

**News Release****October 13, 2020****Zebra Child Protection Centre Welcomes Two New Facility Dogs to VIP Program***In partnership with Ladies on the Green, Triggs, joins the Zebra Centre Multidisciplinary Team*

**EDMONTON, AB** – October is Child Abuse Prevention Month; in 2019 the Zebra Centre supported 2,362 children and youth who experienced abuse. Our Very Important Paws (VIP) Program, which started in 2013, is a crucial part of the support system we have in place at the Zebra Centre. In 2019, Wren and Fletcher met with children and youth 536 times in the Centre and in court. In February 2020, Wren retired, leaving Fletcher as the only dog in our VIP Program.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is proud to announce two new members to our Multidisciplinary Team, Triggs and Captain. Triggs and Captain are Accredited Facility Dogs trained by Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society. Triggs and Captain joined VIP Program team member, Fletcher, on October 5, 2020 to start their roles of lending support to children and youth within the Centre, during their forensic interviews and to help them navigate the judicial process at the Edmonton Law Courts.

“We are so excited to have Triggs and Captain join our VIP Program here at the Centre. Having two more dogs in our program is crucial in allowing us to continue offering the unique support and comfort for our children and youth that no human can offer. The ability Facility Dogs have to relieve the stress that children and youth can feel is amazing to witness, and we are so grateful to add Triggs and Captain to our team. Working together – really does make a difference, thank you so much to Ladies on the Green, for helping make this moment a reality!” says Allision McCollum, Board Chair, Zebra Child Protection Centre.

Triggs new position within our VIP Program is sponsored by Ladies on the Green Golf Classic. Ladies on the Green is a unique event – golf is not the driving factor. It’s truly about making a difference within the community and they have done that. Ladies on the Green has helped support the Centre over the past seven years with proceeds helping fund our Court Supports, Trauma Treatment Service, VIP Program and our Backpack Program.

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“The Ladies on the Green community is thrilled to welcome Captain and Triggs to the Zebra Child Protection Centre team. We knew that directing funds raised through our event to support a new recruit for the VIP Program was essential. As the caseload continues to rise at the Centre, Captain and Triggs are needed more than ever. These dogs offer children comfort, empathy and unconditional support in some of their most difficult moments,” says Emma Wynters and Carri Boulton, co-founders of Ladies on the Green.

Triggs primary role is providing support and comfort to children, youth and their non-offending caregivers while they visit our Centre and tell their story. Captain will primarily work at the Edmonton Law Courts supporting children, youth and their non-offending caregivers within the child-friendly waiting rooms and, on the stand, as they testify against the accused. Triggs and Captain will both help children and youth celebrate their bravery as they use their voice to tell their story.

“DWW Captain and DWW Triggs are the perfect match for the important work ahead of them at the Zebra Child Protection Centre. They have each completed two years of advanced, specialized training allowing them to be trustworthy in the professional environments they will be working in. It is our pleasure to have these two handsome boys go to the Centre and we look forward to our continued partnership with this amazing organization. We are so proud.” says Doreen Slessor, Executive Director, Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society.

Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) across Alberta are once again coming together to raise awareness about child abuse and the important role communities can play in helping to keep children and youth safe. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, on October 24th, CACs are encouraging Albertans to #GoBlueAB by wearing blue in solidarity with all those who have been impacted by child abuse, and to spark more conversation and awareness. Together, we can keep our communities safe.

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*Founded in 2002, The Zebra Child Protection Centre is a non-profit, community-based organization that was established to improve the lives of children who have suffered abuse. As the first Child Advocacy Centre of its kind in Canada, the Zebra Centre's model was revolutionary - bring together a community of professionals under one roof to support the child throughout the entire disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process. Today, the Zebra Centre leads the way in continuing to provide a safe and child-friendly space where kids can tell. For more information, please visit our [website](#).*



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Learn more about the #KidsCanTell story by following us on social media:



