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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2007

Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Cora and Lucas!

Cora and Lucas recently graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Cora is now living in Long Island, NY and Lucas is in Wellsboro, PA.



Cora

By Kathie Rysanek

When we received word that Cora was going to graduate on January 20, 2007, Bill and I drove to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for the graduation ceremony. Cora was our third dog, but this was our first trip to a graduation. Over the years, other raisers had told me what to expect, but there is no way to understand until you make the trip and see for yourself.

There were 11 graduates at the ceremony, all experienced guide dog users, back for another dog. Cora is Melissa's fifth dog. I wondered if I would recognize her and when I saw all of the yellow labs file in with their new partners, I knew I had it made! A black dog certainly stands out among the yellows.

Melissa had realized that her fourth dog was failing and called GEB to come evaluate her. They agreed, and Melissa called the former puppy raiser to ask the family if they would like to have the dog back again and they were thrilled. Apparently they had not been able to come to the graduation of that dog, so they came to this one to see Melissa graduate with Cora. It was an incredibly happy reunion!

There was a very special graduate in this class, a man named Omar Rivera whose new dog is named Montana. His former dog retired after bringing him to safety from the World Trade Center on 9/11. When Omar stood to speak about "trust", there wasn't a sound or a dry eye in the room. He stood there as testimony to the difference a dedicated and selfless group of people can make in another person's life.



Puppy Raisers Bill & Kathie Rysanek with graduates Melissa Resnick & GEB Cora

Melissa Resnick & Cora

The following is from the graduation profile of the January 2007 graduating class

Melissa Resnick, presently living in Merrick, Long Island, New York, has come to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for Cora, her fifth guide dog from the school. Melissa has been blind since birth as a result of Leber's disease. She came to GEB initially upon the advice of her parents and has never regretted the decision. Melissa graduated from Queens College with a Masters in Library Science and would now love to travel to Maryland to find work at the "mother ship of all medical libraries," The National Library of Medicine, located in Bethesda. Melissa was married at the age of 34 to a man whom she considered to be her very special soul mate. He died five years later and the gap in her life remains deep and wide. Now 42, Melissa not only keeps herself busy with crocheting creative items such as blankets, baskets, slippers, socks, etc. but is anxious to expand and enrich her career as a librarian. She says that Cora is a very "settling dog." She is laid back, dependable and not at all hyper. Melissa expects that she will have more confidence and independence and will most certainly be positively affected by the fuzzy warmth and love of her new canine companion. Melissa expressed her admiration for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. "That is why I keep coming back! The staff is attentive, the instructors are patient and when you have special problems, they are there for you, even during emotional turmoil."

Cora's vet sponsors were Six Forks Animal Hospital of Raleigh, Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary and Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital of Oriental, NC. Cora's food sponsors were Kathie and Bill Rysanek, Donovan Leonard, Robin Stern and Nancy Inger.

Lucas

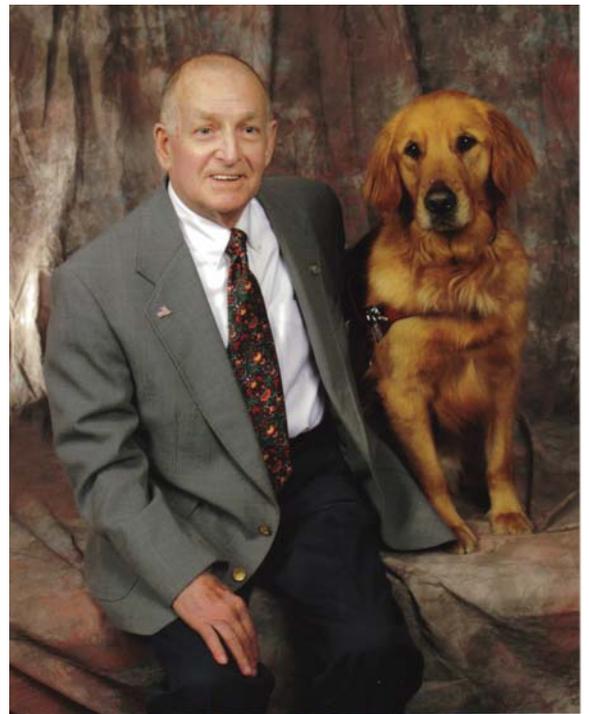
By Sally Neve

In November of 2004 as we anticipated the arrival of Lucas, our first GEB puppy, we were extremely excited. Little did we know then how much more excited we would be in March 2007 as we anticipated seeing Lucas graduate. The graduation on March 24th was a heart warming, wonderfully rewarding experience. It closed the circle for us and made the puppy raising process complete.

