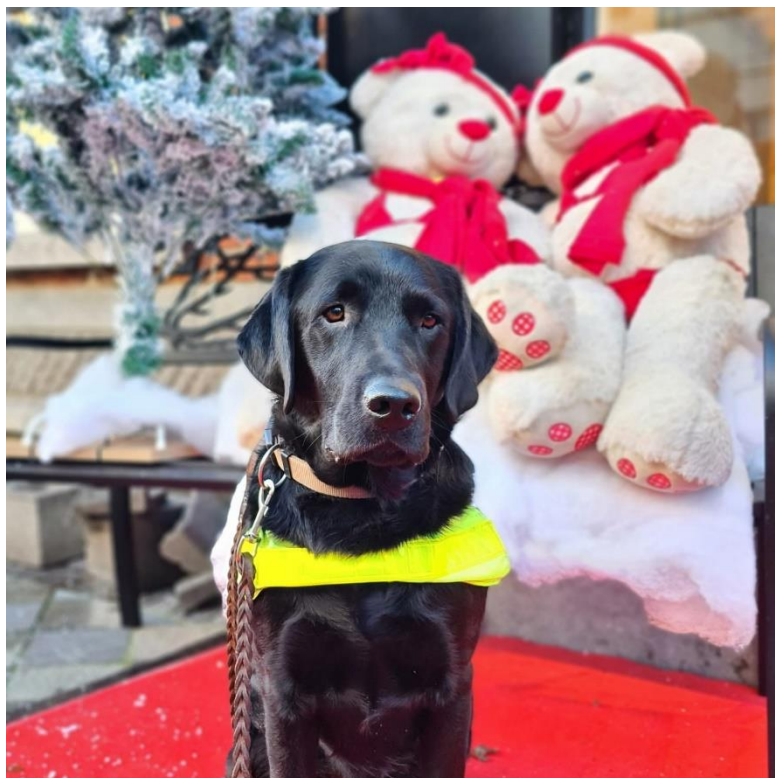




Newsletter December 2023



Dear readers,

The end-of-year celebrations are beginning to get underway while the year is coming to a close and it's time to take stock. In 2023 we continued to train and provide guide dogs, autism dogs and buddy dogs. A total of 9 dogs (Ubi, Uggie, Use, Uno, Utzi, Ula, Unit, Vegas, Vooka) have been placed or are in the process of being placed.

It is thanks to your donations and the commitment of our volunteers that we can make a difference to the lives of the beneficiaries. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Every contribution counts and can make a difference.

In 2024, together we hope to accomplish even more!

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a 2024 filled with success, joy and prosperity.

The Scale Dogs Team

Our little "W" puppies

Welcome to **Wallace, Willa and Ways**, these puppies are now part of the "W" tribe.

Wallace and Willa : As part of our collaboration with the European Breeding Cooperation, we were able to take in 2 puppies from our colleagues at the Center Silvar in Croatia. Consequently, Wallace was already four months old when he arrived at Wendy's house. Thank you so much, Wendy, for welcoming him into your family! Willa also arrived in Belgium at the age of four months, and was taken in by Jorbe. Jorbe and his parents are not new to fostering: they have already fostered Mace and Use, who are guide dogs for Scale Dogs. Thanks for their dedication!

Ways was a bit of a surprise for us. Our colleagues at Canisha asbl, a training centre for assistance dogs in Belgium, decided that one of the puppies from their last litter could join the Scale Dogs team. Fortunately, Julien and Coralie were ready to welcome him at short notice. Thank you for giving Ways a warm place in your home. And of course, a big thank you to our colleagues at Canisha! We wish Ways, Wallace and Willa and their families lots of fun and adventures! A big thank you to all our families who welcome our puppies and to our instructors. Without them, we would not be able to train future assistance dogs and we hope that it will be a great experience for them.



Wallace



Ways



Willa

If you'd like to follow the adventures of our puppies and dogs, simply follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Becoming puppy raising family

We are always looking for families to foster and educate a puppy with the help of our instructors for a period of 1.5 years. Your help will contribute to the education of a future guide dog.

