making his way to the NEADS String Training Program.

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser Elizabeth Strickland who got Homer started at the Farm.

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser and Council Member, Maria Uribe, for raising Homer out of Framingham.

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser Lindsay Semas who helped Homer conquer adolescence at Norfolk.

Thank you, Weekend Puppy Raiser Kristin Buckley, for wrapping up all of Homer's socialization in the String Training Program.

All of you working to help Homer reach this new phase truly embody what it means to work together.

Assistance Dog Missy

Assistance Dog Missy is ready to get to work with her new human partner. Not to just

make a difference in the life of one person, but an entire school of children. With a heart as big as hers, we know she's ready for this important career.

She's going to have the best mentor possible as she works around Assistance Dog Bentley.

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser Nancy Vargas for helping to get Missy off to a great start at the Farm.

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser Byan Sheehan for raising Missy from Framingham to Norfolk!

Thank you to Weekend Puppy Raiser Sherrie Milkowski for raising Missy from the NEADS String Training Program for her final steps.



Assistance Dog Missy



Assistance Dog Bentley is patiently waiting for his new protégé.

Assistance Dog Sara



Assistance Dog Sara had an interesting start with NEADS. Her first Full-Time Puppy Raiser was a familiar name for most of you- Rachael Bell. Rachel is the NEADS full-time Veterinarian Coordinator!

After her start with Rachael, Sara headed to one of our legendary Full-Time Puppy Raisers in Maine, Linda Sargent.

From there, Sara spent 12 months in JJ Moran and with Weekend Puppy Raiser, Jessica White, before landing in the String Training program and Weekend Puppy Raiser Linas Jauniskis.

Thank you all for helping to shape the incredible Assistance Dog that Sara is today!

Reminder:
NEADS Medical Team Updated Hours and Contact Information

A reminder that the NEADS Medical Team has extended hours and updated contact information to improve our accessibility and service to you. The NEADS Medical Team is available from 8am to 8pm.

To ensure efficient communication, we highly recommend reaching out to us via email at medical@neads.org. This email address allows all team members to receive your message, regardless of their location, and ensures a prompt response. For urgent matters, we aim to reply within 2 hours, unless there is an unexpected surge in contacts.

Emergency call number: 978-563-1495.

We hope that by having one number, we can streamline the process of reaching someone in the Medical team more efficiently. During regular business hours, we strive to return emergency calls within 30 minutes. In case of a medical emergency, please take immediate action by visiting your nearest urgent veterinary care facility if it is after hours.

If you are uncertain about the nature of your concern, please refer to the Medical Manual available on the Puppy Raiser Portals. The manual provides a comprehensive list of symptoms to help you determine whether your issue is urgent, an emergency, or a non-emergency.

Non-urgent or non-emergency emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

We appreciate your cooperation and are committed to providing the best care for your needs.

Puppy Raiser Resource Center

Weekend Puppy Raisers enter with password PuppyRaiser
Full Time Puppy Raisers enter with password FTRaiser

Please contact **Audrey Trieschman** with questions, issues, or suggestions about the portal.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs | P.O. Box 1100 | Princeton, MA 01541 US

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