



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Empowering people with disabilities to greater heights

May 2011

Potential new service dogs join the Summit family

Our H Litter arrived on March 27. These nine new hopefuls for future service dogs (six girls, three boys) are the offspring of Misty Mountain Miss Independence (Misty) and Gingerbred Celestial Thunder (Zeus) of Misty Mountain Labradors in Woodinville. Toni Leitao and Lorraine Yu, owners of Misty Mountain Labradors donated Misty as a breeding dog. They took her back for whelping and are raising the H Litter pups to eight weeks, when they will be placed with volunteer puppy raisers.

Our thanks to Toni and Lorraine for this most generous gift of future independence for people living with disabilities and to the volunteer puppy raisers who will nurture these pups for up to 12 months until they are ready for advanced training or to be released as wonderful family pets.

You can watch these sweet little pups as they grow day by day on the Misty Mountain Labradors puppy cam: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/retriever-life-puppy-cam-2>. Fair warning! This can be addictive.



Spring graduates are therapy dogs

We're pleased to announce the placement of two of our F Litter pups this spring – Feather and Freddie. Feather has been placed as a skilled therapy dog with Drew, an 8-year-old from Woodinville, who was featured on our website in January. Drew has cerebral palsy and is welcoming the help Feather gives her every day. Freddie will touch many lives in his new career as a facility therapy dog, partnered with Ellie Petri, a physical therapist who has worked in Anacortes and is moving to Snohomish County. Freddie's job is the cheer leader who will help Ellie encourage her patients to push toward recovery.



We need your vote to win a new car!

We have been selected as a finalist in Toyota's "100 Cars for Good" program, and we need your help to win a car.

Mark your calendar for June 5 and vote for Summit Assistance Dogs at www.facebook.com/toyota. It's one day, and one day only. We'll be up against four other non-profits, so we need lots of votes! If you would like an e-mail reminder that day, please send a message to erik@summitdogs.org.

If Summit receives the most votes on June 5, we will win a new 2011 Toyota Prius. This will reduce our mileage reimbursements to employees and will be far more fuel efficient than our aging full-size van, allowing us to redirect those dollars toward acquiring and training dogs.

Please share this news with all your friends and family and ask them to spread the word and vote. We have put together a short video they can watch at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W12kQpC7tKl>.

Staff changes at Summit

We're sadly saying goodbye to a long-time staff member and welcoming some new people this spring.

Sue Levin, who has been with us since May 2005, is retiring to spend more time with her husband, Bob, and their dog, Brenner, a Summit career-change dog. Sue started with Summit as a volunteer when she and Bob moved to Anacortes from California and then was hired in April 2006 as a part-time office manager. She also used her nursing background, working with developmentally disabled patients, to do assessments of applicants for Summit dogs. Most recently, she has served as our Client Services Manager, working with both applicants and graduates.

Kim Bertrand, a part-time employee, will replace Sue when she retires at the end of May. A resident of San Juan Island, Kim has a background in occupational therapy and a passion for working with dogs and people.

Erik Mann recently joined the Summit staff as Development Associate. Erik brings a background as a board member, fundraiser and volunteer with several non-profit organizations in the Oak Harbor area, his home town. He will be working on outreach and fundraising activities.

Emily Drew Smith has joined the staff as a trainer. This Orcas Island resident has been involved with Summit for a couple of years as a volunteer puppy raiser (Fisher and Ace). Within the next couple of months, Emily will take over as Puppy Program Director, freeing up long-time program manager Wendy McDougal to focus on dog health care and advanced training.

Another new face

Thank you to Nina Mann with Harbor-top Labradors for her donation of this adorable Chocolate Lab.

