

Charlotte Area Puppies ride CATS! By Kelly Coney



On Saturday July 11th the Charlotte Area Transit System gave local Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppies a wonderful experience with a CATS Special Transportation bus. Six teams from the Charlotte area attended this outing including--Leigh Ames with Astro, Danny Overcash with Denton, Bart Austin with Hampton, Julie Haynes with Keegan, Jesika Baur with Lilac, and Kelly Coney and Paul Pacious with Tyson. Our host for the day was Terrance, a CAT Special Transportation employee. Terrance really helped to make the experience successful; he continuously asked what we wanted for our pups and what he could do to help us with the socialization.

When the pups first arrived they were allowed to get use to the bus by working around it in the parking lot while it was running. Then one dog at a time was allowed to walk up and down the stairs of the bus, and explore the inside with their raiser. In addition, pups were allowed to check out the wheelchair lift while it was on the ground and then when comfortable, ride the lift up onto the bus with their raiser and then back down. Finally, all of the pups loaded up onto the bus, where they actually took up every seat on the Special Transportation bus! All of the dogs settled nicely on the bus, allowing Terrance to take us for a ride around uptown Charlotte.

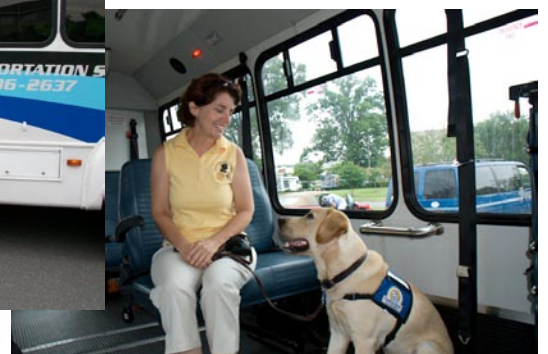
All of the pups did great at the CATS bus experience, and some of them even got to show this on the news when Channel 14 News was on the scene! Pups, raisers, Terrance and especially CATS made this event successful and fun. Terrance even joked that he should be our driver next year!!



Danny Overcash with Denton



Kelly Coney with Tyson



Julie Haynes with Keegan

SAS Health Fair

The NCPRP participated in the annual SAS Health Fair in May. Many thanks to SAS for supporting GEB over the years, and for welcoming us to their event!



From top left: Janet Newcity with Crockett, Sherry Dodson and Barbara Pendergrass, Vanilla, and Irene Cucurullo with Glen

IN LOVING MEMORY

Knight
4/6/99 – 6/22/09

Knight died of Osteosarcoma of the Jaw. He was initially raised by Danny and Walt Overcash when they were in Alpharetta, GA. His vet sponsor was the Alpharetta Animal Hospital, and the Overcash's were his food sponsors. He changed homes to Louise and Michael White on 2/5/00. His vet sponsor in Raleigh was Oberlin Animal Hospital, and the Whites were his food sponsors. Knight was released for lack of confidence at his in-for-training test, and was adopted by Louise and Michael who now live in Wilmington.

Dessert Social and Program

Saturday, August 8th at noon at the Raleigh Church of Christ

Please bring your favorite dessert, and join us for our Annual Potluck Dessert Social and Special Program! Learn about the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Healing Autism Program, and listen as Jane Russenberger shares a look at the evolution of our puppy raising techniques.

A Trip to Yorktown Heights

Many of us have seen the training kennel, but if you haven't seen it lately, you are in for a GREAT surprise!



Jane Russenberger visits with Teresa

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is continuously working to improve the success of our dogs through early socialization and stimulation at the Canine Development Center, improved training methods for our puppies in pre-training and at the training school, and now through a new Kennel Enrichment Program for dogs who are living in the kennel during their guide dog training.



The Kennel Enrichment Program is a multifaceted program designed to provide a healthy combination of exercise and rest to stimulate our dogs' minds. The program is designed to create an inviting kennel environment; enhancing the dogs' lives and preventing stress during this important training period.

In the kennels our dogs are enjoying classical music, comfortable beds, scent enrichment (coconut, lavender and mint extracts are sprayed on the kennel walls), hanging toys, ice blocks, frozen Kong's, and one on one time with staff and volunteers. They have special toy time when they have the opportunity to play with different textured toys in a small controlled group outside their runs. They enjoy Community Run three times a day where they can play outside with larger groups of dogs in areas filled with kites, playground equipment, bubble machines, and swimming pools. The toys and activities are varied to reduce boredom. When our dogs are not training, resting or playing, they may be enjoying their weekly 15 minute massage in the peaceful massage therapy room with staff and volunteers who have been trained in soothing massage techniques.



Visa having fun with her trainer



Many thanks to Planet Dog for donating the toys these dogs are enjoying!

The icing on the cake is that our dogs actually get a break from the kennels once in a while. The trainers sometimes take the dogs out for a day of fun at nearby parks or lakes. The staff welcomes dogs into their offices during the day and into their homes at night. Volunteers also take the dogs home for weekend getaways.

All of these enhancements don't make it easy to say goodbye to our puppies when it is time for them to leave us, but knowing they are happy while they are preparing for their forever homes certainly helps!

Dogs work *and play* while in training in Yorktown Heights, NY!



Oslo



Wynette

APR 23 2009



Roz



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, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th, 2009
Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

Friday 8/7	PUPPY	RAISER
2:30 PM	Glen	Cucurullo
3:15 PM	Crockett	Newcity
4:00 PM	Hexa	Cooke
4:45 PM	Briana	Gilleland
5:30 PM	Keegan	Haynes
6:15 PM	Meeting for Team	
Saturday 8/8	PUPPY	RAISER
9:45 AM	Pablo	Tanner
10:30 AM	Lilac	Bauer
11:15 AM	Astro	Ames
12:00 PM	GENERAL MEETING	Dessert Social and Program
2:00 PM	Denton	Overcash
2:45 PM	Tyson	Coney
3:30 PM	Hampton	Austin

DIRECTIONS to the Evaluation

Raleigh Church of Christ
911 Barringer Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606

Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for the Evaluation:

From I-440:

- Take exit 1C, Jones Franklin Rd and drive North approximately 0.35 miles.
- Turn Left onto Barringer Dr and the church building will be on the Right about 0.11 miles.

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

August 7-8, 2009

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 6-7, 2009

Evaluation, Apex, NC
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2010

February 5-6, 2010

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

April 30-May1, 2010

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

August 6-7, 2010

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 5-6, 2010

Evaluation (Location to be confirmed)

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

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