

THE CANINE CHRONICLE

News for NEADS Puppy Raisers

August 2025

Greetings Puppy Raiser Community,

Our annual Puppy Raiser Appreciation is just a few short weeks away. As always, I am thrilled to see each and every one of you. This is a special year, and I'm looking forward to celebrating everything we have accomplished together.

In preparation for each Puppy Raiser Appreciation, I like to look back at year's past and learned that this will be our ninth year (with 2 years lost due to Covid) celebrating our Puppy Raisers. Many of you may remember that first event as a small gathering that evolved and grew over time to become a major Puppy Raiser event.

I hope that you each enjoy this special day in a new location as you connect with familiar faces, meet digital friends in person, and get to know our newest community members. Thank you to each of you for not only the effort and love you pour into our future Service Dogs, but your efforts in helping us form a more connected and holistic Puppy Raiser community. All of you make it possible for NEADS to continue our mission to change lives.

Thank you for everything you have done and will do as members of this incredible community.

See you on September 6th!

Heather Romanoff
Manager of Raiser Operations

It's Been Quite a Year

As we prepare to celebrate everything that makes our community so special, I'd like to highlight how much we've grown over the last year. In the 2025/2026 fiscal year, Raiser Ops has accepted 63 new community members across all programs. We now have over 200 volunteers working together to raise future Service Dogs and support each other.

When asked to describe this community, I often start by saying that this is the most wonderful group of people that I or anyone could ever be fortunate to meet, and I count myself as being privileged to know all of you. I'm proud of what we have accomplished over the last year and delighted at how far we've come over the last three years. I hope all of you are as well.

Each and every one of you is so important! To our puppies, each other, and the people

whose lives we are working hard to change.

FINAL Puppy Raiser Appreciation Day Reminder

Saturday, September 6, 11:45am-2:30pm

Kimball Farm, 400 Littleton Road, Westford, MA

RSVP by August 22

Details and Registration



Mark your calendars and **RSVP by August 22** to join us for this extra special day.

- Connect with fellow Puppy Raisers from across our Puppy Raiser programs. From Weekend, Full-Time, Teams, and even College. We'll all be there!
- Celebrate all that we've accomplished together as an ever-strengthening community.
- Help us congratulate the Puppy Raisers hitting those big milestones.
- Enjoy the games, rides, and all the ice cream you can eat.

Don't forget about our special guest speaker this year-**Kate Thurman with Service Dog for Hearing and Mobility, Pally**, has been so excited to meet all of you since being matched with Pally last year. She's looking forward to hearing more about your journey and sharing her own. Pally is looking forward to seeing his old friends and showing off all his new skills.

DOG SITTERS FOR THE EVENT

We have a lot of new puppies in the program, which is wonderful, but it does pose limitations for Puppy Raisers with Service Dogs in Training that have not yet experienced this type of environment. Young puppies and even some older SDiT are not prepared to be surrounded by large crowds, loud noises, petting zoo animals, and food smells all at once. They are still learning, and we don't want to push them into this environment before they are ready.

We want to assure you that you *can still attend!* The Raiser Ops team will gladly approve a trusted friend or family member to stay with your SDiT at home, so you don't have to miss out. Just reach out to us for support or approval if needed.



