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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2006

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Gamma, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC. Gamma is Margot's 6th GEB puppy. Gamma's vet sponsor is Gentle Care Animal Hospital of Raleigh, NC and the Bennett's are her food sponsor.



GEB Gamma snoozing with her pal Decker

Louie, a male black lab, is being raised by first time raiser Abby Dickey and family of Mebane, NC. Louie's vet sponsor Mebane Mobile Veterinary Service and the Dickey family is his food sponsor. The Dickey's provided the following on Louie:

Even though he is growing by leaps and bounds, Louie is still very much a "lap" dog. Anytime we're sitting on the floor, he's quick to come and curl up in our lap (as best he can)! Louie is very much relaxed in his new home. When Louie sleeps, he usually sleeps on his back with his legs in the air, snoring all the while!



GEB Louie awake



GEB Louie sleeping

Onslo, a male black lab, is being raised by first time raiser Sandy Meek and family of Fayetteville. Onslo's vet sponsor is Rim Road Animal Hospital of Fayetteville and his food sponsor is the Meek family. Sandy provided the following about Onslo: *We call Onslo the "Otter" because he has such stiff whiskers and lays with his back legs straight out and his otter tail straight out between his legs. And of course he loves water!*

Rambler, a male German Shepherd, is being raised by Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, NC. Rambler is the Cooke's 9th GEB puppy! Rambler's vet sponsor is Western Wake Veterinary Services and the Cooke's are his food sponsor. Sharon said that Rambler's favorite things are: people, a good bone and massages.

Toma, a male black lab, is being raised by Karissa and Kiley Mae Davan of Raleigh, NC. Toma is Karissa's 2nd GEB puppy. Toma's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and Karissa is his food sponsor. Karissa provided the following on Toma: *Toma is pretty laid back and as Kiley would say "very brave." He isn't afraid of anything! He likes playing with our kitten and dog, Jake.*



GEB Onslo at home with his pal Sheila

Wilbur, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo and family. Wilbur is the Cucurullo's 2nd GEB puppy! Wilbur's vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital of Raleigh and the Cucurullo's are his food sponsors. Maria and Irene provided the following on Wilbur: *Wilbur was with us for 5 weeks before Pancho left and he seemed to pick up some of Pancho's goofy traits like playing "keep away" with the bone with our family dog.*

It was a challenging time to have two different aged GEB dogs together but, we all learned a lot from each other. The thing that

impressed us the most was when Wilbur taught Pancho how to walk across the "baby gate" despite Pancho's fears of the gate falling through out his stay with us.



GEB Wilbur sharing a bone with GEB Pancho

Where are they now?

Dustin, a LARGE black male lab, recently passed his in-for-training test! Dustin was raised initially by Allison Spain of Greenville, NC and then by Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, NC. While in Greenville, Dustin's vet sponsor was Animal Hospital of Greenville and his food sponsors were Allen and Donna Spain. While in Cary, Dustin's vet sponsor was Western Wake Veterinary Services of Apex and the Cooke's were his food sponsors.

Lucas, a male Golden Retriever, recently passed his in-for-training test! Lucas was raised by Sally Neve and family of Durham, NC. Lucas' vet sponsor was North Paw Animal Hospital of Durham and his food sponsors were Rick and Sue Copland of Hillsborough, NC.

Ulrika, a female lab/shepherd mix, has recently passed her in-for-training test! Ulrika was initially raised by Kristen Wiltse of Concord, NC and then by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC. While in Concord, Ulrika's vet sponsor was Coddle Creek Animal hospital and her food sponsor was Kristen. While in Cary, Ulrika's vet sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was the Bennett family.

Pancho, a male yellow lab, has recently passed his in-for-training test! Pancho was raised by Maria and Irene Cucurullo of Raleigh, NC. Pancho's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital of Raleigh and the Cucurullo's were his food sponsors. Pancho is the son of Unix who was raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC.

Ralph, a male black lab, has recently passed his in-for-training test! Ralph was raised by Danny and Walt Overcash of Mooresville, NC. Ralph's vet sponsor was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville and Danny and Walt were his food sponsors.

Othello, a black male lab, recently graduated from the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Canine Program in Front Royal Virginia as a part of Class 51 on April 11th, 2006. Othello was raised initially by Karissa Davan of Raleigh and then Donovan Leonard of Raleigh. Othello's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital and Karissa was his food sponsor. Karissa Davan attended Othello's graduation ceremony and provided the following: *Othello is going to work as a bomb detection dog in Thailand. He had to complete a 10 week course with his handler and pass a test of correctly identifying 20 different bomb making ingredients with fewer than 2 false positives out of 60 attempts. He could not have any misses. Many of the other dogs in the class were Guiding Eyes puppies. On the ATF website they have the story of a Guiding Eyes Dog's journey into the ATF program.*

Rocky, a male yellow lab raised by Margot Bennett and family of Cary, NC was recently placed in the Home Training Program. Rocky's vets sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was the Bennett family. The Bennett family recently traveled to GEB to see Rocky and Margot provided the story below.

We got the word in March that Rocky would be placed in the Home Training Program around the end of April and we were so excited! It was actually happening-our boy had made it! Then my heart sank-home training meant that there would be no graduation.....for one reason or another the student could not make it to NY for training at GEB so the trainer would travel to them with the dog and teach them. Graduation is such a rewarding and emotional experience and we were sorry we would miss it, and that we would miss the opportunity to see Rocky again. But then we were invited to come up to NY to see Rocky in harness and watch his training session-what an honor that would be! I felt like a proud mom going to watch her child demonstrate the skills they'd learned at graduate school! Needless to say, I was a little nervous about how bittersweet it might be. I even debated about whether we should go..... but my heart won out. I could not turn down an opportunity to see Rocky working.

