



# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2014

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## **Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Macbeth and Mackie!**

### **Courtney and MacBeth (From the Profile of the June Graduating Class)**

Courtney was matched with MacBeth, a black Labrador and her second guide dog.

Courtney was born blind and needs a guide dog to work on her right side; MacBeth was specially trained for the job. Courtney lives in her own apartment and works in a local restaurant. She loves to bake, take walks, spend time with friends and to shop.

She refers to MacBeth as "my little Porsche, excited to work and affectionate at play." MacBeth is "her eyes" and she knows he will stop her if a car comes in front of them. "My guide dogs save my life every day."

MacBeth was raised by Janet Newcity and family. His vet sponsor was Village Veterinary Hospital in Chapel Hill. His food sponsors were the Newcitys.

Janet said, "We had a long wait to attend MacBeth's graduation; he was in training for a year and a half. I shouldn't complain, though. Courtney had been waiting for two years for just the perfect dog to be trained for her. I'm glad that Macbeth is it. We had a wonderful visit with Courtney and the love that she and MacBeth have for each other is evident. They are a wonderful team."



### **Colleen and Mackie (From the Profile of the June Graduating Class)**



Colleen was matched with male yellow Lab Mackie; they'll head home to Minnesota where her husband awaits them.

Colleen's vision loss is due to Laurence-Moon Syndrome; she was sighted until she was in her early thirties. Colleen worked as a receptionist and currently runs her own dog boarding business. She is active with the American Council for the Blind and volunteers at St. Joseph's Home for Children. She also visits schools and hosts a weekly book club. Summers are spent traveling and camping. Mackie will join Colleen, her husband and her retired guide as they pitch their tent on the campgrounds this July.

Mackie was raised by Ting Hu and Luke Yen, and Lisa and Rudy Bukovnic. Mackie's vet sponsors were Six Forks Animal Hospital of Raleigh and Legion Road Animal Clinic of Chapel Hill. Mackie's food sponsor was the Southport Chapter of the Southern Dames of America.

## Meet the New Puppies!

**Kismet**, a yellow female lab, is being raised by Linda Mildwurf and family. Kismet is the Mildwurf's 1st Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. Her vet sponsor is Falls Village Veterinarian Clinic and her food sponsor is Kathie Rysanek. Linda shared the following about Kismet. "We are first time raisers of Kismet, a 4 month old energetic yellow lab. This is our first Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. Kismet loves hanging out with our family but especially with the ones closest to her size, Marley (9 yrs old) and EJ & Sawyer (age 10). Kismet lives the life of Riley....lots of sleep, exercise, eating, a little work and loads of treats. Kismet loves to cuddle, lick feet, play fetch, tummy rubs and dryer sheets (uh oh!). Often heard in the Mildwurf house, "Oh...Kismet is soooooo cute!"



**Malley**, a black and tan male German Shepherd, is being raised by Paul Huebner. Malley is Paul's 4th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. Paul is Malley's food sponsor and his vet sponsor is Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen.

**Nettles**, a yellow female lab, is being raised by Debra and Brian Davis. Nettles is their 2<sup>nd</sup> Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. The Davis' are the food sponsors for Nettles and her vet sponsor is Mayfair Animal Hospital in Cary.

**Noble**, a yellow male lab, is being raised by Carol Deeley. Noble is Carol's 4th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. His food sponsors are the Deeleys and his vet sponsor is Animal Kingdom in Cary.

**Omaha**, a yellow male lab, is being raised by Glynis and Rick Tanner. Omaha is their 10th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. Glynis writes, "The Tanners welcomed their 10<sup>th</sup> Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy, Omaha. This mellow little yellow fellow walks nicely on lead, plays politely with other pups, and settles quietly to play with his toys in his kennel or on his "go place" mat. Homeboy Scout has even allowed him to play with his green Kong ball in the yard. Omaha is working on keeping four on the floor during greetings and bravely working on grates. VCA Legion Road Animal Hospital are his veterinary sponsors and the Tanners are his food sponsors."



**Yeats**, a yellow male lab, is being raised by Kelly Coney Pacious. Yeats is Kelly's 8th Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. His food sponsors are Kelly and her husband, Paul, and his vet sponsor is Poplar Animal Hospital in Concord.

Kelly shared the following. "Here is the poem we created for his intro- since he is after all named after William Butler Yeats an Irish poet."

"I was born amongst my brothers  
But never there was I to stay  
Playing with my siblings, I did every day  
Until I was taken by the others  
The humans were kind and sweet  
They fed and played with me on the spot  
However it was clear that I would be taught a lot  
I love to learn and accomplish every feat  
Though Dad says I'm fun and wouldn't you know it  
I love to show off my silly side  
However, Mom says it's my job to guide  
Hasn't anyone told her I'm named after a poet"



**Carol Deeley with Noble, Paul Huebner with Malley, Sherry Dodson, Linda Mildwurf with Kismet, Sawyer, Marley, and EJ Mildwurf**

## Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

**Harpo**, a black male lab, raised by Kelly Coney Pacious, recently passed his in-for-training test. Harpo's food sponsors were Kelly and Paul, and his vet sponsor was Poplar Animal Hospital in Concord.