Feel free to share with your friends, acquaintances and FB groups in your neighbourhood. Our team is at your disposal for all information: info@scaledogs.be

Our dogs in training



Udji is in the last phase of his training and he is preparing for his placement period.

Vito and Vedi are continuing their training with our instructors. You can read Vedi's testimony in the "Testimonial" section.

Vox began his guide dog training in November. This mischievous young dog still has a long way to go. It takes about eight months for a dog to learn how to guide a beneficiary safely through the city. Luckily, Vox and his instructor Jessica are not lacking in enthusiasm. We wish them every success!

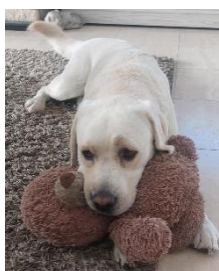
Our dogs in foster care

Unit, Ubi, Uggie and Vooka are or will start their internship with their beneficiary. We will give you more information in our next newsletter.

Our Placed Dogs

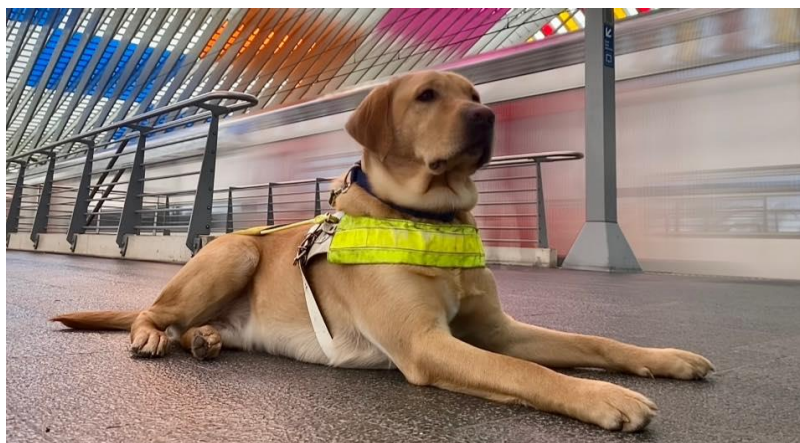
Françoise and Utzi, Joyce and Uno as well as **Paul and Use** have passed their final assessment. Congratulations to these new teams and we hope they will continue to work together for many years to come. Moving forward, our instructors will see them once a year during a check-in visit and remain available to the beneficiaries as necessary.

Our Reformed Dogs



Vasco's training was unfortunately stopped due to medical issues. However, he has found a "golden basket" and now enjoys long walks and daily games with his dog friend Lucie.

Testimonial



Dear dog lovers,

Let me introduce myself: I'm Vedi, a 19-month-old blond labrador. I'm what's known as a "dog in training"! I'm one of the older dogs? and I already travel around in a Scale Dogs van. 😊

I arrived at my foster home just over a year ago. I was still very small, but I already had a big destiny! My host family, Susanne and Arnaud, had a lot to teach me. My instructor came to the house several times to check that I was toilet trained, that I was comfortable, and to see if my host family had any questions... Then we went out!

Every week, I was driven to the training location. Us little pups learned to be cool and quiet everywhere (even though I was always cool anyway 😊). We discovered lots of places around Scale Dogs: Stokkel, Auderghem, Tervuren, Hoeilaart, ... So I was able to feel confident wherever I was. Whether it's a market, a shop, a park, a station, etc. I, Vedi, feel very comfortable all over the place!

After that, we also learnt lots of ways of getting snacks, petting and praise: we can all sit, lie down, stand next to someone, walk at their pace, and so on. All you have to do is do it and you get a treat! And I love treats, they're so much better than being pet!

These sessions often took place with a group of puppies my own age. Sometimes we saw older dogs who were there to show us a good example. I really wanted to be like them! The only thing that was difficult was concentrating... You know, in the city there are so many distractions: smells, other dogs, objects lying around ... It's all so interesting! But I have to say that we dogs in training behave very well! Over the course of the lessons, we learnt to work better and better in town - perhaps you've already seen us there?

When I was old enough, healthy enough and wise enough, I started university! My teacher took me to my "boarding family" at Marie France's, where I stay in the evenings during the week. At the weekend, I go back to the host family where I grew up.

