Puppies arrive

(Continued from Page C37) themselves into the puppies so they will become the eyes for a blind master."

Nancy pointed out that the 4-H youngsters will not just be raising the puppies, but will be producing puppies who have gone through a socialization process and be exposed to various environments to prepare them to be eyes for blind masters.

The 4-H'ers will be taking their puppies to shopping malls, on public transportation, to meetings and anywhere a blind master might take his dog. "There are a lot of things a puppy must go through to get to the Leader Dog School," Nancy said. The Leader

Dog School is in Rochester, Michigan.

At the end of a year, the puppies will be tested to see if they are eligible to continue extensive training at the Leader Dog School. If they cannot be trained further the 4-H'ers who raised them will have first option of keeping them. Donors will have second option.

The separation at the end of the year could be heart-breaking, but Nancy said, "The bond of friendship between the puppy and the 4-H'er must be broken to form a new bond between the puppy and its master."

Raising the puppies will be Belinda Enders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Enders, 3203

Horizon Drive, Lancaster; Carrie and Rebecca Fasolt, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Fasolt, 2961 Kings Lane, Lancaster; Amy Neustadter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rucolf Neustadter, 1132 Mill Mar Road, Lancaster; and Sara Settle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Settle, 630 Walnut Street, Columbia.

Scott Brenneman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brenneman, 705 Darby Lane, Lancaster, is acting as a standby to take the puppies when other families are vacationing or have other commitments.

Nancy said the Mountville Club was selected because of the interest of its leader, Hal Enders, in the Leader Dog program. Enders said the 4-H'ers will have Leader Dog project books and the five members will be meeting

regularly for special training.

Three of the dogs are seven weeks old and were bred at The Pennsylvania State University through the Leader Dog 4-H program. They were brought to Mountville by Jody Sweeney, 4-H Leader Dog coordinator and Chris Shaub, assisting in a work-study program. The Leader Dog program was begun two years ago as a pilot program, but this is the first year it is operating in an extensive way. There are 40 leader dogs in 4-H programs in eight counties.

The fourth dog is nine weeks old and was donated to the program by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jefferson, Doylestown in Bucks County, who drove to Mountville Monday to present their dog with the others.

The Mountville Lions Club is working on a campaign to educate

the community about the training program so that the 4-H'ers and their puppies will be welcomed into stores and other public buildings. They provided dog boxes built under the supervision of Tom Coyle and assembled feeding dishes, collars, and leashes. The sewing leaders provided each puppy with a special "Leader Dog" blanket.

Vaccines have been provided by Penn State and will be administered by the Columbia Animal Hospital which is cooperating with the program. The 4-H families will be providing all the food for the puppies unless donors are found.

While leader dogs can also be labradors, golden retrievers and some crossbreeds, Nancy ex-

(Turn to Page C39)

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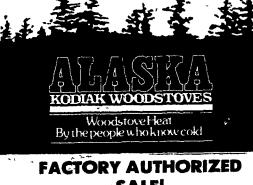
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