



# Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2014

**Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Linus and Luster!**

**Linus**, raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo, graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind via their Home Training Program. Linus will be living with his partner, John, in Austin, TX.

Linus' vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital of Raleigh and his food sponsors were J. D. and Doris N. Thompson of Leland, NC.

Congratulations to Irene and Maria, and especially to Linus!



**Luster**, raised by Kristen Shamblin, was recently certified by MSA Security as an explosives detection dog. Luster will be living and working in the Salt Lake City, UT area.

Luster's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc. in Knightdale.

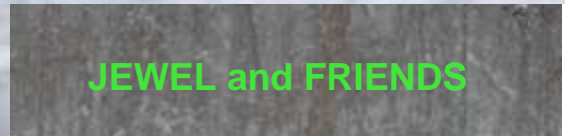
Congratulations to Luster and Kristen!

## Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

**Chaz**, a black male lab, raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner, recently passed his in-for-training test. The Tanners were his food sponsors and Legion Road/Timberlyne Animal Clinic was his vet sponsor.

**Doris**, a yellow female lab, raised by Janet Newcity and family, has been accepted into the breeding program at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Doris' vet sponsor was Village Veterinary Hospital of Chapel Hill and the Newcity's were her food sponsors.

## Puppy Fun in the Snow!



## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Brandy!



Gail Parrish wrote that their family combined Brandy's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday with David's mother's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Looks like Brandy was happy to share her special day. Hopefully, her "Grandmother" was too!

## Welcome Freddy!



Frederick Nikko Lyon Stewart (Freddy) was born on April 18. He weighed 7 lbs, 3oz, and was 20 inches long. He's doing great, and as you can tell from his bedding, he is already getting age appropriate exposure to puppies. His mom said, "He's got to get in shape to raise more dogs one day." Congratulations to Meghan and Vaughn!

## Public Relations

### SAS Health & Wellness Fair

Guiding Eyes for the Blind had a booth at the annual SAS Health & Wellness Fair in May, and the star of our booth was none other than SAS himself. Quentin, Micah, Landis, Teresa and their raisers also attended.



Paul Huebner and SAS



Dennie McCoy, Irene and Quentin, Maria and Coal, Pat Babuin and Bill Pfeiffer

### Raleigh Kennel Club

Quentin, Coal, Maria and Irene Cucurullo were invited to do a presentation about Guiding Eyes for the Blind for the Raleigh Kennel Club. They joined several of the members for a delicious dinner before the meeting.



Girl Scout Troop 1859, Johnston County.  
Irene and Maria Cucurullo with Coal (L) and Quentin (R).



The girls couldn't resist little Coal!



Quentin, Coal, Maria and Irene  
Cucurullo with Daisy Troop 1380,  
Apex, N.C.

## ***In Loving Memory***

### **Anton**

**4/3/00 – 3/17/14**

Anton spent most of his life as a guide dog in South Carolina. After his partner passed away, he returned home to his puppy raisers, Trudy and Will Pendergraft of Chapel Hill. His food sponsor was Southern States of Carrboro. His vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill.

### **Brodie**

**10/31/00 – 2/7/14**

Brodie, raised by Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, was the first black and tan puppy in our program. She was released from Guiding Eyes for the Blind and returned home to Sharon and Andy. Brodie's food sponsors were Norma and Al Bergeron, then of Raleigh. Her vet sponsor was Mayfair Animal Hospital of Cary.

### **Ensign**

**10/15/99 – 2/20/14**

Ensign was raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary. His vet sponsor was Kildaire Animal Medical Center and the Bennett's were his food sponsors. He was released from training, and was adopted through the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Public Adoption Program.

Margot shared the following about Ensign. "Ensign was the first dog our family raised after having kids, and Gibson and Laura were about 3 and 6 at the time. He was a home change which we decided was best in order to test the waters, not to mention having just gained our nights back. He was a big black goof ball that we got around 9 months old, funny, loved carrying around a teddy bear in his mouth all the time. He was the first dog our preschool let in on a day basis for GEB exposure so he paved the way for me in many ways, for future raising."

### **Halo**

**8/11/01 – 3/22/14**

Halo was initially raised by Sandra Prater, then by Belvie Gilleland and family. Her food sponsors were the Praters and the Gillelands. Her vet sponsor while with Sandra was Triangle Veterinary Hospital and her vet sponsor while with Belvie was Jordan Veterinary Hospital. Halo was released from training and returned home to live with the Gillelands.

Belvie shared the following about Halo, "Halo has been a part of our lives we will not forget! Her joy and calm, sweet nature touched us and many others. The end of this world's journey with her was peaceful and for that I am thankful."

**Neil**  
**5/31/00 – 4/16/14**

Neil was raised by Jennifer Herrmann and family. His food sponsor was Saturn Dealership of Asheville and his vet sponsor was Haywood Animal Hospital of Hendersonville.

Jennifer's mother, Jeannie, shared the following note about Neil. "With great sadness I wanted you to know that Neil went to the bridge on Wednesday, April 16th. His health took a sharp decline and he was struggling. He had almost 6 months of a happy and carefree retirement. Neil would have been 14 years old May 31st.

Like most Labrador's he had a great appetite, was one of the sweetest/most loving boys ever and thoroughly enjoyed laying out sunning, watching all that was going on in the garden. He also had the skills to get up on the futon or bed and somehow managed to completely cover his whole body with just his nose sticking out of the covers/sleeping bag whatever was available??

Our daughter, Jennifer, was his true puppy raiser. At the age of 16 she took on the responsibility of caring for Neil. He would go to high school with her some days. She crate trained him and took him to all kinds of places preparing him for the guide work that would be his calling.

