



# Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2017

## Congratulations NCPRP's Most Recent Graduate: Jody!

Every dog enters this world exactly the same, on four legs. What the dog does with these four legs is what separates him from his brothers and sisters. When Jody entered the world he followed paw steps of millions of dogs before him. Eat, sleep, play and learn. While most dogs are content to live this life, some aspire for greater things. Jody is not like most dogs. Jody decided his four legs would and could do more than just eat, sleep, play and learn. Jody started out with puppy steps. Those puppy steps turned into adolescent leaps and soon he was using those four legs to bound all over the country. In the course of this journey he found a friend who also liked to bound all over the country. Jody realized this friend has some pretty sweet gear and an awesome outlook on life. She had been places he could only dream of, do things he didn't think were possible and in many ways she had everything he thought you would ever need, but there was one thing Jody had that his friend did not. Jody realized not only did his four legs complement her two, but he also complemented her in a different way. Unsurprisingly though, she complemented him as well. Together they became one. Working and playing in unison. Jody and his friend now saw through different eyes and together they changed the world around them. Jody found his best friend in Chicago in February 2017 and the two are on the journey of a lifetime. We are so proud of him and know he will be the best guide and friend anyone could ask for.

Jody's vet sponsor was Poplar Animal Hospital in Concord, NC, and the Pacious family was his food sponsor.



**Jody with his new partner and his puppy raiser, Kelly Coney Pacious**



## Meet the New Puppies!

The NC Puppy Express left the CDC in Patterson, NY on January 12, 2017 at 8:30am with a total of eight puppies. They arrived at 7:30pm, and were greeted by five anxious puppy raisers. Lacey, a released puppy, was greeted by her new family, the Levine's from Wilmington, N.C. Harper joined Irene Cucurullo and faithful rider, Pax, was glad to get back home with Jim Harmeson.



**Kerry Lemerise, Irene Cucurullo and Jim Harmeson at the CDC**



**After a long trip from NY, a joyful arrival in NC for our newest puppies: Baja, Dahlia, Drake, Harper, Jed and Jenga!**

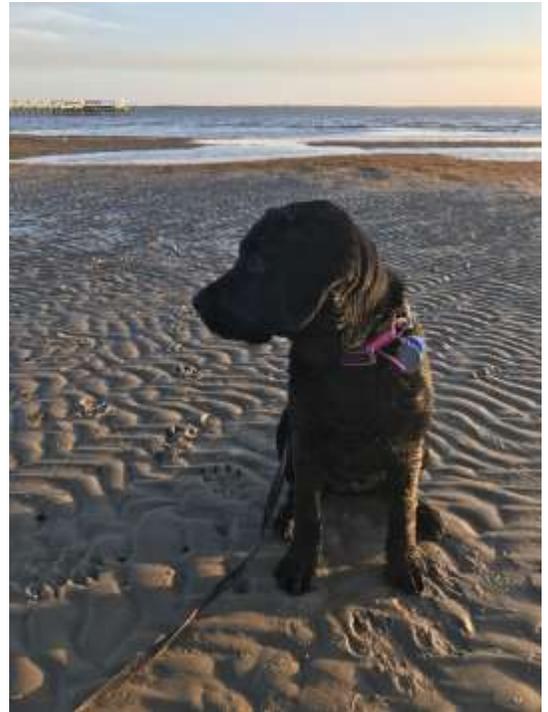
**Baja**, a female black lab, is being raised by Tamara Flinchum. Baja's vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital in Cary and The American Kennel Club is her food sponsor. Tamara said, "Baja arrived mid-January in a car full of GEB puppies. She is a lively girl with a very sweet disposition. She loves playing with her big sister, Sandy (GEB release) and big brother, Fenwick (GEB release); however, Sandy and Fenwick are still trying to figure out how they can send her back!"



**Baja and her Golden siblings**



**Dahlia**, a female black lab, is being raised by 1<sup>st</sup> time raiser, Meghan Blanton. Dahlia's vet sponsor is Hidden Valley Animal Hospital in Raleigh and her food sponsor is Blanton Financial Group in Raleigh. Meghan shared the following about Dahlia. "From day one we knew Dahlia was a fearless, confident little puppy. She's independent and loves to explore. Because of this we've lovingly nicknamed her "little runaway". Not because she's fast or doesn't come when called, but because she tends to venture off on her own, ever so slowly - down the hall or up the stairs. Although she's independent, she also loves all of the attention she's getting from our friends and family. She's been an amazing temporary addition and we're excited to see the great things that life has in store for her!"



