



Newsletter April 2024



Dear Readers,

As the days grow longer, we are delighted to present our spring edition. With the start of the new season underway, it gives us great pleasure to introduce our new director Olivier Erkelbout, who succeeds Marianne Slingerland. Marianne is retiring in September - a well-deserved retirement after more than 20 years with Scale Dogs.

In this new edition, you will also be able to read the latest news about our dogs and activities as well as other new features, such as a new page on our website with the up and coming events we are organising (<https://scaledogs.be/fr/evenements-et-activites/>). Additionally, from April you will be able to make donations by simply scanning the QR codes via our website. This easy solution meets 100% of all banking security standards.

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

The Scale Dogs team

Introduction to Olivier

After more than 30 years as an entrepreneur in IT management and retail sectors, I decided to devote my skills and know-how to a cause that is particularly close to my heart: helping to improve the lives of our fellow citizens. At nearly 58, it's a real honour to be able to succeed Marianne Slingerland and contribute to this magnificent adventure of Scale Dogs. My first words go to the donors, foster families, sponsors,

volunteers and the entire Scale Dogs team, without whom my mission would be impossible. Thank you all!



Our young « W »puppies

Welcome to **Wonka, Watson, and Wouna**, all puppies still part of the "W" tribe as they were born in 2023.

Wonka and Watson: 2 little black labradors, arrived at the end of December 2023 and have now joined their host family. We would like to thank Elisabeth and Jean Claude for their welcome and wish them lots of fun, wonderful discoveries and adventures.

Wouna, a little black labrador, arrived from Croatia. As part of our collaboration with the European Breeding Cooperative, we were once again able to welcome a puppy from our colleagues at the Center Silvar, which is why he was already four months old when he joined his host family. Thank you very much Thierry for welcoming Wouna!



Watson & Elisabeth



Wonka & Jean
Claude



Wouna & Thierry

We are expecting 2 more puppies this spring, and they should be arriving soon.

A big thank you to all our families who take in our puppies and to our instructors! Without them, we wouldn't be able to train future assistance dogs and we hope that this will be a great experience for them.

If you'd like to follow the adventures of our puppies and dogs, don't hesitate to follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Call for host families

We are always looking for host families to take in and train a puppy for 1.5 years with the help of our instructors. By doing so, you can contribute to the education of a future guide dog.

Please share this with your friends, acquaintances and local FB groups. Our team will be happy to provide all necessary information: info@scaledogs.be

Our dogs in training

Vinny, Vyuzu, Voody and Vaadhoo are our dogs currently in training. You can follow their training on Facebook.

"We, the "V" generation, are in the middle of our training and things are getting serious. We have to be both focused and well-disciplined. Our instructors expect us to respond well to their orders, to help them cross streets by stopping at every crossing, to help them avoid obstacles by proposing new alternatives and to listen carefully to all the commands they give us. After an intense morning in Stockel, we were all able to play together in the park behind the offices of our instructors, who were in a meeting (wonder what they're saying about us?). It was a very busy day, but as they say, after work comes play! We'll all soon be (we hope), the companions of a beneficiary and we'll be so proud to help them on a daily basis."

Our dogs in placement

Udji is currently in training with her beneficiary. In the next few weeks, they should pass their final assessment.

Ubi is placed with Ingrid. After a month's training, during which the instructor taught Ingrid how to live and work with Ubi, they are now continuing to train independently until they sit their final exams in 3 months' time. Ingrid is an active woman with a varied daily commute. Ubi accompanies her to the sandwich shop, the chemist's and all the shops in her neighborhood, as well as accompanying her on family visits and on all outings and activities in the bustling city of Antwerp, all by tram, train and bus. Ubi makes her outings much smoother and less tiring by guiding her around obstacles on the pavement, looking for a free space on public transport, finding the door, the stairs, the counter, the dustbin and much more. In addition to this, there are also daily walks in the forest and park where Ubi can run, sniff and play with other dogs. This also allows Ubi to simply be a dog. They form a beautiful duo, growing closer and more harmonious every day.

