

Reindeer Report

As our strongest reindeer, Blitzen can always be relied on to carry much of the weight of Santa's sleigh. But this year, he has made excellent progress in using his strength to help his fellow reindeer when they need it most. He has become good at noticing when a teammate is struggling and needs a little rest. By pulling on his harness in a certain way, he can take on some of their weight for a while, to help them recover.

As always, Blitzen won the strength and hauling events at the recent Annual Reindeer Games, and seemed delighted with his 2nd place finish. On Christmas Eve, he will serve in the back pair of Santa's sleigh formation alongside Donner, so that he can take on as much extra weight as possible. This lets the reindeer in front concentrate more on speed, agility and navigation.

Quiet and shy Blitzen has always been a valued team member. But now that he has found a new way to help his teammates, he is gaining confidence every day. Santa and I are very proud of Blitzen's progress, and I hope he is proud of himself too!

Sven Yule

Blitzen



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

Comet is our navigator, and as Berry-Ann, our Route Coordinator elf would say, he's better than GPS! It's unusual for a reindeer to read maps, but once Berry-Ann has planned out the Christmas Eve journey, he studies and memorizes the information. Although the route is long and complicated, Comet always knows where to go next. This year, we have mostly focused on brain training, to maintain this highly valuable skill.

At the Annual Reindeer Games, Comet won the navigation and speedy delivery events. His physical skills are not quite as strong, but he placed a respectable 7th overall. As always, this year Comet will be in the front pair of Santa's sleigh formation, alongside Dancer. From here, he will make sure that the herd stays on the right path.

Although Comet has no trouble keeping pace on Christmas Eve, next year I'd like to see him work on his stamina. Even with snacks, he does tend to get a bit tired and grumpy as the night wears on! Having said this, his skills and hard work are very much appreciated by Santa, myself, and the other reindeer. Christmas Eve just couldn't happen without him!

Sven Yule

Comet



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

This year, Cupid has made good progress with her physical training. She has also done a standout job of encouraging her teammates, helping them to improve and perform well. As the herd's 'cheerleader', Cupid is not as focused on the athletic side of the job. But training this year with a new, lighter harness has helped boost her speed and stamina.

At the Annual Reindeer Games, Cupid did not place highly in any of the events, and finished in 9th position overall. However, she is not a competitive reindeer and admitted that she only participated for the fun. I think she could have performed better if she hadn't stopped a few times to help her teammates! On Christmas Eve, Cupid will be paired with Prancer in the middle-back of Santa's sleigh formation. Here, she will be well-placed to motivate the rest of the herd.

All the other reindeer love selfless and cheerful Cupid. In return, she provides them with all the encouragement they need when the journey gets tough. If she focused on herself more, she could certainly improve her skills, but Santa and I feel that her support of her teammates is invaluable for Christmas Eve success.

Sven Yule

Cupid



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

Dancer has the highest stamina of all Santa's reindeer, and this year she has focused on adaptability training. Although she can keep going for an extraordinarily long time, she usually sticks to a steady speed and a straight path to achieve this. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen unexpected weather and temperatures along the Christmas Eve route. The reindeer must be able to speed up and slow down, and maneuver around hazards like lightning or snow storms. But I am pleased to say that hard-working Dancer has taken it all in stride.

Her efforts certainly paid off at this year's Reindeer Games, where she won the long-distance, endurance, and obstacle course events. For the first time, she took 1st place overall - very well deserved! Because she can now lead the herd through all conditions, I have placed her with Comet in the front pair of Santa's sleigh formation this year.

Dancer's new skills will be put to the test this Christmas Eve as she works together with Dasher, our pacemaker, and Vixen, our problem solver. But Santa and I do not doubt that she will succeed. I wish everyone a smooth journey!

Sven Yule

Dancer



Magical
Sneak
Peek

Reindeer Report

Dasher, our fastest reindeer, has been working hard this year on his stamina. Previously, he tended to start sleigh rides at full speed, and lost energy quickly. Now, he is much better at matching his pace with the other reindeer. Instead of dashing ahead, he is trying to stick to the same speed throughout. This helps him keep going for longer, and gives Santa and his cargo a much smoother journey! To help monitor his pace, he has recently been fitted with a brand-new harness, with bells that jingle to the rhythm of his movements.