**SAS**, a black male lab, raised by Paul Huebner, recently passed his in-for-training test. SAS will be a dual career dog, he will be used for breeding, and will go into training. Paul was SAS' food sponsor and his vet sponsor was Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen.

**Jeremiah**, a black male lab, raised by Jim and Luan Harmeson and Debra and Brian Davis, recently passed his in-for-training test. Jeremiah's vet sponsors were Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and Mayfair Animal Hospital of Cary, and his food sponsors were the Harmeson's and Davis'.

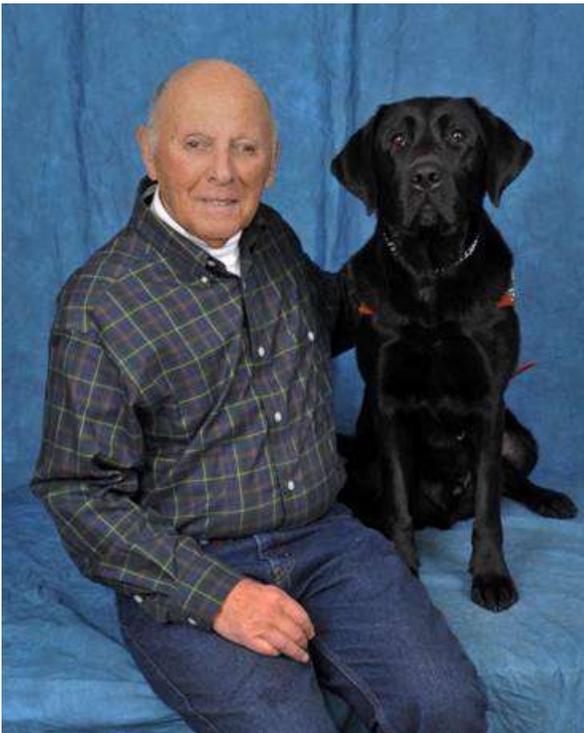
### A note about Ray: (Forwarded by puppy raiser Glynis Tanner)

November 2013 graduate **Paul Ellner** is a professor emeritus of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He's also retired from the US Navy and flew search and rescue missions for the Civil Air Patrol. Now 88, Paul is enjoying his retirement through writing fiction and practicing yoga. Guiding Eyes dog Ray makes it much easier for him to live independently. He wrote about an encounter where Ray's training saved the day:

<https://www.guidingeyes.org/21247/bear-with-me/>

### **Bear With Me** (From the Guiding Eyes for the Blind website)

*Posted March 18th, 2014*



by Guiding Eyes graduate Paul Ellner

While flying Search and Rescue missions for the Civil Air Patrol, my landings began to get bumpier, and I was diagnosed with AMD. **Age-related Macular Degeneration is a progressive retinal disease that causes most of the blindness in the U.S. My flying days were over.**

I poured myself into my writing, published three novels, and wrote a book of poems.

Meanwhile, I tried every available treatment for my eyes, but inevitably there came a day when the ophthalmologists told me there was nothing further that could be done. At this point, I could not see more than about six feet ahead, distinguish TV, read, write, or see the food on my plate although I had some peripheral vision. I became completely dependent upon my wife Connie to get around our development or anywhere else for that matter. **Someone at the VA suggested getting a guide dog, but I was approaching the end of my 80th decade, and I wondered if I was up to it.**

Nevertheless, I applied to several organizations that provide service dogs. One of them rejected me because I was too old, and another required that I provide daily three-hour walks for the dog. A third one, Guiding Eyes for The Blind in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., agreed to consider my application. After 13 months of waiting, I was accepted into a class and reported to the large Guiding Eyes facility.

**I was introduced to Ray, a black Labrador, and it was love at first sight.** We bonded and for the next three weeks, from 6 AM until 9 PM, Ray, my instructor, and I worked together. Initially I learned to care for him, put on his harness, and to pick up the “poop” he left several times a day when I took him out. I began to learn how to work with him in the city, in restaurants, malls, and in the country. The instructors are highly motivated and trained young people who love dogs and are committed to having their clients succeed. After graduation, I came home with Ray, and another instructor came for several days to ensure that Ray and I became familiar with our home area.

**My life had definitely improved. With Ray’s help I am now able to walk all around our development and also on the new trails through the woods. Ray is a friendly, gentle companion, but strictly business when wearing his harness.**

I had heard that there are bears around here, but I never saw one. That is, until a few days before writing this article.

