

Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2007

Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Osage and Toma

About the Graduates:

William Baer and Osage

A Seasoned Teacher, Now a Student

The following is from the graduation profile of the July 2007 graduating class.

Brookline, Massachusetts is the home of Billy (William) Baer, who has come to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for his very first dog, Osage. Billy has retinitis pigmentosa, and has some residual vision; Billy frankly admits that entrusting his life and safety completely to Osage will be a goal that he must achieve. Guiding Eyes was highly recommended to Billy by a personal friend who had received his second dog from the school. With two graduate degrees from Boston College under his belt, Billy taught high school trigonometry and calculus to 11th and 12th graders for 13 years. He loves music, and had played alto/soprano sax and even studied at the Berkley College of Music; he abandoned music as a career because of his diminishing sight. Now, at the age of 44, he must create yet another new life for himself. Self described as positive, sensitive, empathetic and a good listener, Billy says that he has become the recipient of a sweet, responsive, precious, Guiding Eyes partner who will not only give him guidance but companionship. Oh yes, Osage has not been told as yet that he will have four cats as housemates.



**William Baer, Osage, and Jim Harmeson
on the front porch at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY**

Osage was raised by Wendy and Jim Bierworth, and Jim and Luan Harmeson. While with the Bierworth's, Osage's vet sponsor was Pet House Calls of Raleigh and the Bierworth's were his food sponsors. Osage's vet sponsor while with the Harmeson's was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, and his food sponsors were the Harmesons.

Bob Bliss and Toma

A First Guiding Eyes Dog for a Retired Father

The following is from the graduation profile of the August 2007 graduating class.

Bob Bliss hails from Massachusetts. He came to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for his first guide dog, Toma, upon the recommendation of a graduate who was Bob's mobility-training buddy. Bob lost his sight as a result of retinitis pigmentosa 40 years ago. He retired from the New England Telephone Company in 1991 and today enjoys a busy life in retirement. In 1997 he and his wife adopted a little girl, Elisabeth, from China; now 12, she continues to fill their lives with joy. Bob still drives a tractor to mow his lawn and describes himself as an upbeat guy who seeks to brighten everyone's day. Bob feels that Toma's affectionate and obedient nature will help him to do just that. It is a completely new experience for him to put his trust and faith in a dog after so many years of finding his own way. "My experience here at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, is that they can't do enough for you they are always in a giving mode. My challenge throughout training is to maintain a willingness to understand, change and adapt."

Toma was raised by Karissa and Kiley Mae Davan of Raleigh, NC. Toma's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and Karissa was his food sponsor.



Bob Bliss and Toma

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!



Nino with Justice

Justice, a male German shepherd, is being raised by the Geiner family of Raleigh, NC. Justice is their 4th GEB puppy! Justice's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsors are the Geiner family. Dana Geiner provided the following comments about Justice: Getting a puppy before Nino went up for his IFT was the best thing we ever did. It was good for Nino, the pup, and especially the kids. Justice is such a sweet puppy. When we first saw him all we saw was a ball of black fur. He was very vocal, however, very sweet. Now that he has settled in (13 weeks old), he has become well adjusted. He is a quick learner. He knows sit, down, touch. Car rides must bore him because he falls asleep. He loves to meet people.



**Justice
enjoying
his new
yard!**



Paloma, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC. Paloma is their 8th GEB puppy! Paloma's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital. Her food sponsors are Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh, NC. Kay shared the following about Paloma. We welcomed our 8th GEB puppy, Paloma, into our lives on Sept. 25. It was immediately obvious that much more training was going into these puppies before we ever get them from New York. Paloma was already much more responsive to me with the food rewards. She was already sitting at doors, going into the kennel easily, getting busy, and, it seems, much further along than previous puppies. I feel like I'm just reinforcing these first behaviors rather than starting from scratch. It is a very nice change. So far, so good.....



Paloma takes a break from chewing her bone to pose for a picture!



Roz sleeps peacefully in her Uncle Joel's arms, while Vanilla keeps a close eye on the situation.

Roz, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC. Roz is her 5th GEB puppy! Roz' vet sponsor is Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell, NC. Her food sponsor is Diversified Systems, Inc. in Raleigh, NC. Kristen provided this about Roz. After raising three, starting one, and sitting for dozens of GEB puppies, I continue to be surprised by how different every new puppy is from the last. Roz arrived with a personality all her own. She has, like the others before her, captured our hearts already. She has a bit of learning to do, like chewing bones and toys instead of fingers and toes; and riding quietly in the car rather than "singing" with the radio, but, she gets better every day. She has been accompanying me to work since the day after her arrival, and has been a perfect angel in the office, and a joy to all of our staff. How is it that these puppies know from the start, that they must be good at work?

