

**PUPPY TRAINING
MORE PUPPY TRAINING DAYS AND A FACE LIFT
FOR THE NURSERY**

Laura Bramlet – Director of Puppy Breeding/Training

With more puppy training days & a face lift for the nursery, GDDI is moving into the future with all four feet forward. We are working on more Puppy Training Days throughout the summer for our raisers. If anyone has a great idea for a training day just let me know via email at puppyraising@guidedogsofthedesert.org or feel free to call and let Carol Moon know your ideas.

Also, now that we have a little break between litters of puppies, we have decided to try and give the nursery a face-lift. We will be repainting the nursery and restocking to get ready for new litters that will be born in late summer.

DONORS

Please check our website for a donor list at www.guidedogsofthedesert.org/specialthanks. Let us know if we can publicly acknowledge your gifts on our website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS:

Brandon & Lisa and Kristi & Bill
We wish you and your guides all the happiness in the world.

BEST WISHES: Shortly after putting this newsletter together our Director of Puppy Breeding, Laura Bramlett, resigned to join her husband in Sylmar. He is beginning a career as a Trainer for Guide Dogs of America. We wish them the very best, but Laura will be greatly missed!

THANK YOU: A big thank you to the Kids-n-K9s 4H Club in Skagit County Washington for sponsoring a car wash fundraiser, raising a total of \$356.00 for the Guide Dogs.

A big thank you to the Lions District 4L5 for their clean up of GDDI facilities on June 5, 2004.

GRADUATION: GDDI is planning a graduation on November 14, 2004. More details to come.

CONDOLENCES: Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cookie who recently had to put her guide Otis down. It is never easy to lose an animal, especially a working companion for over 8 years.

4H CLUB - HOW ONE CLUB AFFECTS GDDI

Christy Lyon – a Washington State 4-H Club Leader

I am a leader for a group called Kidz-n-K9s 4H Club in Skagit County, Washington. One of the projects that our group is involved with is being a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs of the Desert.

There are 11 members in our club and we currently have 5 puppies from GDDI (3 Golden Retrievers, 1 Labrador and 1 Poodle). Each member that has a puppy lives with their animal full time and we all get together with our puppies to do fun things, such as going to the aquarium, on train rides, to the mall, restaurants and much more. We have 3 other members of our group that are hoping to get puppies soon.

As a 4-H leader I have seen many of the puppies that we've raised change these kids lives, and we all know how they can change the life of a visually impaired person. I believe puppy raising is a very fitting 4-H project. It teaches these children responsibility, how to help others and that "they" can make a difference in someone's life.

In addition, we also have fundraisers for GDDI, which teaches our children the economic background of not-for-profit organizations. Most recently, we had a car wash on June 5, and although it rained, we pre-sold tickets for \$5.00 each and raised \$250.00 in pre-sold tickets and then raised \$101.00 in donations on the day of the car wash.

Our big ticket seller was Corrin Hamburg who sold 17 tickets equaling \$85.00.

Everyone in our Club is thankful and grateful to be part of GDDI as a puppy raiser and we hope to continue this for many years. I would encourage any 4-H group, Boy Scout Group, Girl Scout Group to get involved as a puppy raiser.