Our placed dogs

Uggie was placed with Wouter this month after passing his final assessment with success. It is Wouter's second guide dog from Scale Dogs. Uggie and Wouter very quickly formed a close bonded team. Wouter's previous guide dog, Mace, is now enjoying retirement with Jos, his host family.

Our reformed dogs

Unfortunately our dog **Vox** was unable to continue his guide dog training. Vox has an excellent sense of smell, and in order to fulfil his potential, Vox is pursuing a career with the police, where he will be able to use this quality to become a detection dog.

Testimonial



Hello,

My name is Vedi 😊 an almost 2 year old male labrador, they call me a handsome blond!

I'm in training at Scale Dogs and I'm soon to become a guide dog, you've probably seen me on TV!

Since we last spoke, I've become a star, in fact I was filmed by RTBF. I really did my best that day! I showed them how serious, focused, motivated and handsome I am ... oh but I actually already do all that every day 😊

The RTBF news item 'Puppies and future guide dogs looking for foster families' put me front and centre along with my colleagues Scott and Wilson who were with me.

Everyone saw it! I got lots of compliments, it was great and I enjoyed it! But the subject was very serious... If no one becomes a host family, there won't be any more dogs like me to help people in need 😞

If you're interested in hosting a Scale Dogs puppy at home, you can find out more here: [The Puppy with the Puppy Raising Family - Scale Dogs](#)

I also wanted to let you know that my training is coming to an end! And yes, my studies are almost over and I'll be graduating soon, I'm so proud of myself!

My instructor, to whom I owe my guide dog training, tells me that I'm very well-behaved and very reliable. When I'm just out for a walk, I make the most of it and sniff calmly. But when I see my harness I'm so happy, I love my job! I quickly straighten my head and wait a little impatiently until my instructor is ready to start. She gives me the command and off we go! I show her that I can handle things such as pedestrian crossings (I love them!), doors, benches and stairs. I also work without controls! If I see that there's an obstacle or danger in front of us, I show my teacher that our route is blocked. On her signal (we guide dogs can't take cars into account...), I resolve the situation by going around the danger before continuing on our way. Without a command I also ignore distractions: dogs, people, food on the ground - this last point is so difficult because I do love my food!

I'm very grateful to my foster family for showing me everything when I was a puppy, so now as an (almost) guide dog I'm really not afraid to take public transport and to work in any environment in the city 😊

Now I just need to meet the person who will become my new master! I can't wait to spend my life with her, to go everywhere together, and share lots of adventures 😊.

But of course, I'll have my dog life too: walks, games and relaxation are also necessary for all of us!

Would you like to help but cannot become a host family? Then you can always make a small donation to Scale Dogs. With this they can buy all kinds of equipment for us, such as leashes, harnesses or even better: treats! 😊

Thank you for helping us to help!!!

Activities :

Monthly : dog walk in the Tervuren Park

Once a month on a Sunday, Susan and Véronique, our dog school trainers, organise a dog walk in the beautiful Tervuren park. The walk is in aid of Scale Dogs and lasts around 1½ hours. Price: €15. If you would like to take part in this educational walk, please contact Susan for more information and to register:

susan.scaledogs@yahoo.com

26 April 2024 : DOCKS BRUXSEL

On 26 April Scale Dogs will be at DOCKS BRUXSEL, Bd Lambertmont 1, 1000 Brussels from 12h-14h30.

Our team of volunteers will be doing demos with their dogs and presenting Scale Dogs. Don't hesitate to come and visit us.

7 May 2024 : Présentation of Scale Dogs at the National Bank of Belgium

At the initiative of NBB staff and as part of its commitment to society, Scale Dogs has been invited to visit the NBB buildings on 7 May 2024 to present its mission of training guide dogs for people with impaired vision or who are blind. The aim of the day is to raise the donations needed to fund the training of our dogs. The presence of our dogs, Taïlou and Ringo will be a real asset!

25 & 26 May 2024 – artists' trail in Wezembeek-Oppem

During the artists' trail at Wezembeek-Oppem on 25 & 26 May, Susan, a Scale Dogs volunteer, and Philippe are hoping to raise funds for Scale Dogs.

