

SUMMER 2020

# PAWS FOR THOUGHT

## A NEW WAY OF CARING

HOW PADS IS  
CONTINUING TO  
CHANGE LIVES  
DURING COVID-19

## SHINING STARS

HOW MISTER BLAKE IS  
CHANGING LIVES  
LOCALLY & GLOBALLY!

## STORMY & BRITE

BRINGING LIGHT INTO A  
CHALLENGING YEAR!



# A NEW WAY OF CARING

**No words could more fully capture these past months since the Coronavirus hit our lives and our organization than “A Season of Care”. We’ve watched helplessly as some of our village battled for their lives, and have shed many tears of both worry and joy. It has been a season of tremendous stretching, stress and ultimately growth. I could not be more grateful or proud of our community. Their commitment, determination and grit have kept us focused on what matters most: Our clients.**

On March 7th we were putting the final touches on our Gala. The reports of COVID impacting our community had just started showing up in the news. Within the week we had cancelled the event and taken it online.

This was only the beginning. The pages that follow tell the stories of the people that have driven our mission forward through this storm.

## Our community...

There have been fundraisers, donations of “gas money” and great determination in tackling the technology learning curve...but those barely scratch the surface.

What has struck me now more than ever is how our village cares for each other in practical and tangible ways:

- A raiser picking up dog food and offering to deliver to anyone else along the way;
- Phone calls of care that have come through, checking in on each other as well our team;
- The “techies” that stepped up, giving their time and knowledge to teach those around them how to navigate online classes and record videos. This has given us “eyes” on our puppies.

It is with pride and awe that I share that during this season, we have matched and placed 13 new teams. Kudos to the teams and the people involved with raising and training:

- Accredited Facility Dogs Webber, Cirque, Hero & Summer II
- Service [PTSD or Mobility] Dogs Quixley, Truffle, Kylo, Brite, Hammond, Zaria, Winnie and Burke
- Hearing Dog Sassafras



This newsletter is also an ask to partner with us in our mission. I want to continue to report placements and success, but to do so we need your help more than ever.

With this pandemic our industry is facing unprecedented financial challenges and we need your help to get through them.

If you’ve been directly impacted by this pandemic, are off work or struggling in any way, we are sending you our care and concern.

If you’re weathering this storm, even saving because you’ve not had to spend as much on gas, parking or eating out - I’d ask you to consider how you can help.

I invite you this summer to join our team as we “MOVE” for PADS (see page 8) or perhaps more importantly, become a monthly donor (see enclosed letter for details).

Be safe, be kind, be well,

Laura Watamanuk, Executive Director  
laura@pads.ca



## MISSION

PADS supports people with disabilities and community care providers by partnering them with certified assistance dogs.

## VISION

Our clients enjoy life-changing independence and wellness through partnerships with PADS certified assistance dogs.

## PADS BOARD

Rob Walker, Board Chair  
Rick DeHart, Past Chair  
Cara Pavlovic, Treasurer  
Robert DeKlerk, Secretary  
Christine Coletta, Director  
Kim Gramlich, Director  
Nancy Kemble, Director



## COVER PUPS

Golden Retrievers PADS Chloe and PADS Minnie, are both being raised in the **Vancouver Puppy-Raising program.**

Chloe by **Nicole Schnapp** & the **Cooper Family** and the **Lewis Family** and Minnie by the **Fuchs Family**

Photo credit: Katelyn Fuchs

# STORMY & BRITE

**When these names were first placed side by side, the balance and juxtaposition seemed quite perfect indeed. In the months that followed it also described the time in which we are living. What remains apparent is the joy that Stormy and Brite bring to each other; it's a beautiful thing!**

Stormy started her journey towards a canine partner hoping she could raise and train a dog herself. She soon discovered how much went into these amazing dogs, so a local trainer recommended PADS. She'd hoped a Service Dog would help her by retrieving the many things she drops - but was thrilled to find out that a PADS dog could offer so much more: opening and closing doors, drawers and cupboards; turning lights on and off; even helping with dressing and transferring in and out of her wheelchair.

Stormy applied to PADS and almost exactly a year later she was matched with her "Beautiful Brite Lite"! When asked to describe Brite, Stormy told us: "Brite is such a sweet and determined goofball!"



