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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2009

About the Graduates: Iota and Visa

Iota

Provided by Jo Anne Wiles, Puppy Raiser

On February 19, Iota and Leon became the sixth and seventh dogs placed through the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Healing Autism program. Iota is the first graduate in the program from the North Carolina Puppy Raising Region. Brian and I traveled to NY to attend a luncheon in honor of the two dogs and their new families. Our daughter, Laura, was his main raiser, but she was unable to attend. Iota was a big part of our family's life from June 2006 through his IFT test in September 2007. We were pleased to have a chance to see him again and to meet his new family. His autism training lasted almost eight months. That was in addition to the guide dog training that he had received.

Autism affects one out of every 150 children. A healing autism dog not only helps the child, it helps the parents and whole family by relieving parental stress. The autistic child must need the dog for safety reasons, but the dog also provides the child with companionship and improved peer acceptance. It provides the child with an opportunity for independence and increases confidence. The dog is a certified service dog and wears a blue Guiding Eyes Healing Autism vest.

Iota now lives with the Jacobs family from New Rochelle, New York. Their son, Andrew, has autism. He is eight years old and is in a mainstream fourth grade classroom. Andrew is the third of four children. He has a sister and two brothers. His father, Quentin, spent a week at the Training Center learning how to get Iota to respond to his commands and how to handle him in public. The program director also travels to the family's home to work with the family and dog. Andrew's mother told us that they had already seen improvements in Andrew's communication skills as he told people about Iota. It was obvious to us that Iota will be a wonderful companion to Andrew in the future.



The Jacobs family with Iota

Iota was raised by Laura Wiles and family. His vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell, and the Wiles were his food sponsors.

Visa

Lynda Ingraham and Visa from the Guiding Eyes Graduate Profile Former Olympian treads confidently with third Guiding Eyes dog

Lynda Ingraham returned here for Visa, her third Guiding Eyes dog. She was diagnosed at age 14 with Stickler's Syndrome, which affected both her sight and hearing. Linda said she initially chose Guiding Eyes because of the excellent reputation of our training and dogs. She has been married for 31 years and is a licensed clinical social worker. Her career path has led her to work in the areas of addiction, mental health and the homeless. After a four-year hiatus, she would now like to return to work.

Lynda enjoys shopping, reading, knitting, and walking. But she is perhaps most proud of her participation on the first Olympic Blind Swim Team in 1976. She knows that Visa, with her sweet upbeat disposition, down-to-business work ethic and trustworthiness, will help her stay safe and enhance her busy lifestyle. "Everyone here is so professional; every class has a true sense of 'community' and all of the training techniques are innovative and effective."

Visa was raised in North Carolina by Jim and Luan Harmeson. She was in a starter home in Maine before her home change to the Harmesons. Her vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, and the Harmesons were her food sponsors.



Lynda Ingraham and Visa

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Briana, a female black lab, just arrived in NC and is being raised by Belvie and Bill Gilleland. Briana is their 5th Guiding Eyes puppy. Briana's vet sponsor is Jordan Veterinary Associates of Lexington, and her food sponsor is Carolyn Uhlin of High Point.

Denton, a male black lab, is being raised by Walter and Danny Overcash. Denton is their 12th puppy. Danny shared the following about Denton.

The Doctor Is In

Our very own living, breathing Doctor Denton (those warm snuggly footed pj's) arrived in Mooresville on February 22nd. What a cutie! Denton is lively and loving, smart and sassy...everything you want a puppy to be. While described to me as low-energy, low-key, I find him to be a bit on the "scrappy" side. My theory is that Oberon, our previous pup, left a few coded messages around the house with hints for keeping his humans, two Siamese cats and 11-year old GEB Pawling on our toes. He definitely has our attention and our love. Denton is our 12th puppy and working hard to be our favorite. Our vet sponsor is Lakewood Veterinary Hospital in Mooresville (their 7th GEB puppy!!!) and Walter and I are providing Denton's food.



Denton enjoying his first spring!

Lilac, a female yellow lab, is being raised by first time raiser Jesika Baur of Charlotte. Lilac's vet sponsor is Atrium Animal Hospital of Charlotte. Jesika is her food sponsor.

Where are they now?

Adonis, a male yellow lab started by Brenda and Jerry Quesenberry, and raised by Christopher Waddell and family; recently passed his in-for-training test. Adonis' vet sponsor while with the Quesenberrys was Southampton Veterinary Clinic of Franklin, VA, and the Quesenberrys were his food sponsors. His vet sponsor while with the Waddells was Sandhills Veterinary Hospital in Southern Pines, and the Waddells were his food sponsors.

Dreamer, a male German Shepherd, raised by Jane Vignovic was released for medical reasons. Dreamer has been lovingly adopted by Jane. Dreamer's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital in Pittsboro, and his food sponsor was Elise Weinrich of Durham.

