NEWS · OCTOBER 16, 2026

DWW Duke, DWW Booster and DWW Jelly Take Centre Ice for Toba Centre

Three Dogs with Wings facility dogs will drop the puck at the Winnipeg Jets' fifth annual Child Advocacy Game, shining a light on the children they support every day.

Sat., Oct. 17 Jets vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Canada Life Centre



A Toba Centre facility dog offers quiet comfort. Photo: Toba Centre for Children & Youth

4,000+
child abuse cases investigated in Manitoba each year

450+
children and youth supported by Toba's DWW dogs in 2025/26

3
Dogs with Wings facility dogs working full time at Toba Centre

On Saturday, October 17, three Dogs with Wings facility dogs will step onto the ice to drop the puck at the Winnipeg Jets' fifth annual Child Advocacy Game against the Carolina Hurricanes.

DWW Duke, DWW Booster and DWW Jelly work full time at Toba Centre for Children & Youth, Manitoba's only child advocacy centre. Throughout October, Child Abuse Awareness Month, they are joining the Toba Centre team on the concourse at Jets home games to share resources with fans and encourage Manitobans to **#GoBlueToba**.

Why it matters

Each year, more than 4,000 child abuse cases are investigated in Manitoba, and Toba Centre believes many more go unreported. Toba Centre brings police, child and family services, forensic interviewers, medical professionals and support specialists together under one roof, so a child can tell their story once, in a safe, child-friendly setting, instead of repeating it in office after office.

In the 2025/26 year, DWW Duke, DWW Booster and DWW Jelly supported more than 450 children and youth at Toba Centre.

Bridging the gap

Across Western Canada, child advocacy centres, hospitals and police services need more accredited facility dogs than are available. Dogs with Wings exists to bridge that gap, breeding, raising and training dogs and placing them where children and families need them most.

Toba Centre shows what that looks like. Until 2022, Manitoba's only child advocacy centre had no facility dog. Today it has three. As Toba Centre's team grows to meet demand, the need for dogs grows with it, and Dogs with Wings is committed to keeping pace so that no child has to go through the hardest day of their life without one.

Unwavering love and support

A facility dog asks nothing of a child. It doesn't need an explanation, and it doesn't judge. It simply stays, offering steady, unwavering love and support at a time when a child may feel that nothing else is certain.

> *"The children's eyes light right up when they first meet their new four-legged friend. You can actually see their anxiety slip away as the dog nestles in to them like a warm blanket. Their calm, comforting assurance puts the child at ease, allowing them to tell what happened to them."*
>
> **Theresa Pickering, Forensic Interviewer, Toba Centre**

At Toba Centre, that support starts at the front door. A DWW facility dog greets each family, waits with them in the family room, and stays at the child's side throughout their forensic interview.

DWW Jelly carries that support even further. She has trained alongside Toba Centre's forensic nurse and stays with children through bloodwork, vaccinations and forensic medical exams, so a child can have the same trusted companion from their interview through to their medical appointment. The bond is so strong that many families ask for the same dog to be there again for follow-up visits and court preparation.

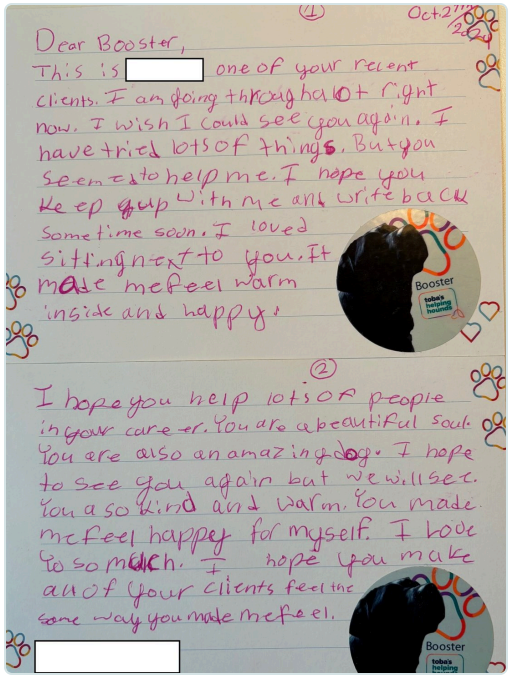


A facility dog keeps a child company in Toba Centre's medical exam room. Photo: Toba Centre for Children & Youth

> *"We didn't know we needed Duke and Booster until we did."*
>
> **Mike Chiborak, Forensic Interviewer, Toba Centre**

In their own words

The children who meet these dogs say it best.



A letter to DWW Booster from a child supported at Toba Centre. Name removed for privacy.

"I loved sitting next to you. It made me feel warm inside and happy... I hope you make all of your clients feel the same way you made me feel."

To DWW Booster, from a child supported at Toba Centre

"Thank you for letting me pet you and thanks for helping me. You made me HAPPY. You're the best assistance dog I have ever met."

To DWW Duke, from a child supported at Toba Centre

"Jelly's helping takes all my feelings away, so she might be sad now, cause she is helping to take the feelings away."

About DWW Jelly, from a child supported at Toba Centre

Four years of partnership

Toba Centre became Dogs with Wings' first Manitoba partner in 2022, when DWW Duke and DWW Booster arrived from Alberta. They began greeting families that spring and joined forensic interviews that August. DWW Jelly joined the team in December 2024 and began participating in interviews in April 2025.



DWW Duke

Handler Karen Chymy, with Forensic Interviewer Mike Chiborak. At Toba Centre since April 2022.



DWW Booster

Handler Emily Richard, with Forensic Interviewers Theresa Pickering and Gordon Doll. At Toba Centre since April 2022.



DWW Jelly

Handler Stephanie Levesque. At Toba Centre since December 2024, and part of the forensic medical team.

Meet Toba's Helping Hounds and learn more about their work at tobacentre.ca/toba-helping-hounds.

DWW facility dogs also serve Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre and the Stollery Children's Hospital. It takes about two years and $50,000 to breed, raise and train each one, and over its career a single dog can support thousands of children and families.

How you can help

- Wear blue on **October 24** and share your photo with **#GoBlueToba**.
- At the game, buy an Adam Lowry-signed Toba Centre puck at Jets Gear, or a Cocktail or Mocktail in Blue. Proceeds support Toba Centre.
- Share this story on social media and tag **@dogswithwings** and **@TobaCentreMB** so more families know this support exists.
- Follow Dogs with Wings and Toba Centre, and like, comment on and share their posts during Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Forward this article to a friend, colleague or community group, or bring it up at your workplace, school or service club.
- Invite Dogs with Wings to speak to your organization about facility dogs and the children they serve.
- Help Dogs with Wings prepare the next facility dog for a child advocacy centre at DogsWithWings.ca.

Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society · 11343 174 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7 · 780-944-8011 · Accredited Member of Assistance Dogs International · Charitable Registration 88867 7234 RR0001. Photos and children's letters courtesy of Toba Centre for Children & Youth.