**"Having her around has changed my life drastically. I feel so much more comfortable leaving our home and going out into the world, knowing that Brite's help is right there whenever I need it. Which is often!"**

After a few months, Stormy decided to take on another challenge, walking! Brite is now learning to brace Stormy (who is very petite) while she walks short distances.

"As she was catching on to the new command (with the trainer's help), Brite suddenly got really excited, bounced around all wiggly and then composed herself and went right back into her "stand". It was precious, she seemed absolutely giddy about learning something new!"

It's exciting for staff too, to see a dog thriving happily in an environment where their role is evolving to increase independence.

Stormy was happy with how Team Training "COVID Style" worked out. While there were times they had to repeat themselves on Zoom calls to make sure they understood everything properly, there was a silver lining: "I think that



repetition allowed us to really ingrain the concept into our brains. It felt good to be prepared, it was like I learned Brite's language before I got her."

"The first week Brite was with me was much harder than I thought it would be! She was so perfect, but for some reason I was extremely anxious with the amount of change that was occurring."

Being in her own home with the support of her family was so helpful to deal with this unexpected anxiety. "Brite realized I was anxious and this only seemed to draw her closer to me! Once I realized that I was capable of loving, caring and working with her, my confidence grew. Our bond grew alongside my confidence".

It truly feels as though Brite was meant to be by my side. I'm so grateful for all those that put so much time, love and hard work into her - all those people put their hearts and souls into PADS. For that, I'm incredibly grateful and beyond thankful. You've not only given me my new best friend, but a teammate who is more helpful than I could've ever imagined.



Brite was from the **Retro Toys Litter**, cared for by **the Gunson Family**. She was Puppy-Raised by **Sarala Silver & James Knaut** and **Jan Donald** in the **Calgary Puppy-Raising Program led by Heather Kidd**. Brite had an incredible village of advanced sitters: **Gloria Bednar & Linda Elias, Sue & Don Woodard, Stephanie & Corey Hornick, Jan Donald, and Lani Hyde & Family**. Brite was sponsored by **Sara Blake** and advance trained by **Miranda Turenne**.

# ZOOMING TO GREAT HEIGHTS!

**Momentum is an extraordinary thing, and during a pandemic is no exception. When it hits and you're in the middle of team training—matching clients with their long-awaited dogs—stopping mid-stride seems impossible. You do however need to learn to run and jump and zoom in very short order.**

To keep everyone safe and ensure that our life-changing placements could be accomplished successfully, team training continued via Zoom. The dogs returned home with their new partners (with no public access or vest at first) joining classes online and demonstrating their skills by camera, computer and video. With the “in progress” team training successfully completed, why stop there?! Our amazing Training Manager Margaret Hicks, who describes her “technology immersion” as the biggest challenge of the pandemic: *“It was like teaching an old dog (me) new tricks!”*

And learn tricks (and skills!) we did. Keeping everyone safe and healthy was our number one priority, and as an essential service, PADS had to continue to function in some capacity. We never imagined initially all our team would accomplish in the months to follow.

Dogs and equipment were delivered using strict social distancing protocols. But before that happened, learning happened online - the amazing part is the collaborative nature with which both trainers and clients embraced this new normal with gusto. Staff describe how in one situation the client practiced cues, sequences, and rewards with their husband (in the place of the dog) by video to ensure they had it right, before the dog arrived. It certainly wasn't easy, but the joy that is emanating from our trainers—as they share the victories and new team announcements—is palpable.

One of the silver linings of this time, that will likely stay when we return to normal, has been implementing video homework for the clients. They have the opportunity to watch videos ahead of time, which allows more time to process information. The clients also film themselves

working with and without the dog and then we review the videos together. It really helps to be able to see where things are problematic and of course when they're perfect!