Neil was a Guiding Eyes for the Blind pup and left us at when he was about 22 months old, he guided a lovely blind woman named Patty in Manhattan for approximately 12 loyal years. We have stayed in touch over the years and even visited them a few times.

We were very honored and blessed to have had Neil spend his retirement with the Herrmann's. It gave us the chance to spoil him as he deserved to be for his service work and loving ways.



**Noah**  
**2/26/99 – 2/4/14**

Noah was raised by Jean Jacobson and family. His food sponsors were Bob and Ann Lewis of Deals Motorcars in Asheville. His vet sponsor was Fletcher Animal Hospital of Fletcher.

Jean shared the following note about Noah. "Guiding Eyes' dogs are each truly one of a kind – they enrich our lives and those of so many others in more ways than I can say – and Noah was no different.

We truly believe he would have made a wonderful guide, but were so happy when we received the call from Guiding Eyes to say he had a soft trachea so would be coming home to us.

We certified both Noah and his brother, Amherst, another released Guiding Eyes puppy, to do pet therapy. With Noah and Amherst by our side, my husband I met many wonderful children and adults while we visited hospitals, oncology outpatient centers, nursing homes, camps and schools in Ashville, N.C.

No one could resist Noah's obvious urge to comfort and desire for affection when he laid his huge head on a lap or knee and gazed up at a patient with his wonderful golden eyes; hugging Noah was one of the most cathartic things you could do to feel better. He loved every moment and would stand still as long as needed.



Noah loved car rides. He didn't care where we were going as long as he would be included. We even bought a ramp to make it easier for him to get in and out.

Toward the end of his life, he loved to just plod slowly along behind us on the sand at our beach house. If he caught sight of another dog or a person, he would run over to greet them, sometimes with a big smile on his face.

We lost three wonderful dogs this past year, and Noah was the oldest. I'm sure every pet owner will agree with me when I say we wanted him to live forever, but I'm just grateful that he lived long enough to help us through the previous losses. They are all together now along with Noah's sibling, Nikon, and we do believe we will see them again someday."

## Vesper

Vesper, born 3/31/2001, was raised by Margot Bennett and family. His vet sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital, and the Bennett's were his food sponsors. Margot recently learned that Vesper had passed away and wanted to share her delight in raising him.

"Vesper was a milestone for us. We started him at 8 weeks and he made it all the way through training and into the special needs program.

I love telling the story about how we were all packed and ready to bring him up for his IFT in the fall of 2002 when he started throwing up the day before we were about to leave. We were driving up as a family so Sherry suggested getting him checked out so we wouldn't be on the road and have any problems. Long story short, we were on the phone with Dr. Sandler Friday evening getting permission for emergency surgery due to his having chewed off a piece of a **dog toy** (not even something he wasn't supposed to be chewing!!) that ultimately caused a blockage in his intestines. He truly scared me and I cried at what





could've happened if we hadn't have acted as quickly as we did.  
Four weeks and several cones of shame later, he made it into training and we saw it all.

When he graduated, I was a proud mom, not only of him but of newborn #3, Theresia. No way was I not making that graduation, in spite of having a newborn and a husband out of work for over a year. Airplanes, trains and hotels paved their way and I watched him graduate with Gibson (7), Laura (4) and Theresia (6 months) in tow. What an honor. He will be missed.

The picture includes Gibson, Laura, Vesper driving and Decker, our first GEB dog.”

**"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."  
—Roger Caras (photographer and writer)**

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

**Thursday, June 5, Friday, June 6 & Saturday, June 7, 2014**  
**Pittsboro Baptist Church, 121 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**  
**REVISION: May 19, 2014**

| DATE                 | PUPPY                  | RAISER            |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Thursday 6/5</b>  |                        |                   |
| 3:00 PM              | Quentin                | Cucurullo         |
| 4:30 PM              | Noble **               | Deeley            |
| 6:30 PM              | Coal                   | Cucurullo         |
| 8:00 PM              | Jewel                  | Sulzbach          |
|                      |                        |                   |
|                      |                        |                   |
| <b>Friday, 6/6</b>   |                        |                   |
| 9:00 AM              | Landis                 | Flinchum          |
| 10:30 AM             | Kismet **              | Robinson-Mildwurf |
| 12:30 PM             | Omaha **               | Tanner            |
| 2:30 PM              | Lunch                  | BREAK             |
| 3:00 PM              | Nathan                 | Neel              |
| 5:00 PM              | Noel                   | Mulcahy           |
| 7:00 PM              | Nettles **             | Davis             |
|                      |                        |                   |
| <b>Saturday, 6/7</b> |                        |                   |
| 8:00 AM              | Jeremiah               | Harmeson          |
| 10:00 AM             | Brandy                 | Parrish           |
| 11:30 Noon           | Malley **              | Huebner           |
| 1:15 PM              | Jane leave for airport | CLEAN UP          |

**\*\* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph of puppy raiser and puppy if it has not already been done at class. Please let a team member know if it has not been done.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER to bring your flash drives of previous evals. If you can't find it, you need to bring one as we won't have extras for you. New Pup's raisers will get a flash drive in your puppy packet.**

**RAISERS: PLEASE BE A LITTLE EARLY for your evaluation as we may be running ahead of schedule. This will be even more critical on Saturday. Thanks!**

## **DIRECTIONS to the EVALUATIONS**

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

### **Driving Directions to Pittsboro Baptist Church for the Evaluations:**

#### 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: 2014

### June 5-7, 2014

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

### July 31 - August 2, 2014

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### November 13-15, 2014

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

## MISSION STATEMENT

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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.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**WEBSITES:** [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)

[www.guidingeyesnc.org](http://www.guidingeyesnc.org)



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