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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2008

Congratulations to Ocala, NCPRP's Most Recent Graduate!

A Texas Star Is Born

Provided by Leigh Ames, Puppy Raiser

Ocala has made it! She graduated and is now a working girl. We are so excited for her. Knowing how determined she is we shouldn't be one bit surprised. We should also have known that Ocala was destined for stardom back in those early months of puppy class. Whether showing off her obedience with precision, or offering a playful "look-but don't touch" glance, or even annoying us with an all out demand bark, Ocala wanted everyone and every dog to know she was there. With patience, work, and maturity, she managed to channel that enthusiastic vanity into a love and knack for work.

Ocala's career will be spent in Texas, guiding her new partner, Ralph, through his busy schedule, working at 3 radio stations. As if radio celebrity wasn't enough, Ocala will also help Ralph give educational presentations to local elementary schools about visually impaired people. What a coincidence! Ocala wowed classrooms and gymnasiums full of students working as my assistant in our Charlotte area schools doing the same kinds of programs. The kids love her and she loves being in the spotlight.



Ocala and Ralph at their Graduation ceremony

Attending this September graduation was a remarkable experience for our family. Seeing our girl with her partner by her side was exactly what we had worked toward, and more than we had hoped for. The multitude of emotions was overwhelming. As I try to put into words how just the sight of her made me feel, I can sense that heat creeping back up my neck, and the tingling in my scalp. I was, WE were, all so very proud. Proud of her, proud of ourselves, and proud to be part of such an incredible effort and organization.

Ralph, her partner, was and is such a gracious person. He is so pleased to have Ocala and thankful for what she will mean for his life. After spending an afternoon with him, swapping stories about his life, ours, and Ocala's puppyhood, I said to Ralph, "I can tell how much you love her. I want you to know how much that means to me." His response will be forever etched in my mind, and serve as my strength during the days when I feel her absence. He said, "It was love at first touch."



The Ames family with Ocala after Graduation!

Every moment of frustration, every piddle puddle cleaned up, every moment of sadness we swallow when saying goodbye, is all worth it, in that one expression of love, from the very person we do this for. The VIP, the very important, Visually Impaired Partner.

Ocala was raised by Leigh and Tim Ames and family of Concord, NC. Ocala's vet sponsor was Poplar Animal Hospital of Concord, NC and her food sponsor was Bovis Lend Lease of Charlotte, NC.

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Hampton, a male black lab, is being raised by first time raisers Mary and Bart Austin. His vet sponsor is Sharon Lakes Animal Hospital of Charlotte, and his food sponsors are the Austins.

Keegan, a male yellow lab, is being raised by the Haynes family. Keegan is their 8th puppy! Keegan's vet sponsor is Animal Care Hospital of Matthews, and his food sponsor is Rosanne Bateman.

Astro, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Leigh and Tim Ames and family. Leigh shared the following about Astro. *So, what could possibly make our experience [of watching Ocala graduate, and meeting her partner] even richer? How could you top that? Well, with a fluffy, mellow fellow, blonde boy bombshell, named Astro. He's so darn cute and laid back, it's downright ridiculous. He's kind of like a little surfer dude. He loves playing in his water bowl and trying to catch a ride on the scruff of our dog Molly's neck. But other than that, he just wants to "chill" and hang out, watching life pass by with coolness. He seems to have a take-it or leave-it attitude and so we've added to his growing list of nicknames, "Jimmy Buffet Boy". We are very excited to have him join our family and look forward to fun days ahead.* Astro's vet sponsor is Coddle Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsor is Bovis Lend Lease.

Astro meets his new family!



**Bailey Ames with Astro.
Love at first sight!**

Where are they now?

Fresca, a female black lab raised by Katie Filkins of Burlington and Jo Anne Farr of Raleigh, was recently released from training due to medical problems. Fresca is being lovingly adopted by Jo Anne. Fresca's vet sponsor while with Katie was Elon Animal Hospital and Katie was her food sponsor. Fresca's vet sponsor in Raleigh was Fisher Veterinary Hospital, and Jo Anne was her food sponsor.