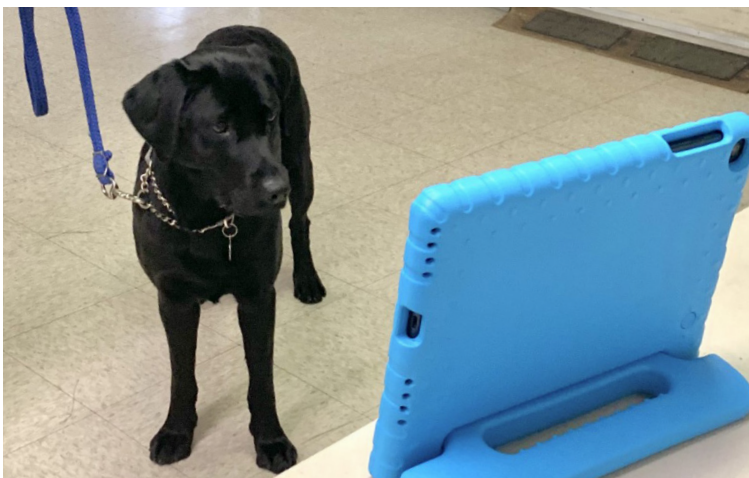
Returning client, Lindsay Hill was matched with PADS Hero (above) as her new Accredited Facility Dog. She shared:



**“Even during these challenging times, I felt incredibly supported during PADS’ remote team training. I was still able to complete all the activities to strengthen my skills as an AFD handler; we practiced in my home, around my neighbourhood, and even in my workplace...all virtually, of course!”**

Our next challenge hit when PADS Hearing Dog Sassafra found her match—how do you train over zoom with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing? Like with everything else, our amazing Instructor Ashley found a solution. She got to work researching technology that would allow the sessions to be captioned, so that Sassafra's waiting client didn't have to wait any longer! As we go to press, Sass (shown at left meeting her client over Zoom!) is travelling to meet her partner in person for the first time.

Congrats to all our new teams (and staff) that have made the most of this challenging time.



# THE STARS **KEEP SHINING**

**Just when we think that mister Blake could not surprise or delight us more, he soars to new heights. He's sponsored the mister Blake 5-Star Litter, the 8-Star Promise Pups, and now we're pleased to introduce the newest additions: The 7-Star Hometown Crew Litter!**

As his logo indicates, **mister Blake's** passion is to make a difference locally and globally. Up until now the litters he's sponsored have remained here at PADS, in the lower mainland - definitely fulfilling the "locally" mandate!

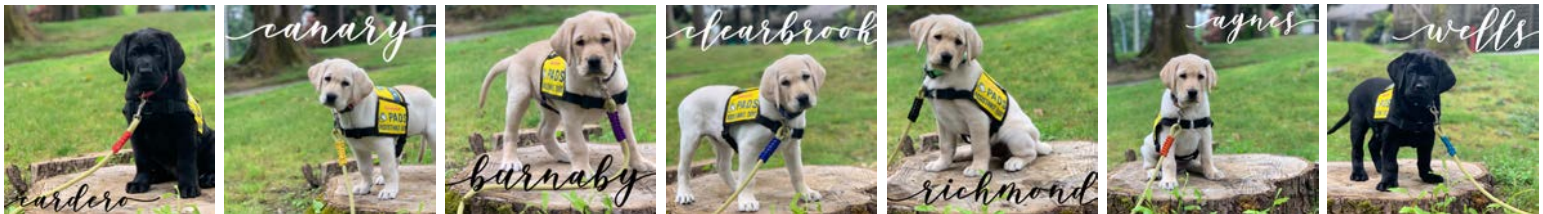
The only thing more amazing than the sweetness and spunk of this current litter, is how far mister Blake's impact will reach. The 7-Star puppies are PADS Sierra II's very first litter, sired by Susquehanna Service Dogs' Gordon. What makes this litter particularly special is that 3 of the puppies (Richmond, Burnaby and Cardero) are headed off to schools across North America - spreading this generosity (and amazing genetics) to schools and future recipients as part of the North American Breeding Cooperative (ABC).

The newest litter are all named after streets where mister Blake has lived. There are 4 girls: Burnaby, Agnes, Clearbrook (Brook) and Canary. The boys are named Wells, Cardero and Richmond.



*mister Blake*  
foundation

making a difference locally & globally



It's been a very different sponsorship. We so enjoy having mister Blake as our guest at our Galas where previous litters have had the opportunity to meet their benefactor, but with COVID that happy reunion will have to wait until it's safe for everyone. This disappointment does not diminish our gratitude for this amazing man's gift. Thank you mister Blake!!

## **"BLAKE" IS ON THE ROAD**

With the addition of the PTSD Service Dog program, an additional client services vehicle was needed to ensure that we could get our staff, clients and dogs where they needed to be safely!