Erin, a female yellow lab, came as a home change to Rick and Glynis Tanner and then was finished by the Echols family. She recently passed her in-for-training test and is being considered as a potential brood. While with the Tanners, Erin's vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Clinic in Chapel Hill, and the Tanners were her food sponsors. Erin's vet sponsor while with the Echols was Armadale Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were the Echols.

Glen, a male yellow lab started by Karissa and Kiley Davan has changed raisers, and is now being raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo. Glen's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital in Raleigh while living with the Davans, and his new vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh. The Davan's are Glen's food sponsors.

Gwenyth, a female yellow lab, raised by Christopher Meyer recently passed her in-for-training test. Gwenyth's vet sponsor was Boulevard Animal Hosp in Raleigh, and Chris was her food sponsor.

Jody, a female black lab raised by Nicole Jewell and her family, was released from training due because she did not meet the Guiding Eyes size requirement. The Jewells adopted her and have welcomed her into their family. Jody's vet sponsor was Glenwood Animal Hospital and the Jewells were her food sponsors.

Justice, a male German Shepherd raised by the Geiner family and helped tremendously with socialization by Laura Livingstone and husband, Anthony, recently passed his in-for-training test. Justice's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and the Geiners were his food sponsors. Colony Park Animal Hospital helped with Justice's care when he was with Laura and Anthony.

Oberon, a male yellow lab started by Walt and Danny Overcash has changed raisers, and is now being raised by Jim and Luan Harmeson. Oberon's vet sponsor while with the Overcash's was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital in Mooreville, and Walt and Danny were his food sponsors. Oberon's current vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and his food sponsors are the Harmesons.

Oslo, a male yellow lab raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo, passed his in-for-training test in January and is in training. Oslo's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital of Raleigh, and the Cucurullo family provided his food.

Roz, a female yellow lab raised by Kristen Shamblin, passed her in-for-training test in January and is in training. Roz' vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell, and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc. in Raleigh.

Wynette, a female yellow lab raised by Laura Wiles and her family, passed her in-for-training test in January and is in training. Wynette's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell, and the Wiles were her food sponsors.



Elizabeth and Kandi's Fascinating Adventure

Provided by Elizabeth Oliverio, former NCPRP Puppy Raiser

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Elizabeth Oliverio. I live in Virginia Beach, VA, and I raised GEB puppies for the NCPRP until my retirement from teaching led me to follow some different directions.

With the kind assistance of GEB raisers Lenore Munigle [Irvington, NY] and Lori McHugh [Charlotte, NC], I raised Eben, a beautiful shiny black Labrador retriever with a tiny face and big floppy ears. After his graduation from GEB he became sleek, lean, focused, and capable of solving any problem or overcoming any setback.

Of all my GEB puppies, I remember Eben as the one with the biggest heart. He and graduate Kandi Hutchins, completed their GEB home training in 2002. I met them shortly afterward and knew right away that it was a perfect match.

Last summer Kandi invited me to join her with her sister Cindy and Eben on a January Carnival cruise to Nassau Bahamas. My answer was obvious and immediate.

We began our reunion adventure on January 8. Despite a 6 year separation Eben greeted me like a long lost friend. His puppy personality is now refined with a sense of purpose and professionalism. In harness he works with a strong pull and a quick steady pace. He constantly moves his head from side to side all the while checking and evaluating his environment to ensure that he and Kandi can safely maintain their path of travel.

Together they negotiated stairs [both closed and open back], decks, crowds, and entertainment venues. They could quickly carve out a path through a sea of passengers and make the task seem effortless. Everywhere they went people stopped what they were doing to watch Kandi and Eben work. Many asked what would become the # 1 FAQ, "Where does he go to the bathroom?" See attached photograph for the answer.

A huge fan base made up of passengers, crew, and waiters developed. It was like traveling with a rock star. I quickly realized how fortunate I was to have this rare and unique opportunity to see firsthand the results of my work as Eben's raiser. My response is one of intense pride and emotion.

Before parting company I asked Kandi to share her insight and perspective on some topics I thought would be of interest to other raisers. She graciously agreed and here are the results of my interview:

Question 1: What traits/characteristics are you looking for when requesting a guide dog?

"I don't have a preference in terms of a dog's gender, coat color, or breed. I need a dog with short hair since some of my family members have allergies. I like a dog that has a good pull and a fast, steady pace. No Sunday drivers, please. It is also important for the dog to exercise some independence and be able to entertain himself when we're not working. For example, Eben likes to play with his bone or gaze out the window instead of clinging to me while I'm reading or working at the computer.