Paloma, a female yellow lab raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC, was released from training. She did very well on her aptitude test, and is going to work in arson detection for the NC SBI. Paloma's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and her food sponsors were Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh.

In Loving Memory
Ellery
7/23/97 to 7/24/08

Ellery, raised by Olga and Jesse Dawkins of Washington, NC, died of Carcinoma on July 24, 2008. Ellery graduated from Guiding Eyes, and upon retirement returned to live with Olga and Jesse. His vet sponsor was Pamlico Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was Heather Riley, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

In Loving Memory
Montana
2/11/95 to 8/27/08

Montana, raised by Becky and James McAllister of Cary, died on August 27, 2008. Montana was released due to medical problems. He was adopted and loved by Pete Ellis. Montana was donated to Guiding Eyes by Morgann Dodson. His vet sponsor was Apex Veterinary Hospital, and his food sponsors were Randy and Susan Ward of Raleigh, NC.

Has your puppy been to a sitter lately?

Puppy sitting and puppy swaps provide excellent socialization opportunities for GEB puppies. Guiding Eyes encourages puppy raisers to trade puppies with other raisers or take puppies to sitters periodically to help them adapt to living in new environments. Tamara Flinchum recently sent Sandy to visit Janet Newcity for a few days. Sandy had fun with Janet's children and family pets, including two Labrador Retrievers and an aquarium of colorful fish.

Puppy raisers if you are planning to travel over the holidays, please send your sitting requests to Kay Jackson as early as possible to ensure you will have a sitter lined up for your vacation.



Sandy enjoys her first exposure to a salt water aquarium!

Donate to GEB When Shopping at Food Lion!

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.



Guide Dogs in the Business World *Author Unknown*

If you show up at work each day wearing leather and chains

If others think it's funny that you "brown-nose" the boss

If all employees are told to ignore you at a team building training class

If you groan loudly at planning meetings and it brings laughter instead
of condemnation

If no one asks your opinion, yet most describe you as "the smartest one
in the office!"

If you've been at a company for 8 years and co-workers are still shocked
to meet you on the elevator

If you've never been accused of "watching the clock"

If everything in the cafeteria appeals to you

If you violate the company's sexual harassment policy and are not even
issued a warning

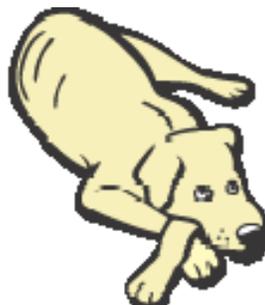
If your co-workers are equally split on regarding you as a "happy
employee" and a "disgruntled employee"

If you remind most people of someone they used to know

If there were more people at your retirement ceremony than there were at
any other

CHANCES ARE...

You are a corporate working dog guide!



ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:

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

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, November 7 and SATURDAY, November 8
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Apex, NC

Friday 11/7	PUPPY	RAISER
2:00 PM	Oslo	Cucurullo
2:45 PM	Vance	Piron/Farr
3:30 PM	Jody	Jewell
4:15 PM	Gwenyth	Meyer
5:00 PM	Sanka	Neve
5:45 PM	Adonis	Waddell
6:30PM	Justice	Geiner
7:15 PM	Roz	Shamblin
Saturday 11/8	PUPPY	RAISER
8:00 AM	New Puppy **	Newcity
9:00 AM	Wynett	Wiles
9:45 AM	Sandy	Flinchum
10:30 AM	Erin	Tanner
11:15 AM	Sahara	Carey
12:00 PM	GENERAL MEETING	And lunch
1:00 PM	Oberon	Overcash
1:45 PM	Hampton	Austin
2:30 PM	Astro **	Ames
3:30 PM	Keegan	Haynes
4:15 PM	Glen	Divan
5:00 PM	Dreamer	Vignovic
5:45 PM ?	Hexa **	Cook

** Beside Pup's name indicates photo needs to be taken around the General Meeting time. If you cannot have your picture taken between 11:15 AM and noon, please let Sherry know.

DIRECTIONS to the FALL EVALUATION

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

Driving Directions to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for the Fall Evaluation:

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2008

November 7-8, 2008

Evaluation, 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