At the moment, I'm still learning a lot. Fortunately, I've already learnt a lot in puppy classes and with my foster family! My instructor comes to pick me up every morning and I jump in the van with great enthusiasm! Then we go and pick up my friend Vox

from his boarding family (he's a beginner, I'm still teaching him good manners) and off we go!

Before training, we go for a walk (first things first!) and then I can't wait to get into my working harness! My instructor tells me that I still have a lot to learn (OK, I've only been working with her for three months...), but I'm proving to be a good pupil! For example, I already know how to stop at pedestrian crossings and kerbs, I know how to avoid obstacles to our left or right, and I know how to indicate doors, staircases, seats and so on. What's more, I'm very proud of my ability to walk past other dogs and ignore them completely. With me, it's all about getting treats. 😊

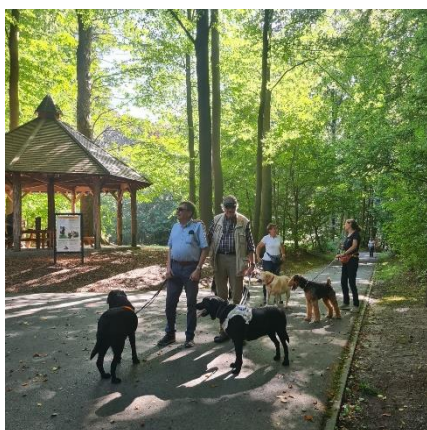
But I have to admit that I still need to learn to ignore food on the ground better.... My educator will certainly help me with this. Find out more about my progress in the next newsletter!

Vedi

Training of our educators: ADI Conference

In September, our instructors Marie, Shona and Sofie went to Zagreb to participate in an international conference organized by ADI (Assistance Dogs International). The perfect opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world, exchange information and make new contacts. In addition, they attended interesting lectures on a wide range of topics such as dog welfare, the positive bond between man and animal, puppy socialisation, professional and animal-friendly breeding programs. Last but not least, a visit was organized to the "Centar Silver", a large rehabilitation centre that trains guide dogs, assistance dogs and service dogs for children and from which some of our puppies also originate. Another enriching experience from which the team came back with a lot of inspiration and new ideas!

Activitie : The Autumn Walk



On October 1st, the beneficiaries, host families, volunteers and sponsors met in the beautiful Provincial estate of Huizingen for a lovely autumn walk in glorious sunshine, followed by refreshments. These are always moving moments of reunion, encounters and exchanges.

Thank you!

Thanks to the NATIONAL LOTTERY

Thanks to its participants, the National Lottery has been one of Scale Dogs' main partners for many years.

In 2022, the National Lottery supported the training of Vooka, a young blond Labrador who became their mascot. After the first year with his foster family, it turns out that Vooka wasn't quite cut out to be a guide dog. On the other hand, he has all the qualities required to help a child and will soon be placed as a buddy dog. Vooka will play an important role in the family.

In 2023, the National Lottery funded the training of Ubi, a black Labrador. Ubi has just completed his training as a guide dog and will soon be placed with a visually impaired person.

We would like to thank the National Lottery and its players for their annual financial support, which allows us to continue our mission: to place guide dogs and assistance dogs free of charge.

#bienplusquejouer

Thank you to DOCKS BRUXSEL who supported us throughout 2023 and who allowed us to be present in their beautiful shopping centre to help raise awareness of assistance dogs among the general public.

#docksbruxsel

Thank you to the Lions Club Brussels Bruocsella and all their members for their support during the year 2023 and the sponsorship of Vox.

Thank you to the European School II (EEB2) of Woluwé which, following the Footfest day on May 5, 2023, provided us with a grant for the purchase of a puppy. A big thank you to the school, the students and all the participants of the Footfest.

Thank you to all the people who supported us with the purchase of the Milka chocolates and the purchase of Antonia's chocolates. All these contributions are a great help to us.

Thank you to **Chantal, Linda and Lucie** who, with their great demonstration dogs, **Ringo and Taïlou**, put on multiple events at schools, various institutions, etc... to raise awareness of service dogs among adults and many young people. A big thank you to them and their dogs.