**Adorable Dahlia**

**Danielle**, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Laura Daniels. Danielle's vet sponsor is Brigadoon Animal Hospital in Cedar Point and the Daniels are her food sponsors. Laura shared, "Meet Danielle. I brought her back to NC from NY at the end of March. She is a very sweet and eager to please pup. She loves the island life and has acclimated very well. She has taken a liking to our very old golden retriever, Shandy. She follows Shandy around like she is her mother. Thankfully, Shandy has helped to raise two other Guiding Eyes pups so she tolerates her pup tricks! Danielle seems to pick up skills quickly but is a little unsure of new things so we are taking it slow. We have already fallen hard for her sweet puppy dog eyes and happy demeanor! Can't wait to see what the future holds for her. Welcome Danielle!"



**Danielle**

**Drake**, a male black lab, is being raised by 1<sup>st</sup> time raiser, Colleen Zinn. Hillsborough Veterinary Clinic is assisting with Drake's veterinary care, and Colleen is his food sponsor. Colleen said, "It has been amazing to watch Drake grow since that January night when he arrived via the Puppy Express, curled up and slept on my lap during the ride home, and then cried tortuously through the night. Less than 3 months later that bundle of puppy cuteness prefers to present a more regal image and is developing a personality all his own. If he were stranded on a desert island, the one thing Drake would like to have would be a stick. A real stick is better than any toy! But in a pinch, the fake stick toy or the stuffed Kong bone would suffice. He loves people and having his ears and rump scratched. Running in the yard, playing chase with a doggie friend, and splashing in the pond are his favorite exercises. He also enjoys walking in the woods, clambering over logs and being mesmerized by water flowing in the creek. And did I mention he drinks water like a lab? Oh, and he snores. I am thankful for the support of a great family of volunteers who are so accessible and willing to help with any questions or concerns. It has been a wonder watching Drake's rapid rate of growth and development, and I'm excited about the journey ahead."



**Drake**

**Harper**, a female German Shepherd, is being raised by Irene Cucurullo. Harpers' vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh. Doris Thompson in Leland, NC is her food sponsor. Irene says, "Harper continues to blossom into a wonderful puppy. She loves exploring the world and greeting people."



**Harper was puzzled when this furry friend would not play with her.**



**Harper has a keen eye, and while hiking, she found twenty "bucks"!**

**Jed**, a male black lab, is being raised by 1<sup>st</sup> time raisers, Carol and Scott Kennedy. Bahama Road Veterinary Hospital is assisting with Jed's veterinary care, and the Kennedys are his food sponsors. Carol told us, "Jed loves to cuddle and is always on the lookout for an available lap to curl up in and take a nap. Jed enjoys exploring the outdoors and did not hesitate to wade in the Eno River which might explain why he's such a good boy about taking baths! His hobbies include exploring downtown Durham, flipping his water bowl, and trying to convince the neighbor's cat that he'd be fun to play with. He still has an odd habit or two to grow out of. Number one on the list: his tendency to stick out his tongue, put it on the floor, and then walk, licking everything in his path."



**Jed enjoying the great outdoors**

**Jenga**, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Hannah Matthews. Jenga's vet sponsor is Joseph Gordon, DVM and Hannah is her food sponsor. Hannah shared the following. "Jenga will be 5 months old on April 10th. She loves to explore in the woods of Lake Johnson and playing with her dog friends! Jenga is a very laid back puppy and loves to cuddle. She enjoys car rides especially when I sing Shania Twain to her! Living in downtown Raleigh Jenga is exposed to a lot of different things. She is a very observant pup. We love to end our day by sitting on the balcony people watching. She is such a smart young lady and always eager to learn! Can't wait to see what the future holds for Jenga!"



**Hannah and Jenga**



## **Puppy Updates: Where are they now?**

**Gator**, a male German Shepherd, raised by Paul Huebner, was released from training and adopted by Paul. Gator's vet sponsor was Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen. Paul was Gator's food sponsor.

**Jack**, a yellow male lab, raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo, recently passed his In for Training test! Jack's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsor was Mrs. Doris Thompson.

**Wendy**, a black female lab, raised by Caroline Costello, recently passed her In for Training test! Wendy's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital and Caroline was her food sponsor. Wendy was started by Diane Sugarman. While with Diane, her vet sponsor was Magnolia Animal Hospital and Diane was her food sponsor.

**Winnie**, a yellow female lab, raised by Laura Daniels, recently passed her In for Training test! Winnie's vet sponsor was Bragadoon Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were the Daniels.