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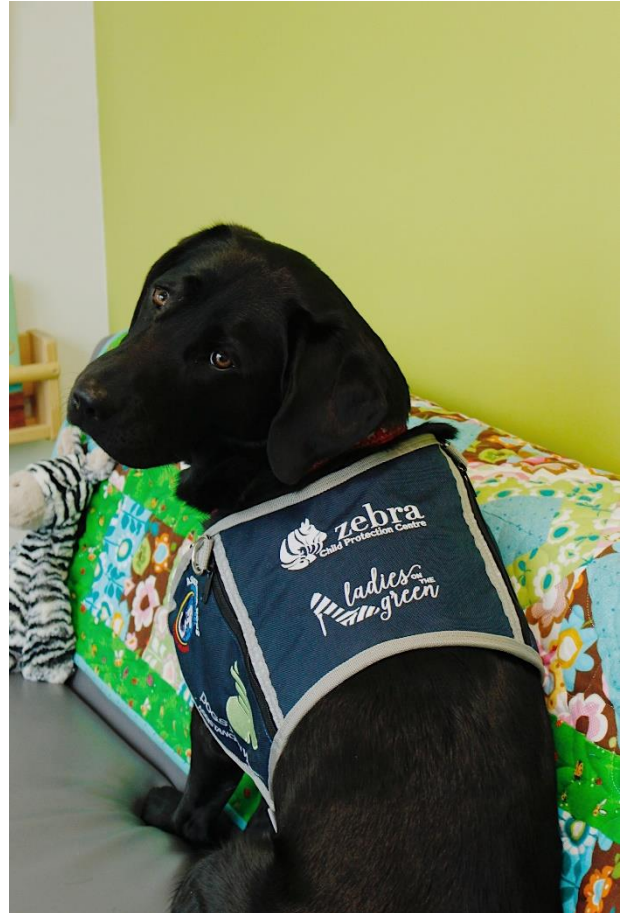
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## Facility Dogs Biographies

### TRIGGS

Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society has selected Triggs, a 2-year-old, black Labrador Retriever to be placed with the Zebra Centre in October of 2020. Triggs has undertaken intensive training at Dogs with Wings to be placed as a Facility Dog.

Triggs began training for this career when he was three days old! He was born on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He joined our Edmonton puppy raising program when he was 10 weeks old and attended weekly puppy training classes until he was 16 months old. When Triggs was 16 months old, he began his advanced training to become a Facility Dog. Triggs excelled in his advanced training and aced all of his behavior and health testing to be placed as a Facility Dog!



When Triggs isn't working hard on his skills and training, he enjoys long naps in a sunbeam or snuggled up next to you, running at the dog park (bonus points if there's somewhere that he can swim), and his favourite snack is bananas and blueberries! Triggs is a sweet, snuggly boy who brings comfort to anyone he meets. Triggs will be a perfect match to bring comfort and love to the people who need him the most. We know he will be a perfect match for the Zebra Centre and the work that they do!

In October, the Zebra Centre will undertake Team Training where they will work hands on with Triggs for a week with our skilled staff. As a Victim Services Facility Dog, Triggs will assist the Zebra Centre in the important work that they do. Some of Trigg's responsibilities will include forensic interviews, support to the staff, and supporting children at the Centre.

## CAPTAIN

Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society has selected Captain, a 2-year-old, black Labrador Retriever to be placed with the Zebra Centre in October of 2020. Captain has undertaken intensive training at Dogs with Wings to be placed as a Facility Dog.

Captain began training for this career when he was three days old! He was born on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He joined our Edmonton puppy raising program when he was 10 weeks old and attended weekly puppy training classes until he was 16 months old.

When Captain was 16 months old, he began his advanced training to become a Facility Dog. Captain excelled in his advanced training and aced all of his behaviour and health testing to be placed as a Facility Dog! When Captain isn't working hard on his skills and training, he enjoys going to the dog park, going on long walks, and his favourite snack is carrots and bananas! Captain has a lovable, goofy personality and he makes anyone smile who meets him. He loves to work and is eager to please, we know he will be a perfect match for the Zebra Centre and the work that they do!

In October, the Zebra Centre will undertake Team Training where they will work hands on with Captain for a week with our skilled staff. As a Victim Services Facility Dog, Captain will assist the Zebra Centre in the important work that they do. Some of Captain's responsibilities will include forensic interviews, court support, support to staff and community partners, community events, and much more.