Lucas is now living in Wellsboro, PA, with Jerry Eberhart, a very youthful 79 year old retired gentleman. Jerry's wife, extended family and the Wellsboro community were all anxious to meet and welcome Lucas. Wellsboro is a small town of 4,000 in northern PA. Lucas is Jerry's second GEB dog. His first dog of 9 years died in November 2006 of pancreatic cancer. Jerry was lost without his dog and couldn't wait to get another faithful guide and companion. We are thrilled that Lucas was chosen to fill that role.

It is our hope that all raisers will have the opportunity to experience a GEB graduation and close the circle.

Lucas' vet sponsor was North Paw Animal Hospital of Durham and his food sponsors were Rick and Sue Copland of Hillsborough, NC.



Jerry Eberhart & Lucas

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

JW, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC and Trudy & Will Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, NC. Special thanks to Jim Harmeson for brining JW down to NC on his return trip from GEB. GlaxoSmithKline has named JW after a very special person and former employee, the late Jim Williams, who died 5 years ago from cancer. Jim Williams was adored by all who knew him at GSK. JW's vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, NC and his food sponsors are Trudy & Will Pendergraft. Kristen provided the following about JW:

JW is a playful, inquisitive puppy who believes the world is his oyster! He loves to investigate his surroundings: Why smell a flower when you can taste it? Why do people like to sit on the couch? Let me try it out! What happens when you grab toilet paper and run? Oh, your human grumbles.... Anyway, he keeps us on our toes!

JW has livened and brightened up our homes in Chapel Hill and Knightdale. What a joy he is! He is a very good puppy who takes his job seriously and sleeps all day, but when 5:00 comes, he has a burst of energy. He is bright, loving, and quite a character. What a blessing that so many of us are able to share and enjoy him. Many thanks to Sarah Brunelle at the Canine Development Center for getting him off to a great start!

Oz, a male black lab, is being Wendy & Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC. Oz is the Bierwirth's 8th GEB puppy! Oz's vet sponsor is Pet House Calls of Raleigh, NC and his food sponsor is the Bierwirths.

Parker, a male black lab, is being raised by Julie Haynes and family of Indian Trail, NC. Parker is their 7th GEB puppy! Parker's vet sponsor is Animal Care Hospital of Matthews, NC and his food sponsor is Roseanne Bateman of Monroe, NC.



Withers

Withers, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Sandy Meek and family of Fayetteville, NC. Withers is the Meek's 2nd GEB puppy! Withers's vet sponsor is Rim Road Animal Hospital of Fayetteville and his food sponsor is the Meek family. Sandy provided the following on Withers:

Withers should have been in the C-litter so he could have been named "Chow Hound."

Every time we enter the house he goes through the house sniffing the air to see if his food is soaking. He has a little attitude and although we think "Withers" sounds like the name of a butler, he thinks we are his personal servants. He is adorable and cuddly and we love having him in the family!



JW



Parker in a 2nd grade classroom

Where are they now?

Louie, a male black lab raised by Abby Dickey and family of Mebane, NC, recently passed his in-for-training test! Louie's vet sponsor was Mebane Mobile Veterinary Service and his food sponsor was the Dickey family.

Onslo, a male black lab raised by Sandy Meek and family of Fayetteville, NC, recently passed his in-for-training test. Onslo's vet sponsor was Rim Road Animal Hospital of Fayetteville, NC and his food sponsor was the Meek family.

Osage, a male black lab, recently passed his in-for-training test! Osage was most recently raised by Jim and Luan Harmeson of Sanford, NC. While with Jim and Luan, his vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was the Harmesons. Osage was previously raised by Wendy and Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, where his previous vet sponsor was Pet House Calls and his food sponsor was the Bierwirths.