Where are they now?

Elway, a male yellow lab raised Susan Piron and Joe Brown of Macon, NC, passed his in-for-training test. Elway's vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital of Warrenton, NC and his food sponsor was Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPs) of Warren County.

Iota, a male black lab raised by Laura Wiles, and her parent's Brian and JoAnne of Wendell, recently passed his in-for-training test. Iota's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsor's were the Wiles family.

Nino, a male German shepherd raised by Dana Geiner and family of Raleigh, NC, recently passed his in-for-training test; and is being evaluated for the breeding program. Nino's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsors were Dana and Rob Geiner.

Paige, a female golden retriever raised by Jane Vignovic of Cary, NC passed her in-for-training test. Paige's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and her food sponsor was Jane. Paige was started by the McCarthy's of Matthews, NC. While in Matthews, Paige's vet sponsor was Mercy Animal Hospital, and her food sponsor was Roseanne Bateman, Principal of Wesley Chapel Elementary School in Monroe.

Powell, a male golden retriever raised by Patricia and Sally Neve of Durham, NC passed his in-for-training test. Powell's vet sponsor was North Paw Animal Hospital of Durham, and his food sponsors were Rick and Sue Copland of Hillsborough, NC.

Sidney, a male black lab raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC recently passed his in-for-training test. Sidney's vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill and the Tanners were his food sponsors.

Van Gogh, a male yellow lab raised by Danny Overcash of Mooresville, NC passed his in-for-training test. Van Gogh's vet sponsor was Lakewood Animal Hospital of Mooresville and Danny was his food sponsor.

Walt, a male black lab raised by Susan Shinn and family of Concord, NC was recently released from Guiding Eyes for medical reasons. Walt's vet sponsor was Randall Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville, and his food sponsor was Faison & Associates of Charlotte.

Winefred, a female black lab raised by Heather Blackledge of Waxhaw, NC recently passed her in-for-training test. Winefred's vet sponsor was Rea Road Animal Hospital of Charlotte, and her food sponsors were the UPS Store and Harold and Wanda Parks of West Jefferson, NC.

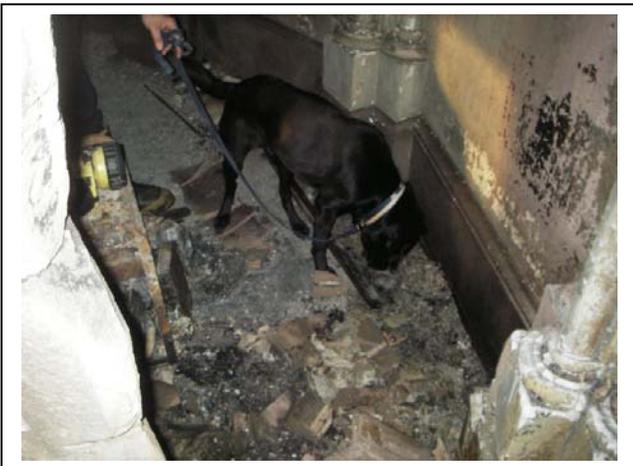
The word on the street is that all of our North Carolina puppies who recently passed their in-for-training tests looked amazing. Congratulations to all of their raisers!

Roxy and Porsche

Susan Piron received updates on her dogs, Roxy and Porsche, who were released from Guiding Eyes and are both working as detection dogs. She shared the following note about Roxy that she received from Jerry Webster, CFI. Roxy is doing extremely well. She is healthy and happy and working like a champ. She has worked 31 fire scenes this year and has actually saved the insurance industry millions of dollars. She is so excited when she works that I have to spend a little time in preparation for the task to get her calmed down. She is a pure joy at work and at home.

Temperatures have been a real problem this summer. Miss Roxy doesn't do heat at all. She has a refrigerated vest to keep her cool.

We will try to make one of the upcoming evals this fall & winter so that she can show off.



Porsche Working

In Loving Memory
Bert
1/14/96 – 9/7/07

The following note was written by Michael T. Reilly, Battalion Fire Chief at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

Bert, retired Accelerant Detection K-9 for the Fire Marshal's Office of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, passed away. Bert was 11 ½ years old and he worked for the Fire Investigations Branch of the Fire Marshal's Office from April 1998 - March 2004. Bert spent his working years with his handler, Terry Hall, and aided in the investigation of over 500 fire scenes in his career. Bert's and Terry's abilities as an Accelerant Detection K-9 Team were well known in the arson investigations community. Bert and Terry aided many jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and other localities by responding to investigate incidents outside Fairfax County.