The day started about seven, when Ray and I walked to the West Lodge. In the locker room he waited while I changed my shoes for sneakers and then lay patiently along side of the treadmill while I did my thirty-minute workout. On the way home, we stopped at the Maintenance yard to see if the short cut to Old Farms Road had been shoveled free of snow. It was, and we took it starting down the left edge of Old Farms. About halfway down the street, Ray suddenly stopped abruptly near one of the garbage bins.

“Why are you stopping?” I asked him. “Let’s go!”

Ray didn’t budge. It was as if he was anchored in place. He looked pointedly at the garbage bin, and then I saw it. A large black bear about five feet away from us.

“Forward,” I commanded, but instead, Ray made a right turn taking me to the yellow line and then down the street while constantly looking alternatively at the bear and then ahead. The bear remained on all fours, didn’t move, or utter a sound.

Ray remained silent while continuing to take me away from the bear at a normal pace.

I was too stunned to feel fear until later, when I considered that if Ray had growled or barked, the bear might have felt threatened and attacked us. I think the bear was probably confused, and I know that Ray was scared, but he kept his cool and continued to do his job taking me safely home.

**I think that if we ever encounter this bear again, it will consider us harmless and leave us be. Nevertheless, it is comforting to know that come hell or high water, Ray does his job guiding me safely.**

## Many Thanks to our Supportive Community!

Preston Animal Hospital in Cary has allowed Guiding Eyes for the Blind to display our Donation Dog statue in their office. We truly appreciate their willingness to share their space.

Irene and Maria Cucurullo, along with Quentin and Coal, were invited to spend the day at the North Carolina Coastal Pines Girl Scout Summer Day Camp. Camp Director, Darcie Helbig, presented them with a generous donation for The North Carolina Puppy Raising Region.



**Irene Cucurullo with Quentin**

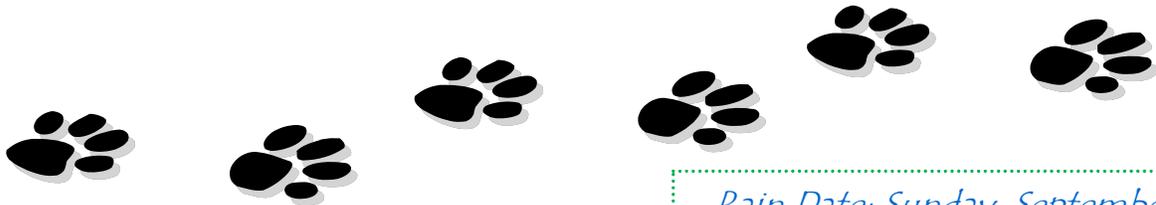


**Maria Cucurullo with Coal**

**Millbrook Baptist Church has invited our puppies to a Blessing of the Animals. If you are interested, please see the flyer on the next page, and feel free to attend.**

# 3rd Annual BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, September 21<sup>nd</sup>, 2014  
Millbrook Baptist Church



*Rain Date: Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>*

A short service and blessing of animal companions will be held at 4:30 P.M. on the church grounds at 1519 E. Millbrook Road in Raleigh. We will assemble on the grassy area in the back.

*All pets and their caretakers are welcome to attend!*



## An Opportunity to Help!

We will collect donations for the Wake County Animal Center -- money, dog or cat food, toys, paper towels, old sheets/blankets, and cleaning supplies.

## For safety's sake!

All pets must be on a leash/lead or in a carrier or cage, have current vaccinations, and have no communicable diseases. Water will be available.

## No Pets Now?

Bring a photo, collar, or toy of a deceased pet for a blessing of memories.

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God." (Luke 12:6)*



Millbrook Baptist Church *"An open and inclusive community of faith..."*

1519 E. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609 — (919) 876-1519 — millbrookbaptistchurch.org

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

**Thursday, July 31, Friday, August 1 & Saturday, August 2, 2013**

Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

Revised: 7/21/14

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
<b>Thursday 7/31</b>		
4:15 PM	Noel	Mulcahy
6:00 PM	Malley	Huebner
8:00 PM	Coal	Cucurullo
<b>Friday, 8/1</b>		
10:00 AM	Landis	Flinchum
12:00 PM	Kismet	Robinson-Mildwurf
2:00 PM	Omaha	Tanner
4:00 PM	BREAK	
4:30 PM	Noble	Morrow **
6:30 PM	Team Meeting/Dinner	
<b>Saturday, 8/2</b>		
8:00 AM	Nettles	Davis
10:00 AM	Yeats	Coney Pacious **
12:00 Noon	General Meeting	
1:30 PM	Nathan	Neel

**\*\* 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 "empty" flash drives of previous evals. If you can't find it, you need to bring one as we won't have extras for you. It needs to be at least 8 GB . New Pup's raisers will receive your flash drive at the eval. Please remember to download these on your own computer if you want to keep it.**

**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**

**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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: 2014

### 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.

## 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

Charlotte Area: Julie Haynes 704.821.6521

Area Coordinator: Sherry Dodson 919.642.0185

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



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