

December 2024



Newsletter Scale Dogs

Dear dedicated donors, loving host families,
indispensable volunteers and beneficiaries,

As the year draws to a close, we would like to share with you what has happened at Scale Dogs since the last newsletter. We'll give an overview of the latest news and progress of our assistance dogs in training. Stay tuned, because together we continue to change lives thanks to our precious four-legged companions.

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, without you, our mission would be impossible!

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Introduction



By Olivier Erkelbout



Dear friends of Scale Dogs,

As we approach my first anniversary in this wonderful adventure that is Scale Dogs, I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to each of you. Whether you are a member of our team, a volunteer, a donor, a foster family, or simply a friend of our nonprofit, your commitment and support are invaluable.

For nearly a year now, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the incredible impact our work has on the lives of visually impaired individuals and children with autism. The assistance dogs we train and place are not only loyal companions but true pillars of autonomy and comfort for those in need, providing an extraordinary means of inclusion.

Your dedication and passion make all of this possible. Every smile, every progress, every moment of joy we share with our beneficiaries is a direct reflection of your unwavering support. Together, we form a strong and resilient community, united by a common mission: to improve the quality of life for those we serve.

I am also grateful for the partnerships and collaborations that have strengthened throughout this year. They allow us to go further and reach even more people.

As we look to the future, I am filled with enthusiasm and hope. Very soon, we will have the pleasure of welcoming you to our new space, a beautiful place that reflects our commitment and passion for our mission. This new location will not only be a training center for our incredible assistance dogs but also a place for meetings and sharing. We look forward to organizing events, workshops, and gatherings that will create real excitement around our project. We will keep you informed of the details and the official opening date. In the meantime, we would like to thank each of you for your continued support. It is thanks to you that this new step is possible.

Thank you to each of you for your trust and commitment. Let's continue moving forward together to make Scale Dogs a pillar of hope.

With all my gratitude,

Olivier



Staff

Time doesn't stand still, not even at Scale Dogs!
The past year has been one of much change, especially concerning our staff.

As you may already know, **Marianne**, after a long and valuable career at Scale Dogs, has passed the baton to Olivier. After a period of transition and support from the sidelines, Marianne is now officially retired. Her years of dedication and commitment have helped us shape Scale Dogs into what it is today. **We sincerely thank her for everything she has done.** Fortunately, this is not a farewell, as Marianne remains a member of our Board of Directors and we will still be able to ask her for advice and guidance.

Olivier has made an great start this year and is now leading our organisation with full energy. We look forward to further growth under his leadership.

We also welcome **Isabel** as our new administrative employee (part-time). Unfortunately, **Carine** said goodbye to Scale Dogs earlier this year to enjoy more of life, which we absolutely wish her. **We thank her for her enthusiasm and years of dedication.**

Isabel, with a background in both accounting and the medical sector, will primarily focus on office management, projects, and the administrative follow-up of our dogs. We wish her success in her new role.

Finally, we have hired **Leen** for marketing and communications. Leen works part-time and handles, among other things, the website, social media, events, sponsorship, and fundraising, as well as this newsletter.

😊 Plenty of work to be done!

Relocation

As you could read in Olivier's introduction, a move is planned for next year.

Scale Dogs has grown significantly in recent years, meaning that our current office space no longer meets our needs. We need more space for the dogs and better facilities for collaboration or organizing events. That's why we've decided to relocate in 2025. The plans are already well underway and we're working hard on the preparations. We hope to share more information soon about the new location and timing. And of course, we'll be happy to invite you to come see the new office. Stay tuned!





Crates

Safety and comfort are crucial when our instructors are on the road with the dogs in the back of the van. That's why we've had our vans equipped with custom-made crates. This way, the dogs can travel safely or wait comfortably while another dog gets trained. Each crate is spacious enough for the dogs to turn around and lie down in their favorite position.

We want to express our sincere thanks to crate builder **Erik Marechal of Transportkennels.be** for the excellent execution and installation, and to **Fonds Vinci**, whose sponsorship made this investment possible. Thanks to them, we can continue to benefit from excellently equipped vans for many years.