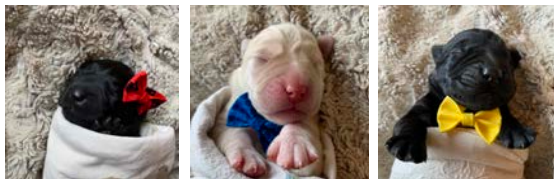
PADS received a generous grant of \$34K from the **BC Community Gaming Grants** program that needed a matching donor. When mister Blake heard this need at Graduation last fall, he not only donated the remaining \$34K, he also shared his considerable expertise with us. His wonderful suggestions ensured the van was not only purchased, adapted for wheelchair use and wrapped but also outfitted for maximum comfort and safety. Thank you mister Blake for your knowledge and support.

Each of our PADS vans is named for the dog that appears on the driver side - so it is only fitting that this one be named "Blake" (and wrapped) with PADS Blake (from mister Blake's 5-Star Litter)!! Blake's first big assignment was delivering PADS Sassafra to her waiting client in Alberta.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Supported by the Province of British Columbia



# MUSICAL ROYALS

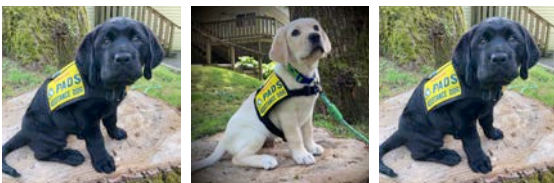
Dubbed the “Eukanuba Litter” these pups were named by PADS’ wonderful Nutrition Partners at **Eukanuba** in recognition of their generous sponsorship of this year’s Gala. In spite of the Gala being cancelled, they remained committed to supporting PADS financially!

The names are a nod to the Jazz roots of the word Eukanuba (which means “The tops” or “Great”) and the “Royal” of Royal Canin (Eukanuba’s parent company):

- **Aretha** (Franklin) the Queen of Soul
- **Freddie** (Mercury) of the band Queen
- **Louis** (Armstrong) the King of Jazz



We were especially fortunate that this litter was reared by PADS Breeding Manager **Jackie Clark and her family**. This allowed Jackie to develop a series with photos and video to educate our community on early puppy development.



Aretha is being raised by the **Fuchs Family**, Freddie by the **Clark Family** and Louis by **Marie Devantier & Michelle Vally**. Check out Jackie’s series of articles on the Eukanuba Litter & Puppy Development at [pads.ca/elfin](https://pads.ca/elfin)

## SWEET SAFETY & STYLE

When COVID hit, it left many reeling, and others seemed to instinctively reach for ways to help.

Breeder Caretaker **Krista Beech** is a seamstress, creating magical and functional athletic wear, particularly for dancers. With COVID putting most of her current orders on hold, she instead began making stylish and functional masks to help keep the PADS community safe (modelled by recipients Elliott and Owen feeling healthy and strong at right). All told, Krista sewed over 750 masks, which she gifted to recipients in exchange for a donation to PADS. Those donations totalled over \$5660 and have been allocated to sponsor the “Blue Litter” which the Beech Family will be raising until they are 8 weeks old.

The connection between Krista & our next amazing volunteer is shown with “Blue Litter” puppy Pluto’s “Beau-Tie” at right. PADS volunteer **Cathy Beaumont** loves to sew - she sews beds for all our new puppies, and Beau Ties for pups for special occasions like our Love of Dog Gala. Cathy had been decking out all the pups that were going to be in attendance with these beautiful ties, so instead of stopping she kept going, even setting up a website so people could order. All proceeds were donated to PADS. Her husband, fellow volunteer **Shawn Laari** joined in to sell his 2020 Honey Harvest (we can vouch that it was DELICIOUS!) - between the two of them raising over \$500 for PADS.

Want to deck out your own pooch? Go to [pads.ca/beau-ties](https://pads.ca/beau-ties) to learn more!



# RAISE A PUPPY. CHANGE A LIFE.

We say that inside every PADS dog beats the heart of a volunteer. Raising a puppy is not just snuggles and puppy breath it's committing to loving another with enough heart to let them follow their path wherever it may take them. "The goodbye" has perhaps never been so poignantly captured as it was here (by PADS volunteer **Bill Ng**). **Heather Kitson** shared some of what she was feeling in this moment.

"When I heard "Raise a Puppy, Change a Life" I didn't get that it also applied to me and my life. Quill had an indelible impact on my life and everyone who knew him. Avoiding the pain would have meant avoiding the joy and courage he gave me. He gave me the most incredible 18 months."