Toma, a male black lab raised by Karissa Davan and family of Raleigh, NC, recently passed his in-for-training test. Toma's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh, NC and his food sponsor was the Davan family

Verna, a female black lab raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test. Verna's vet sponsor was Swift Animal Hospital of Raleigh, NC and her food sponsor was Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh.

Will, a male black lab raised by the Griffith family of Lagrange, NC was recently released from Guiding Eyes for the Blind and will be auditioning for a career in detection. Will's vet sponsor was Riverbank Animal Hospital of Kinston and his food sponsor was the Griffith family.



Onslo with his puppy raiser, Matthew Meek, packing for their trip to NY for Onslo's in-for-training test.

In Loving Memory Decker

December 6, 1992 - February 1, 2007

Decker, a male yellow lab raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC, recently passed away. Decker was donated to GEB by Anne & Neil Evans of Duckback Labs. Decker was released from GEB and was adopted by the Bennett family. Decker's vet sponsor was Western Wake Veterinary Services and his food sponsor was the Bennett family.

Remembering Decker By Margot Bennett

I can still remember the phone call from Sherry in May of 1993, asking me "How would you like to raise a yellow lab boy named Decker?" We had been puppy sitting him for a few days and it took a minute for it to sink in, that the sweet boy we'd had for a few days was being offered up to us as our first puppy raising experience for Guiding Eyes. Can you imagine what our answer was? Of course! We'd been through the application and interview process

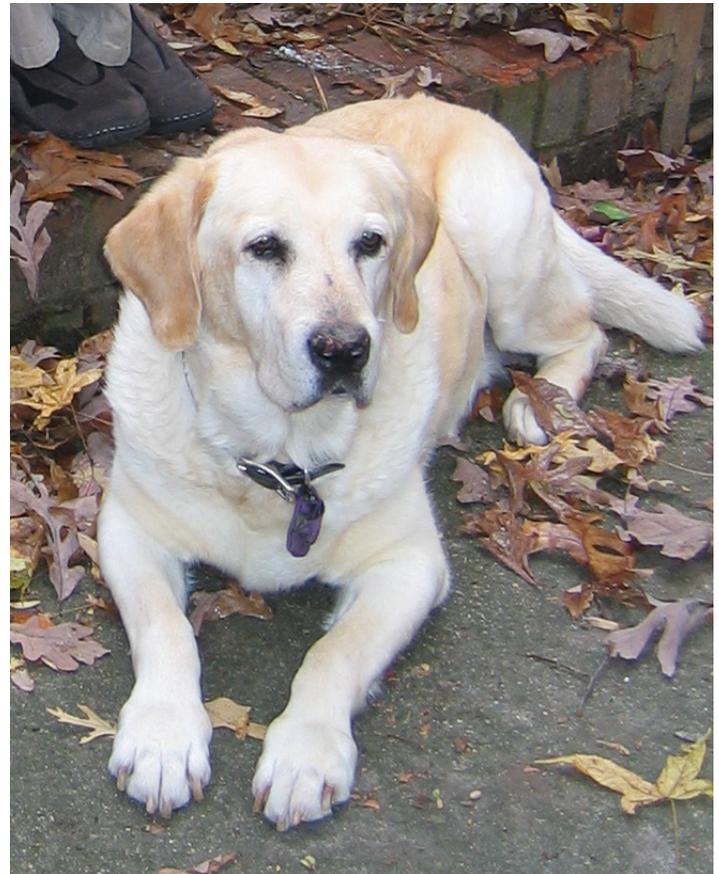
and were just waiting for a baby to raise. This was before the Bennett children began to arrive and I was actually working full time at Nortel.

So began our first experience with puppy raising. It felt so odd to bring him places with a coat on, but it also felt like quite an honor-explaining what we were doing and why. People were always so amazed. I will not forget Sherry's first experience showing me what to do when Decker was afraid of things when we were walking. I had never acted so silly and to this day remember wondering what people must have thought on Walnut Street when I was jumping up and down acting goofy and laughing to get Decker to go visit a garbage can.

When he was ready, Decker went to GEB for his in-for-training test, and though he passed his test, he was retained at the medical center there to look into his, as I called it, "crusty nose". After months of testing and re-testing it was determined he had Discoid Lupus, and he was released. Not a moments hesitation on my part- he was coming home!