Thanks also to Susan and Véronique, dog trainers, for the organisation of monthly dog walks at Tervuren park for the benefit of Scale dogs during 2023. These educational and convivial walks take place in these beautiful surroundings. Info:

susan.scaledogs@yahoo.com

Thank you !

We would also like to thank everyone who made donations. These allow us to continue our activities in training assistance dogs. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts ♥.

Support Scale Dogs for free when shopping online, by placing your orders through Trooper

Did you know that you can financially support our association throughout the year when you shop online? And all this without costing you a single extra penny. All you have to do is go to the <https://www.trooper.be/fr/associations-trooper/scaledogs> website and then click on one of the more than 1,000 online shops that will be happy to donate part of the amount of your purchases to our association.

Here are a few quick steps:

Step 1: Go to the website: <https://www.trooper.be/fr/associations-trooper/scaledogs>

Step 2: Find the online store you want to shop from.

Step 3: Leave your details in the pop-up window if you want to know how much your purchase will bring back to our association, then shop as usual. It won't cost you anything extra.

Step 4: The webshop supports us with a percentage of your purchase.

Not the least of these are the affiliated online shops: Bol.com, Booking.com, AS Adventure, Zooplus, Coolblue, Krëfel,... and some 1000 other stores!

On behalf of the whole team, a big thank you!

Comment trooper via [trooper.be](https://www.trooper.be) ?



Help us to help!

There are a number of ways you can help:

Volunteer Committee: The Scale Dogs Volunteer Committee helps us organise various activities for the benefit of Scale Dogs. If you would like to participate, even for a one-off activity, do not hesitate to contact us: info@scaledogs.be

Donate to Scale Dogs:

You can make a donation to the IBAN account: BE37 0012 6238 0228 or by standing order. Any donation from 40€/year is tax deductible and the tax certificate will be sent to you at the beginning of the following year.

What can we do with your donation?

- 100 €: allows the purchase of collars, leashes, identification jacket, etc. for a puppy
- 250 €: allows the purchase of basic equipment for a puppy (bowls, basket, bench)
- 750 €: represents an average of the veterinary costs for a puppy during the 1st year
- 1.850 €: average price for the purchase of a puppy

By including Scale Dogs in your Will / DuoLeg

Wills in favour of a good cause benefit from the tax deduction scheme. By this means, it is possible to leave more for the people you care about while supporting Scale Dogs. Your notary can give you all the information on how to proceed.

Since July 2021, in Flanders, the tax regulations on joint bequests have been amended and therefore the duo bequest no longer offer any tax advantages in Flanders. With a duo bequest, you could bequeath part of your estate to a good cause and the other part to your family or friends. The beneficiary organization pays all inheritance tax, which often gives a tax advantage to the other heirs. While this tax advantage no longer applies in Flanders, in Wallonia and Brussels, the duo legacy continues to exist.

If you live in Flanders and have drawn up a will that includes a bequest in duo, please contact your notary to change your will.

If you would like to receive our bequest brochure, you can let us know by sending an e-mail to: info@scaledogs.be. We'll mail it to you.

In addition, you can also call our lawyer free of charge who will be able to give you all the information about the legislation.

<https://www.testament.be/fr/Bonnes-causes/D%C3%A9tail/Id/1114/Scale-Dogs>

Through sponsorship and partnership

As a company, you can partner with Scale Dogs to partially or fully fund the training of a guide dog. If you are looking for a social sponsorship project, do not hesitate to contact the Scale Dogs team so that we can discuss it together: info@scaledogs.be
Tel: 02-660 77 56 – GSM: 0473-30 24 27

By organizing an action

You can support Scale Dogs by asking your friends and acquaintances, through your circle of friends or within your company to contribute to a fundraiser for Scale Dogs. Looking for more information? Call us: Tel 02-660 77 56 - GSM 0473-30 24 27 or send us an email : info@scaledogs.be. We will be happy to introduce you to our association and discuss with you how you can best help us.

Thank you for your generosity!

TESTAMENT.BE



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