Question 2: Basically how does Eben perform his job?

a. On the street: *Eben is trained to follow a left line as we walk along sidewalks. My job is to follow the harness and be aware and ready to adjust my position to any changes in direction of pull. It is important that Eben not be allowed to anticipate our direction or to second-guess my commands. Eben's goal is to guide me in such a way to insure that we don't bump into anything on either side of us or anything that might be hanging down from above.*

Training and experience has taught Eben the amount of clearance needed for both of us to safely negotiate our way around obstacles. When this is not possible, Eben will stop and wait for me to redirect our path of travel.

b. in airports: *Due to wide corridors and the random placement of obstacles such as benches, pillars, and kiosks, there is no line to follow in most airports. Eben's task here is to maintain our direction while clearing us around these and other obstacles such as luggage, carts, and crowds. He also needs to adjust to a more random and hectic environment and ignore distractions such as PA announcements and other new noises.*

c. on public transportation: *Eben initially sits on the vehicle's floor. He may lie down but will be instructed to sit up when the vehicle is stopped to accommodate passengers who are either boarding or exiting.*

Question 3. Under what circumstances are you willing to allow someone to pet Eben?

Generally it is OK to pet him as long as it is safe and there is enough time for us to return to the business at hand. My coworkers are also welcome to pet him when we're in the office.

Some examples of unsafe locations in which petting Eben would not be allowed include: on stairs and escalators, while negotiating vehicular traffic, and among crowds.

Question 4: What procedures do you and Eben follow regarding transportation [such as airport] security?

In some cases TSA will move us out of line and to one side where they will search both of us. Otherwise I will put Eben in a down-stay and walk alone through the security gate. After TSA completes my inspection I will call Eben to join me. I am not allowed to touch him until he passes his inspection. Eben is then subject to a full body search to include wand [in rare cases] and a full body pat down [which he really enjoys].

TSA is allowed to check but not remove his leash and harness. They cannot ask me to remove his harness nor can they separate us by assigning us to different rooms.

Question 5. What kinds of challenges do you encounter when working with a new guide dog?

My biggest challenges involve:

- a. *Adjusting to a new and different canine personality and,*
- b. *Developing a sense of trust in the dog and his ability to keep us safe*

Question 6. What are some specific skills raisers should practice as they prepare their puppies for IFT?

In my opinion it would be to practice walking your dog calmly in the presence of distractions such as people wanting to greet you and/or approaching dogs that want to play.

Basic obedience has been excellent with both my GEB dogs.

Question 7. In your opinion, what is Eben's most important job?

Eben's first and most important priority is to keep both of us safe at all times and in all situations.

Question 8. What would you say to anyone who is interested in puppy raising but is also unsure of being able to let the puppy go when the time comes?

Raisers play a significant role in making independence a reality for a blind person. A guide dog enhances our ability to manage our households, travel safely, go to school, and hold a job.

The time spent raising a guide dog is time well invested. Having a working guide dog allows the blind person independence and freedom. For the first time the blind person (in my case with limited vision) no longer has to look down while walking. He/she can pick his/her head up and look straight ahead with confidence. He/she will get to see the world for the first time. The feeling is very much like the one you had when you received your driver's license for the first time.

For me getting a guide dog was a life changing experience. It gave me the confidence to go to college, get a job, and travel. It made me feel like a normal person.

Without the raisers there would be no guide dogs.

Question 9. What are some basic rules of etiquette to follow when interacting with a blind person and his/her guide dog?

- a. Avoid approaching the team when the blind person has the harness in his/her hand*
- b. Do not assume that the blind person needs your assistance. Chances are, if they are out and about, they know what they are doing.*
- c. Remember not to point when giving us directions*
- c. Avoid describing things in terms of visible landmarks*



**Kandi, Elizabeth, and Eben
cruise to Nassau Bahamas!**

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, May 1 and Saturday, May 2
Pittsboro Baptist Church, 121 W. Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Friday 5/1	PUPPY	RAISER
2:00 PM	Glen	Cucurullo
2:45 PM	Hexa	Cooke
3:30 PM	Crockett	Newcity
4:15 PM	Oberon	Harmeson
4:45 PM	Sanka	Neve
5:30 PM	Briana **	Gilleland
6:15 PM	Keegan	Haynes
7:00 PM	Meeting for team	
Saturday 5/2	PUPPY	RAISER
8:45 AM	Vance	Farr
9:30 AM	Sandy	Flinchum
10:15 AM	Pablo **	Gore/Tanner
11:15 AM	Sahara	Carey
12:00 PM	GENERAL MEETING	
1:00 PM	Denton	Overcash
2:00 PM	Astro	Ames
2:45 PM	Lilac **	Bauer
3:30 PM	Tyson **	Coney
4:15 PM	Hampton	Austin

** Beside Pup's name indicates photo needs to be taken around the General Meeting time.
Please tell Sherry if you cannot have your picture taken at that time.

DIRECTIONS to the SPRING WALK AND TALK

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

Driving Directions to Pittsboro Baptist Church for the Spring Evaluation:

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, cross over 64, and follow the ****** 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 the ****** directions above.

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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2009

May 1-2, 2009

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

August 7-8, 2009

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 6-7, 2009

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 Coordinator: Sherry Dodson 919.642.0185
WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org
www.guidingeyesnc.org



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program
P.O. Box 214
Pittsboro, NC 27312