So began our life with Decker as our pet, and mentor for future GEB pups to come through our home. I could not have asked for a better-behaved and low-key loving dog for our family. As well as doing many public relations things for Guiding Eyes, Decker also helped raise 5 GEB puppies that came through our house: Ensign, Vesper, Rocky, Ulrika and Gamma. Not to mention, many many puppy sitting weekends we did when we were in between dogs and children. Plus, of course, he was there for the growing up of our 3 beautiful children: Gibson (now 11), Laura (now 8) and Theresia (now almost 4).

How many times he was brought back to my daughters bedroom for tea and dress up (how she could fit a bib over his huge head I'll never know)... how many times his fur was tugged and his tail was stepped on... how many times he was crawled over by puppies and children... how many times he went with us on vacation and I never doubted how he'd behave as a guest... how many times he tugged at my heart with his beautiful brown eyes and cowlick on his nose... how many times over he was loved.



Decker

Many, many thanks to Guiding Eyes, Anne Evans, Sherry Dodson and Johnson Russell for bringing Decker into our lives and keeping him healthy for us for 14 blessed years. Without Anne, Decker would not have been donated to GEB, without Sherry, Decker would not have been chosen as THE one for GEB (due to his cowlick on his nose I was told) and without Johnson, Decker would not have had such a long and healthy life. Thank you also to all the wonderful NCRP raisers who provided comforting words to me during a very difficult time. Though he is missed tremendously, we all find comfort in knowing his presence awaits us on Rainbow Bridge-tail wagging, body shaking and feet hippity-hopping (he never jumped, only hippity-hopped). May you rest in peace, sweet boy. We miss you.

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. Many thanks to Kristen Shamblin for setting this up!

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

ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:

Please bring your DVD and an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next evaluation and don't forget to fill out a Quarterly Evaluation Report (www.guidingeyesbcweb.org)!

DIRECTIONS to the SPRING EVALUATION

Pittsboro Baptist Church, 121 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

From Raleigh:

Take 64 West across Jordan Lake and continue on 64 until you reach the 15/501 exit (Exit # 383 - this is the exit after the 64 Business/Pittsboro exit). Turn left at the top of the exit ramp.

******Travel about 2 miles into Pittsboro to the first traffic light.

Turn right at the light onto West Salisbury Street and go one block (note: the street sign for Salisbury street is a small white one on the far left corner - it is not easy to see but it is the first (and only) traffic light.)

The church is on the left at the next corner. Parking is across the street. The Fellowship Hall is on the ground floor on the far right of the church complex. The entrance is off the small parking lot to the side.

From Chapel Hill/Durham

Follow 15/501 and cross over the 64 and follow ****** directions above

From Siler City and West:

Take 64 to the 15/501 Exit (this is the exit after the Burlington/Spring Lake Exit)

Turn right at the top of the exit ramp and follow ****** directions above

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 4th and SATURDAY, May 5th, 2007

Pittsboro Baptist Church, Pittsboro, NC

Friday 5/4	PUPPY	RAISER
12:00 PM	Nino	Geiner
12:45 PM	New Puppy *	Cuddy
1:45 PM	Elway	Piron
2:30 PM	Powell	Neve
3:15 PM	Paige	Vignovic
4:00 PM	Break	
5:00 PM	Parker	Haynes
6:00 PM	Oz	Bierwirth
6:45 PM	JW	Shamblin
7:30 PM	Class for Team	
Saturday 5/5	PUPPY	RAISER
8:00 AM	Withers	Meek
9:00 AM	Fresca	Farr
9:45 AM	Iota	Wiles
10:30 AM	Sidney (with Sue)	Tanner
10:30 AM	Ocala	Aimes
11:15 AM	Sheldon (with Sue)	Quesenberry
NOON	General Meeting	
1:00 PM	Walt	Shinn
1:45 PM	Van Gogh	Overcash
2:30 PM	Winifred	Blackledge

* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates photograph to be taken by Rick Tanner after 10:30AM on Saturday

See previous page for driving directions to the Pittsboro Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2007

May 4-5, 2007

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

August 17-18, 2007

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 2-3, 2007

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

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WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org

www.guidingeyesnc.org



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

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