At the recent Annual Reindeer Games, Dasher did very well in the sprinting events and finished in 4th place overall. On Christmas Eve, he will be paired with Vixen in the middle-front row of Santa's sleigh formation. Here, he will serve as team pacemaker, helping the rest of the herd move to the same tempo.

Dasher is a highly motivated reindeer, but sometimes gets frustrated when he can't go as fast as he'd like. This Christmas Eve, his new Pacemaker role will put him to the test. Will he learn the value of going 'slow and steady', instead of racing at top speed?

Sven Yule

Dasher



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

This year, Donner has been working on his observation skills. We had noticed that whenever a present falls from the sleigh during the landing maneuver, Donner is always quick to find it. He is also good at detecting, from the outside, whether everyone inside a house is asleep. This year, we have added even more carrots into his diet, since they contain nutrients that make it easier to see well in the dark.

Donner finished in 8th place at the Annual Reindeer Games. Although he won the Treasure Hunt, he did not do well in the other events as he kept getting distracted by things he noticed. He will be paired with Blitzen in the back row of Santa's sleigh formation on Christmas Eve. This puts him right next to the presents, so he will quickly spot any that fall out.

Donner gets on well with the other reindeer, especially Comet, who is teaching him how to read maps. Eventually, Santa and I hope that Donner will serve as backup navigator. He has a lot to learn and needs to work on getting less distracted, but we know he can do it

Sven Yule

Donner



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

Prancer is a solid all-rounder – she's good at all the skills involved in a successful sleigh run. She has no special standout abilities, but no particular weaknesses either. So, rather than focus her training on one ability, this year we have simply worked on making it easier for her to do her best. Activities like testing various harnesses, trial runs from each place in the sleigh formation, and eating snacks at different intervals, have helped her to boost a range of skills. Over the past year, she has grown a little faster, more energetic and agile, and quicker-thinking.

Prancer did well at this year's Reindeer Games. Placing around the middle in each event, she came 6th overall. On Christmas Eve, she will be paired with Cupid in the middle-back row of the sleigh formation. From here, she can help any teammate who needs her.

The other reindeer are all very fond of Prancer. With her interest and willingness to learn in all of their specialties, they feel she's the most helpful and reliable of the herd. Santa and I wholeheartedly agree – we're all very lucky to have her!

Sven Yule

Prancer



Magical
Sneak
Peek

Reindeer Report

Vixen, our best problem-solver, has had an excellent year. Her speed, strength and agility are all good, but as always, her intelligence stands out above the rest. In the past 12 months, she has focused on training for unexpected Christmas Eve events. These might be sudden, unavoidable bad weather, children forgetting to leave out a carrot, or Santa getting stuck up the chimney.

Although Vixen did not win any events at the Annual Reindeer Games, her quick thinking helped her place 5th overall. Paired with Dasher in the middle-front of the Christmas Eve sleigh formation, she will have an excellent all-round view. She will ring the special new bell on her harness if she spots any trouble.

Vixen has always been good at taking charge when necessary, and this year, she has helped train her fellow reindeer on how to react if a challenge comes up. The team are now great at staying calm and doing as they are told during drills, and their trust in Vixen has grown. Next year, we will focus more training on her physical abilities. For now, I am happy to say that thanks to Vixen, Santa and his team are feeling more confident than ever!

Sven Yule

Vixen



Magical Sneak Peek

Reindeer Report

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny year! Or rather, his nose did. During the past 12 months, Rudolph continued with his leadership training and made excellent progress. However, in February we had an issue with his nose, which became noticeably less bright than usual. Following medical advice, we switched Rudolph's diet to include mostly purple carrots, instead of orange ones. Purple carrots contain the special nutrient that helps red noses shine in the dark. I am pleased to report that his nose is now back to normal.

At the Annual Reindeer Games, Rudolph won several of the night-time challenges and scooped 3rd place overall. Of course, Rudolph with his nose so bright (once again) will lead Santa's sleigh formation on Christmas Eve, out in front of the first reindeer pair.

Although it took him a while to fit in with the other reindeer when he first arrived, Rudolph is now good friends with everyone. They all agree that he is a natural leader, since he's strong, intelligent and looks out for others. Santa and I are very proud of Rudolph, and we've no doubt that he'll go down in history!

Sven Yule

Rudolph



Magical Sneak Peek