After his retirement in April 2004, Bert spent his retirement years with Jane Wright, who is a former employee of the Fire Marshal's Office. Bert was an amazing dog whose fantastic personality brought a smile to everyone who worked with him. On his last day, Bert had over 20 visitors who wanted to say good-bye, and he made his last visit to the Fire Marshal's Office on Monday, August 20th. Bert was very popular in his neighborhood in Centreville. Bert was best known by employees of the Fire Marshal's Office for his love of food. There were many breakfasts and lunches that disappeared from employee desks over the years. Bert will truly be missed by all.

A special thanks to both Terry Hall and Jane Wright for the love and care they have provided Bert over the years.

Bert was raised by Allan and Penny Golabek of Acresville, NC. His vet sponsor was Morrison Animal Clinic of Burnsville, NC, and his food sponsors were the Golabeks. Bert was released from Guiding Eyes for the Blind due to lack of confidence. After completing training with ATF, he had a successful career as a detection dog.



A Little Labrador Humor

I pulled into the crowded parking lot at the Super Wal-Mart Shopping Center and rolled down the car windows to make sure my Labrador Retriever Pup had fresh air.

She was stretched full-out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there! I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically, "Now you stay. Do you hear me?"
"Stay! Stay!"

The driver of a nearby car, a pretty blonde young lady, gave me a strange look and said,

"Why don't you just put it in park?"



ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:

Please bring your DVD and an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next Walk and Talk (if you did not have it for the Quarterly Raiser Report) and don't forget to submit the Quarterly Raiser Report (www.guidingeyesbcweb.org)!

WALK AND TALK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, November 2nd and SATURDAY, November 3rd, 2007
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Apex, NC

Friday 11/2	PUPPY	RAISER
2:45 PM	Withers	Meek
3:15 PM	Justice **	Geiner
4:00 PM	Roz **	Shamblin
5:00 PM	Parker	Haynes
6:00 PM	JW	Pendergraft
6:45 PM	Class for Team	
Saturday 11/3	PUPPY	RAISER
9:00 AM	Oz	Bierwirth
9:45 AM	Paloma **	Jackson
11:00 AM	Ruffles **	Cuddy
NOON	GENERAL MEETING	
1:30 PM	Ocala	Ames
2:15 PM	Fresca	Farr
3:30 PM	Oslo	Cucurullo
4:15 PM	Visa **	Harmeson

** Beside Pup's name indicates photo needs to be taken by Rick Tanner before or after the General Meeting.

DIRECTIONS to the FALL Walk and Talk

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 1200 N. Salem St., Apex, NC 27502

Driving Directions to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for the Fall Walk and Talk:

For those going West on 64, continue past the exit for MacGregor Village, go through the light at Lake Pine, and through the light at Laura Duncan Road. Take the next exit, which is marked Downtown Apex, and turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp (Stock Builders will be right in front of you) onto Old Apex Road. Go to the stoplight and turn left onto Salem Street (Davis Drive will come in on the right), you will go under 64 and the church will be on the left about 2/10 mile.

For those going East on 64, take the exit after the NC 55 (Apex, Durham) exit and exit at the Downtown Apex exit. Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Salem Street and the church is 2/10 mile on the left.

Donate to GEB When Shopping at Food Lion!

It's time to re-register your cards for 2008!

LionShop & Share is the easiest, most convenient way to raise money for your local not-for-profit organization. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

If anyone is interested in participating, please go to the Food Lion website listed below and click the 'Select an Organization' button. In the pop up window, select NC as the State, Pittsboro the City, select Guiding Eyes for the Blind as the Organization and then follow the instructions to link your MVP card.

<https://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopandShare/secure/RegisterMVPCards.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2007 - 2008

November 2-3, 2007

Walk and Talk, Apex, NC
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

February 15-16, 2008

Walk and Talk, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

May 2-3, 2008

Walk and Talk, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

August 8-9, 2008

Walk and Talk, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 7-8, 2008

Walk and Talk, Apex, NC
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

MISSION STATEMENT

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is dedicated to enriching the lives of blind and visually impaired men and women by providing them with the freedom to travel safely, thereby assuring greater independence, dignity and new horizons of opportunity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Guiding Eyes for the Blind
North Carolina Puppy Raising Program
P.O. Box 214, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Raleigh Area: Sharon Cooke 919.677.8365
Charlotte Area: Julie Haynes 704.821.6521
Area Coordinators: Sherry & Don Dodson 919.642.0185
WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org
www.guidingeyesnc.org



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P.O. Box 214
Pittsboro, NC 27312