**Ron and Laura Daniels with Winnie before her IFT and new puppy, Daneille**

## Puppies Out and About



Foundation Class at Crossroads Plaza



Amie – Buddies with the Easter Bunny



Amie – Happy Easter!



Amie – Serious Snow Girl

## Public Relations



Irene Cucurullo and Harper made a debut at Stacey Hansen's son, Brody's, Cub Scout meeting in February. What an adorable sweet girl!!



Irene and Harper gave a presentation at the National Society Southern Dames of American, Goldsboro, NC Chapter. They were a big hit, and everyone was glad they were there.



Irene and Harper visited Daisy Troop 3106 in Cary. Harper posed with Stacey Hansen's daughter at the meeting.



Irene and Harper visited the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> period Animal Science classes at Heritage High School in Wake Forest



**Irene and Harper visited Discovery Point Heritage preschool in Wake Forest**



**Irene and Harper visited the Animal Science class at Corinth Holders High School in Wendell**



**Irene and Harper visited the Town of Clayton Book Club  
at Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library**



**Gail Parrish and Amie with third graders at  
Jeffrey's Grove Elementary School. Amie  
patiently and cheerfully greeted each child.  
The kids had some great questions; and of  
course, almost every one of them had a "My  
dog...." story.**

## *In Loving Memory*

**Jordan**  
**2/18/04 – 2/26/17**

Jordan was raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner. Jordan was released from training, and served as K-9 for the Connecticut Police Department. Jordan's vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Clinic and the Tanners were his food sponsors.

**Newton**  
**11/27/10 – 2/17/17**

Newton was raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo. He was released from training due to a medical condition. Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital was his vet sponsor and the Cucurullo's were his food sponsors.

**Vanilla**  
**4/7/04 – 3/15/17**

Vanilla was raised by Kristen Shamblin. She was released from training and adopted by Kristen. Vanilla helped raise five Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppies, participated in public relations events, in home visits and Pre-Placement classes. Vanilla had a sweet, gentle spirit. Everyone who met her loved her. Her vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital. Her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc.



**Vanilla**



## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

**Thursday, May 4, 2017, Friday, May 5, 2017 & Saturday, May 6, 2017**  
**Pittsboro Baptist Church, 121 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312**  
**Thursday at Diversified Systems, 1103 Great Falls Court, Knightdale, NC 27545**

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
<b>Thursday, 5/4/17</b>	<b>Diversified Systems, Knightdale</b>	
5:00 PM	Amie	Gail Parrish
6:00 PM	Baja	Tamara Flinchum
<b>FRIDAY, 5/5/17</b>	<b>Pittsboro Baptist Church</b>	
12:00 PM	Harper	Irene Cucurullo
1:30 PM	Drake	Colleen Zinn
3:30 PM	Break/Lunch	
4:30 PM	Polo	Paul Huebner
6:00 PM	Jenga	Sitter: Carrie Dow-Smith
<b>Saturday, 5/6/17</b>	<b>Pittsboro Baptist Church</b>	
8:30 AM	Pax	Jim Harmeson
10:00 AM	Dahlia	Meghan Blanton
12:00 PM	Lunch/Leadership	Team Meeting
1:00 PM	Danielle **	Laura Daniels
3:00 PM	Jed	Carol & Scott Kennedy

**\*\* Beside Pup's name indicates possible need for photograph on Saturday. Please let Sherry know if you have not had your photo taken with your puppy.**

**Please be sure you are in the area of the W & T at least 30 minutes before your assigned time for we may be able to start your time early. Please do not exhaust your dog while waiting. If you can come in, take care of any of your needs and your dog's needs and be ready when we are, we need to see your dog as it is with you every day. THANKS!**

## **Thursday**

**Diversified Systems, Inc.  
1103 Great Falls Court  
Knightdale, NC 27545**

### **Driving Directions to Diversified Systems, Inc. for the Evaluations:**

#### **From Burlington/Chapel Hill/Durham**

Take 1-40 East to I-540 East. Travel approximately 24 miles to US-64 Business Route East/Knightdale Blvd. via exit 24B toward Knightdale. Travel 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Bozeman Dr. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Great Falls Court. 1103 Great Falls Court is on the left.

## **Friday and Saturday**

**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: 2017

### May 4-6

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

### September 21-23

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### November 30-December 2

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

## MISSION STATEMENT

"Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Guiding Eyes for the Blind  
North Carolina Puppy Raising Program  
P.O. Box 214, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Raleigh Area: Chris Echols 919.844.9323  
Area Coordinator: Sherry Dodson 919.642.0185

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



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P.O Box 214  
Pittsboro, NC 27312