These crates were also a requirement for our accreditation with IGDF, and **we're proud to announce that we've already obtained our accreditation for the next five years!**



In the spotlight



On December 9th, we honored **Karine Henin**. Karine is currently a host family for her **20th puppy** for Scale Dogs!

With her love for animals and years of experience, she always gives these dogs the best start in life. Her dedication makes a difference not only for Scale Dogs but especially for the blind and visually impaired people, as well as children with autism, who rely on these loyal companions. Thanks to people like Karine, we can continue to work toward a future in which more people with visual impairments or autism experience the freedom and independence they deserve.

Thank you, Karine, for your incredible work! We are very happy that we can always count on you.





New puppies



Xsara and Chantal



Xirius, Marion and Pierre



Ximi and Karine



Xia, Luc and Claude

We are extremely happy to announce that since the summer, we have welcomed four new puppies: **Xsara, Xirius, Ximi, and Xia!** We look forward to watching them grow and discovering their personalities.

A huge thank you to the host families for their dedication in providing these puppies with a loving home and supporting them in the first steps of their training.

At the beginning of next year, we are expecting new puppies! **We are still looking for host families** who want to embark on this special journey with a four-legged friend.

Are you or is someone you know interested? Let us know or [fill out the form on our website.](#)

'Kot' host families wanted

When the young dogs (around 15 months old) begin their intensive training to become assistance dogs, they need to train daily and stay close to our instructors. That's why they temporarily move into a 'kot' host family! The dogs are picked up in the morning and returned in the afternoon. The host family offers them a warm, loving home with walks, cuddles, and fun activities.

Do you live in Affligem, Huldenberg, Kampenhout, or Lathuy and want to help us? We are always looking for new host families. Get in touch quickly if you're interested!



Internships

Our dogs **Woody** and **Whisper** are currently doing excellent work during their internship to become autism assistance dogs. We are extremely proud of their progress!

Graduated & Placed

Both **Vyuzu** and **Vaadhoo** have completed their training. Vedi and Vito have also graduated and have been successfully placed.

Unit was placed as an autism assistance dog with Marcia.

Although they could not become guide dogs, both **Waldo** and **Woopy** found new jobs: Woopy became a buddy dog and Waldo was placed as an institution dog in a nursing home!

The internship of **Udji** and Annick unfortunately did not end successfully, but Udji has since been placed with Jan and is taking over from Otello, who is retiring.



Retired

Our loyal four-legged friends naturally deserve a peaceful retirement. **Nina**, **Nino**, **Otello**, and **Nobel** are now enjoying their retirement. They all continue to live with their owners. We thank them for their years of dedication and loving guidance.

More photos and videos? Follow us on social media for regular updates of our dogs!



CHRISTMAS MARKET MONT-SAINT-GUIBERT

On December 14th we attended the Mont-Saint-Guibert Christmas market, which was dedicated to inclusivity. It was a very warm, friendly market with many generous buyers.

Thank you to Antonia, Chantal and Olivier for your help and effort.



TO THE CHRISTMAS MARKET WITH HOST FAMILIES

On 12 and 13 December, the instructors invited the host families to the Christmas market. Partly as a learning opportunity, but mainly to socialise and to thank them for their efforts over the past year. After all, host families are essential to our operation!



MILKA-ACTION FOR SCALE DOGS

During the annual Milka action, we sold packages for a total value of €3,000. Enough for us to buy a new puppy and all necessary equipment for the puppy. Thanks to Chantal, Chantal, Lucie, Debbie for the organisation, Antonia and the instructors for helping to deliver the orders and of course everyone who bought a package.





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On December 2nd, Linda, Lucy and Ringo went to the town hall in Saint-Josse to present Scale Dogs. The mayor, the alderman for equal opportunities and animal welfare, the Equal Opportunities Unit and the public were very interested in the explanation. Thank you Linda, Lucy and Ringo.