Susan will be exhibiting her tugs, activity cushions and search mats for dogs and cats. Philippe will be exhibiting his mosaic creations: trays, frames and other decorative objects.

For more information on timing, the address of the day and how to order please contact Susan : susan.scaledogs@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE : 23 June 2024 – Scale Dogs Walk open to all, with or without dogs !

Scale Dogs will organize a walk in the Leuven region (venue to be confirmed).

There will be 3 marked walks: +/- 4, 7 and 10 km.

The cost is €10 per participant (1 drink and snack included).

Meeting places: to be confirmed

We will publish more information on our social media and website.

SAVE THE DATE : 19 October 2024 - Cheese & Wine evening

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !

Thank you to the NATIONAL LOTTERY

In 2022, the National Lottery supported the training of Vooka, a young blond labrador who has become their mascot. After his first year with his foster family, it became clear that Vooka was not cut out to become a guide dog. However, he had all the qualities needed to help a child. Hence he was placed as a Buddy Dog with a ill young boy. After their first meeting, as soon as he knew that Vooka was going to be his dog,

he painted a calendar to count down the days until his arrival. Vooka learns amusing tricks to distract his young master, and wisely walks beside his wheelchair so that he can hold his lead and join in the walks. Vooka has put a smile on his face.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the National Lottery and its players for their annual financial support, which enables us to pursue our mission of placing guide and assistance dogs free of charge.

[#bienplusquejouer](#)

Thank you to DOCKS BRUXSEL who, once again this year, are supporting us and allowing us to be present in their beautiful shopping centre to raise public awareness about assistance dogs and guide dogs in particular.

[#docksbruxsel](#)

Thank you to the LIONS CLUBS: Brussels Bruocsella, Brussels Atomium, Uccle Kauwberg and Woluwé les Cerisiers and all their members for their support for the year 2024 and the sponsorship of Vox. On 6 March 2024, SCALE DOGS was presented with a cheque for €10,000 by Olivier Bancel, President of the Duck Race, during a magnificent evening at the Brussels Lawn Tennis Club. SCALE DOGS would like to thank the LIONS CLUB of Brussels Atomium, Brussels Bruocsella, Uccle Kauwberg and Woluwe Les Cerisiers for this magnificent display of generosity.

Thank you to the LIONS CLUB Brussels Iris and all their members for their support in 2023 and the renewal of their generosity for this year 2024. This invaluable help enables us to continue our guide dog and autism dog training activities.

Thank you to the Brussels Women's Club (BWC) and Antonia. Every year, the members of the Brussels Women's Club (BWC) choose 2 charities to support. We would like to thank the BWC for choosing Scale Dogs this year together with Mbedza, an organisation that helps prevent HIV and supports women in Malawi.

Throughout 2024, the BWC will be supporting us by organising various activities in aid of Scale Dogs and Mbedza.

The Brussels Women's Club is run by its members and organises a wide range of activities for English-speaking women: walks, painting workshops, jewellery, cookery, bridge, mahjong, scrabble, yoga, visits, etc. as well as many social events, meals and presentations. <https://brusselwomens.club/>

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their work and their help.

All these contributions are a great help to us.

Thank you to Chantal, Linda and Lucie and other volunteers who, with their superb demonstration dogs Ringo and Tailou, continue to make numerous presentations to schools, institutions, etc. to raise awareness of assistance dogs among adults and many young people.

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 ♥.

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 €: covers the average veterinary costs for a puppy during the 1st year
- 1.850 €: is the average price for the purchase of a puppy
- +/- 43,500 €: is the grand total of all the costs for a guide dog or an autism dog

Very soon you will be able to make a donation via QR Code which will be available on our website.

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, the tax regulations in Flanders on joint bequests have been amended and since then the duo bequest no longer offers 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, the duo legacy continues in Wallonia and Brussels, .

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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Respect for privacy: the protection and respect of your personal data are essential for SCALE DOGS asbl. You can find our Privacy Policy on our website.

[Declaration of Privacy - Scale Dogs](#)

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