## OUR STORIES

The stories in these pages reflect the experiences of those who have known a life-changing PADS dog. If you are a PADS client, volunteer, donor or community supporter we invite you to share your stories at [pads.ca/stories](https://pads.ca/stories)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### WISH LIST

Donating specific items is another great way you can help our mission. Wish List items often qualify for a charitable tax receipt as a "Gift in Kind".

### PADS PARTNERS

Our popular PADS Partners monthly giving option is the backbone of our program! By making an automatic monthly contribution you make it possible for PADS to plan each month, because we know we can count on you.

### SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorships may be individual or corporate. Your donation can help cover the costs associated with breeding and caring for an entire litter of PADS puppies; make a difference in someone's life by paying for the cost of care, training and follow-up for the lifetime of one assistance dog team; or by covering the cost of puppy's first year, and many more!

### TRIBUTE DONATION

Your very special loved one - human or pet - can be honoured forever with a one-time donation. A Commemorative Plaque with a name, the dates of his/her lifetime, your name, and a short message will be placed on PADS Eternity Wall at the PADS campus.

### PLANNED GIVING

Many of our friends have chosen to support our mission by naming PADS as a beneficiary in their wills and bequests. When you give to PADS through your estate or long-term financial plans, you are forging your life legacy and ensuring that future clients will have access to healthy, well-trained assistance dogs.

Visit [pads.ca/sponsorship](https://pads.ca/sponsorship) for more info on any of these opportunities!



**Norquay, Sunshine, Vista, Louise, and Castle (Left to Right)** Photo Credit: Dorothy & Kevin Root

# MOVE

GET YOUR MOVE ON FOR

# PADS

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 19, 2020



#MOVEFORPADS

## CHALLENGE IDEAS

### STRENGTH TRAINERS

I commit to one push-up for every \$1 I raise for PADS!

### DANCING QUEENS

I commit to dancing for 1 minute for every \$1 I raise for PADS!

### LOSE THE "COVID 10" (LBS)

I commit to training each day so that I can walk, run, roll or cycle 10 km on September 19th!

### JUMPING JACK FAMILY

We commit to doing 1 jumping jack for every \$1 we raise for PADS!

### INVENT YOUR OWN!

Hike a trail, Kayak, Ride your Bike (or your horse!) - you choose!

## JOIN US FOR OUR INAUGURAL MOVE EVENT

There are so many reasons to MOVE for PADS! Register as an individual or as a team and pledge to move in whatever way you can! Walk, roll, run, dance, ride, paddle, swim, jump - whatever way you can MOVE, make it matter! Move in your own backyard, climb a mountain, paddle a kayak, ride a horse... it's up to you!

**Set your goal, challenge your friends, collect pledges and MOVE for PADS!**



### FULL REGISTRATION

\$40 Adults / \$25 Children  
(Includes T-shirt & Dog Bandana)

### VIRTUAL PARTICIPANT

Free to participate & eligible for all incentives.



**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED EDITION FUNDRAISING INCENTIVES**

REGISTER **NOW** AT [PADS.CA/MOVE](https://pads.ca/move)

## CONNECT WITH PADS

### BURNABY

Head Office  
9048 Stormont Avenue  
Burnaby, BC V3N 4G6  
[info@pads.ca](mailto:info@pads.ca)

### CALL

Toll Free: 1.877.292.1765  
Phone: 604.527.0556

### ONLINE

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) @padsdogs  
[pads.ca](https://pads.ca)

### REGISTERED CHARITY

89225 2347 RR0001

### CALGARY

Training & Puppy-Raising Program  
2309 Centre Avenue  
Calgary, AB T2E 0A9  
Toll Free + Option: 4  
[calgary@pads.ca](mailto:calgary@pads.ca)

### OKANAGAN

Puppy-Raising Program  
Box 77  
Enderby, BC, V0E 1V0  
Toll Free + Option: 6  
[okanagan@pads.ca](mailto:okanagan@pads.ca)

### VANCOUVER ISLAND

Public Awareness Program  
Toll Free + Option: 5  
[nanaimo@pads.ca](mailto:nanaimo@pads.ca)



Iris sent this beautiful message to her students (with a little help from her friends) at Scott Creek Middle School.