CHEESE & WINE

On October 19th, we organised a cheese and wine evening. It was a very pleasant evening, where host families, instructors, and beneficiaries and their assistance dog could meet over delicious food and drinks.



TEA & TALK – BRUSSELS WOMEN'S CLUB

Scale Dogs was invited to speak at BWC on 3 October. Jessica and Linda attended along with Wilco and Ringo. We sincerely thank BWC for their support this year.





TOUTOU'S DAY - CHÂTEAU D'HÉLÉCINE

Scale Dogs was present at Toutou's Day in Château d'Hélécine on September 22nd. Thank you for your presence and help: Antonia, Chantal, Christiane, Jessica, Linda, Lucie en Rebecca.



TADAA IN MOLENBEEK

The 21st of September, Gisèle and Linda, together with Ringo, provided three interactive workshops with children, where they could work with the dog on their own. Each was allowed to draw a card on which there were a number of exercises with Ringo and these were then performed together.



FOREST WALK WITH THE HOST FAMILIES

When host families get together for a walk in the woods, it's always a party. Wonka, Watson, Wouna, Ways, Wallace, Whisper, Wolf, Wiki, Wilco, Vody were present. Thank you all for this fine gathering on August 15.





How can you help?

There are several ways you can help us:

Volunteer committee: the Scale Dogs volunteer committee helps us to organise various activities in aid of Scale Dogs. If you'd like to get involved, even for a one-off activity, don't hesitate to contact us: info@scaledogs.be

Make a donation to Scale Dogs :

You can make a donation to our IBAN account: BE37 0012 6238 0228 or a standing order. Donations of €40 or more per year are tax-deductible and a tax certificate will be sent to you at the beginning of the following year.

What can we do with your donation?

- 40 €: enables the purchase of training treats and toys for a puppy
- 100 €: enables the purchase of collars, leads, identification jackets, etc. for a puppy
- 250 €: to buy basic equipment for a puppy (bowls, basket, bench)
- 750 €: represents average veterinary costs for a puppy during its 1st year of life
- 1,850 €: average price for the purchase of a puppy
- +/- €43,500 €: average cost of training a guide dog or autism dog

MAKE A DONATION
SCAN ME



Through sponsorship and partnership

As a company you can enter into a partnership with Scale Dogs to partially or fully finance the training of a guide dog. If you are looking for a sponsorship project with a social character, think of Scale Dogs and do not hesitate to contact us so that we can discuss this together.

By organising an event

You can support Scale Dogs by asking your friends and acquaintances, through your circle of friends or within your company, to contribute to a collection in aid of Scale Dogs.

Would you like more information? Give us a call: Tel: 02-660 77 56 - Mobile: 0473-30 24 27 or send us an e-mail: info@scaledogs.be. We will be delighted to tell you more about our association and discuss with you how you can best help us.

THANK YOU !



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS, SPONSORS, HOST FAMILIES, AND VOLUNTEERS

We would like to warmly thank everyone who has supported us this year with a donation. Thanks to your financial contributions, we can continue our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

A special thank you goes to Chantal, Linda, Lucie, Antonia, Susan and Chantal, and all the other volunteers for your invaluable help and ongoing support.

Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the host families, temporary host families, and kot host families. Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for your dedication in providing all the puppies and young dogs with a loving and stable environment in which they can grow.

We hope to be able to count on your kind support again next year.

Thank you to our sponsors



Happy Holidays



BEST WISHES FOR 2025

It has been a special year, and thanks to your involvement, we have achieved a lot together.

We hope you can enjoy a well-deserved time of rest, warmth, and coziness during the holidays. May this period be filled with love, joy, and beautiful moments with loved ones.

We are very excited about 2025 and are grateful for everything this year brought us.

We wish you a happy and healthy new year, full of new opportunities and unforgettable memories!



The protection and respect of your personal data is essential to SCALE DOGS ASBL. You will find our Privacy Policy on our website:

<https://scaledogs.be/en/declaration-of-privacy/>

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