



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Breeding Department - Vocabulary List

**WHELP** – birth

**WHELP DATE** – date of birth (a dog's birthday!)

**DAM/SIRE** – mom/dad of a puppy or litter

**BROOD/STUD** – female breeder dog/male breeder dog

**ALTER** – to spay or neuter a dog

**INTACT** – when a dog is not spayed/neutered

**RECALL** – the time that dogs come back to either GDB's CA or OR campus from their puppy raising homes to go into guide dog training or breeder evaluation (about once a month for each campus).

**COLONY** – all of GDB's active breeder dogs (about 175 total!)

**BREED EVAL** – an intact young dog at the time of recall who is being considered for the breeding colony

**CUT/PULL** – a decision made by the Breeding Manager to either alter a breed eval dog and pass them along to training to potentially become a guide dog or to keep the dog intact and make them a part of the breeding colony.

**IN SEASON** – when a brood is "in heat" and can be bred; a season is typically about 21 days total and occurs about twice a year.

**ESTRUS/DIESTRUS** – the time in a brood's season when she is breedable/the time when a brood is officially out of season and no longer breedable.

**BREED/SKIP** – a decision made by the Breeding Manager whether a brood will be bred or not bred during a particular season cycle.

**MISS** – when a brood does not get pregnant after being bred.

**BCS** – Body Condition Score from 1-9, based on the Purina chart – the ideal BCS for our breeder dogs is a 5.

**STUD SERVICE** – when a stud dog comes to the GDB campus to breed with an in-season brood.

**CONCIERGE STUD SERVICE** – when a stud dog is called in for stud service only on specific scheduled days to avoid having to board in the kennel overnight for several nights in a row, usually due to the dog's inability to relax and settle while boarding in the kennel. Breeder custodians with flexible schedules can opt to bring the stud dog back and forth for stud service if their schedules allow.

**SEMEN EVAL** – a routine procedure in which semen is collected from a stud dog and analyzed by a special microscope and computer to check overall quality. We perform semen evals on all our active stud dogs regularly.

**STUD ON HOLD** – a male breeder who has sired about 60 pups will take a break from breeding until those puppies grow up and come through to program so we can see if his puppies are graduating as guide dogs/breeders. If not, he will likely be retired from breeding. If those puppies are successful, he will come off hold and go back into regular rotation for stud service.

**SEMEN FREEZE** – a scheduled day every month where the Breeding & vet staff collect semen from 3-4 stud dogs and freeze it to possibly use for artificial inseminations in the future. GDB freezes semen on all active stud dogs to be stored in liquid nitrogen tanks kept on campus.

**CLIPS** – the small shave marks given to puppies at birth while in the GDB Puppy Center to differentiate them from their littermates (ex: right-shoulder clip male, left-hip clip female)

**LITTER LETTER** – the letter of the alphabet assigned to a litter in which all puppy names will start with

**STILLBORNS/CLEFT PALATES** – puppies who are not alive at birth or born with a severe birth defect and are humanely euthanized after birth.