Ulrika was due up in NY for her IFT so we all drove up together: me, Bruce, Gibson, Laura, Theresia, Ulrika and Decker (our 13 year old GEB release dog) and for those of you doing the math we did not simultaneously raise 2 dogs-Kristen Wiltse raised Ulrika for the first year and we took over for her in November when Kristen had to move out of the region. We arrived at the GEB Guest House and immediately crossed the street to go and visit some puppies at the breeding center. Little did we know we'd be coming home with #6...

The next morning we arrived bright and early at the training center and got Ulrika settled in. Then we were told by Rocky's trainer, Jean, that over the weekend he had gotten sick and she would not be able to work him that day. In my mind I was crushed-we'd driven all that way and now this! But God had a plan. Jean asked-would we like to take him around the grounds and spend some time with him? Not a moments hesitation-Rocky was ours for an hour! We took the kids and Rocky and walked around the pathway, reading various dedications, playing in the creek (the kids....not me and Rocky!) and being amazed at how Rocky had changed. All that harness work had made him so much stronger and bigger, and he seemed a little distracted, almost like he knew our time with him was a loan. But he still remembered us: did we ever get some kisses!

We left the training center with the understanding that we would talk to Rocky's trainer first thing the next morning. If he was improved and she could work him, our family would stay the extra few hours in order to see him work with her. That afternoon we toured the breeding center and saw puppies of all shapes and sizes, as well as a few soon to be expectant moms. We even saw Rocky's puppy picture all over the center on an advertising poster-the kids loved telling the staff that he was one we had raised.



GEB Rocky in harness with the Bennett family

Tuesday morning Jean called right away-Rocky was fine to work! We had one MINOR stop to make on the way to the training center-picking up Gamma, our new GEB pup. After getting her settled, we followed Jean to Peekskill and got to see what Rocky had learned. He demonstrated that he knew to turn left and right, to stop at the street corner, to back up and change direction, to detour her around a construction sight, and to weave her around obstacles in their path. He even took her to the DMV! (Apparently they go there a lot) Jean even let me hold his harness and let him lead me. That was quite a feeling.

Jean was amazing with him and a blessing to us. We are so thankful for the fact that she went out of her way to accommodate us and our desire to see Rocky work. Throughout his training the entire staff at GEB has updated us regularly with reports and pictures and we are so proud of what he's become. We knew from the beginning that he was meant to be with a special person, and here he is, ready to be part of that team. As we taught Rocky early on to stop and sit before and after stairs, to sit in and out of doors, introduced various elevations and noises and so on, we learned how important his role will be. We learned from him as well. Rocky taught us about unconditional love, the value of educating others through endless socializing, the importance of appreciating and valuing diversity and most important: the gift of giving to others. May he and his partner be blessed for many many years together.

And it continues with Gamma...

MANY THANKS TO RESTAURANT STARLU!!!

During the month of February, Restaurant Starlu in Durham, NC generously selected the North Carolina Puppy Raising Program of Guiding Eyes for the Blind to be the 'Bottles of Change' recipient organization raising nearly \$200 for the NCPRP!! Each month Restaurant Starlu designates a red and a white wine, available by the glass and the bottle, as their Bottles of Change selection. For every glass and bottle of that wine Restaurant Starlu sells, they donate \$.50 (per glass) and \$2.00 (per bottle) to the month's charity. Restaurant Starlu also has an enormous wine bottle for patrons to drop pocket change, bills or checks made out to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Many thanks to Chef/Owner Sam Poley and his wife, Stephanie Poley!!!!!!!!!!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH RAISERS!!!!

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be rewarded to encourage youth, who have raised a puppy for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, to pursue an education in any field of study at an accredited college, university, technical or trade school. To be eligible, applicants must be a senior in high school or college student continuing education in the Fall 2006, must have been a primary participant in raising two Guide Dog puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and must pursue an education in any field of study at an accredited college, university, technical or trade school. Applications due June 1, 2006! More information will be available soon on visit: <http://cdc.guidingeyes.org/>.

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)!

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 5th and SATURDAY, May 6th, 2006

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Apex

Friday 5/5	PUPPY	RAISER
12:00 PM	Fanya	Fellows
12:45 PM	Rambler **	Cooke
1:45 PM	Wilbur **	Cucurullo
2:45 PM	Louie**	Dickey
3:30 PM	Karo	Echols
4:15 PM	Gamma **	Bennett
5:15 PM	Elaine	Vignovic
6:00 PM	Toma **	Davan
7:00 PM	Dominique	Shamblin
7:30 PM	Verna	Jackson
8:00 PM	Short class for team	
Saturday 5/6	PUPPY	RAISER
8:00 AM	Osage **	Bierwirth
8:45 AM	Onslo **	Meek
9:45 AM	Lacy	Anderson
10:15 AM	Oreo	Tanner
11:15 AM	O'Shea	Quesenberry
12:00 NOON	GENERAL MEETING	
1:00 PM	Jewel	Haynes
1:30 PM	Jeeter	Gilleland
2:15 pm	Velvet	Burkett

* Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph by Rick Tanner

Driving Directions to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Apex for the Spring 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 (that is where you turn right to go to Apex Park). **Take the next exit**, which is marked Downtown Apex and turn left and 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: 2006

May 5-6, 2006

Evaluation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church,
Apex, NC

August 11-12, 2006

Evaluation, Raleigh Church of Christ

November 10-11, 2005

Evaluation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church,
Apex, NC

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