Details and Registration

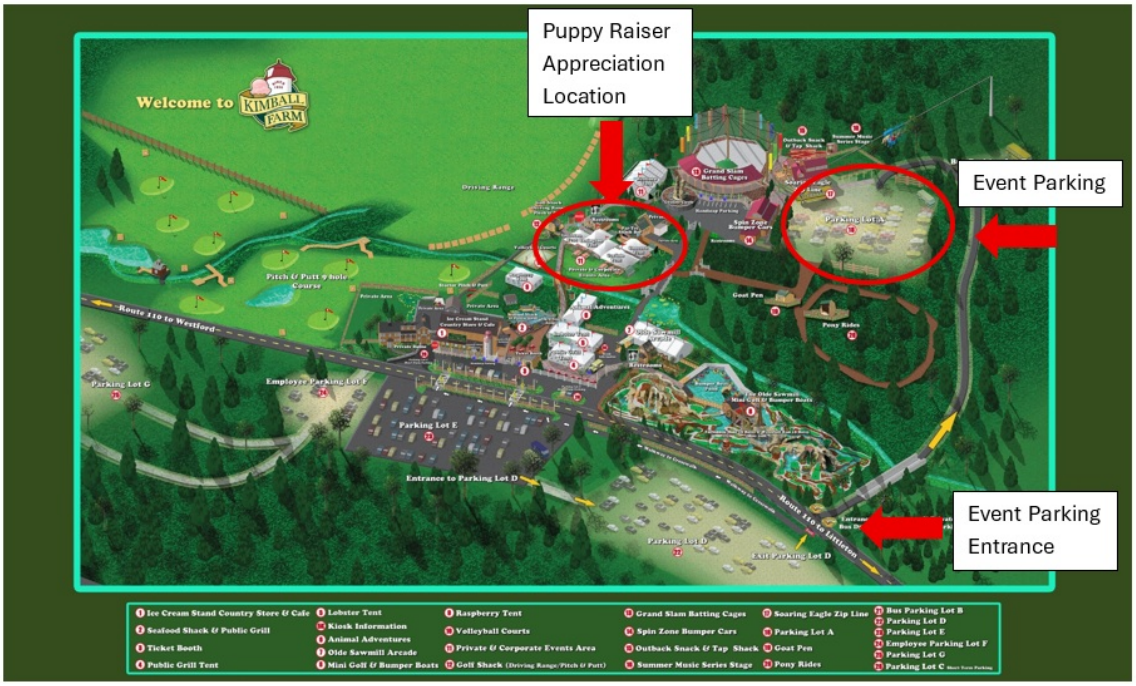
Passwords:
Weekend Puppy Raisers: PuppyRaiser
Full Time Puppy Raisers: FTRaiser

Let's make memories and honor the impact you've made - RSVP today!

PARKING AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Arriving from all points west, south, and southwest of Littleton/Westford
Your GPS will take you to Route 110 (named King Rd on the Littleton side and Littleton Rd on the Westford side). You will be taking the first Kimball Farm entrance on the right side. Look for parking lots A & B signed "**Entrance for Corporate & Private Events**". Weekend Puppy Raiser Council Members will be directing you to your parking spot.

Arriving from all points north and northeast of Westford
Your GPS will take you to Route 110, Littleton Rd. You will most likely hit a long line of traffic before you reach the Kimball Farm property. You will be taking the last entrance on your left. Look for parking lots A &B signed "**Entrance for Corporate & Private Events**". Weekend Puppy Raiser Council Members will be directing you to your parking spot.



Welcome the Newest Puppy Raiser Ambassador



We're thrilled to welcome a familiar face to may, Anne-Marie Chernosky, as our newest Puppy Raiser Ambassador!

Anne-Marie began volunteering as a Weekend Puppy Raiser in 2009 and had been a Weekend Puppy Raiser Council Member for much of her time with us until retiring in 2023. For the last two years, she has continued to be a valuable member of our community by offering dog sitting and store supplies for many of you.
As a Council Member, she helped to form many of the support roles and tools that are now commonly used by all. As an Ambassador, she'll be bringing her years of experience to help us connect with local communities and recruit our next wave of Puppy Raisers.

Welcome to the group Anne-Marie!

Dental Chew Toys to Stay Cool

In our June Canine Chronicle, Kim and Rob Arico updated us on Service Dog in Training puppy Chief's favorite new chew toy. However, some of you received a cold option as part of our dental chew test. These toys can help to keep puppies and dogs cool during hot days.



The Nylabone Chill & Chew bone is a freezable chew bone that is part of the flexi chew line, so it won't lead to damaged teeth (pictured top). This bone can be used as is for a fun chew option or frozen for a cool treat on a hot day.

Others have received a cool pup chew toy (pictured bottom). This option allows you to fill the toy with water, before freezing it. These toys are sealed to prevent fast melting, but they do drip and create condensation on the outside of the toy, so chew should happen on a towel.



For those of you that raise young puppies, both toys can help a puppy through their difficult teething phase. These frozen toys can offer your puppy relief by reducing gum inflammation and pain that they experience during this early phase.
If you have received either of these and would like to offer feedback, reach out to your Instructor. If you know of other great frozen or cooling toys, reach out to Heather (hromanoff@neads.org).

Welcoming New Puppies & Puppy Raisers

Our next round of puppies will be picked up by their new Puppy Raisers in September. We're excited for all of you to meet Justice's second litter of puppies mid-September with another litter entering the program shortly afterwards.

Client Matches

After a short pause, we'll be bringing back client matches next month.

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.

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