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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Winter 2010

Congratulations NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Gwenyth, Oz, and Teresa!

Molly Adams and Gwenyth (September 2009 graduating class)

Molly Adams was a student in the ACTION Program. This is a 15 day training program for experienced guide dog users. She was matched with Gwenyth, and received 10 days of one-on-one training with a senior instructor, and 5 days of home instruction with Guiding Eyes training staff.

Gwenyth was raised by Christopher Meyer. She was his first puppy. Her vet sponsor was Boulevard Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and Chris was her food sponsor.



Molly Adams and Gwenyth

Oz Heeling Autism Program (from final training report)



Oz with Trainers
Maureen Mellett and Caroline
McCabe-Sandler

“Oz is going into class. He is being placed with a family in Connecticut. The family consists of a little boy, his parents, and an older sister. Oz is lovely. He is lovey and sweet. He will make a wonderful addition to this family. Oz has started working with toys. When he touches the buttons correctly, lights and sounds go off and he is rewarded. I had my son hooked to Oz in the mall and my son threw himself on the floor and pretended to bang his head against the floor. Oz immediately crawled over to him and put his head and face between the floor and my son's head. He reached up with his big sweet face and tried to kiss my son. A Special Needs teacher was watching (unbeknownst to me), and she came over and said she could not believe what this dog was doing to help a struggling child, both physically and mentally!!”

Oz was raised by Jim and Wendy Bierwirth. His vet sponsor was Pet House Calls of Raleigh, and his food sponsors were the Bierwirths.

Michael Evers and Teresa (from the profile of the December 2009 graduating class)

Michael is pleased with how well Teresa works with him, and he is amused by her full personality. Visually impaired since birth due to congenital cataracts and glaucoma, Michael realized at an early age that he preferred traveling with a guide dog, finding himself to be more confident and appreciative to be able to avoid obstacles in his path.

New to Guiding Eyes, he and his wife Evelyn, who is also visually impaired, chose our program due to its exceptional reputation and their ability to attend the 26 day residential training program together. They have been married for two years and recently relocated to North Carolina, and they look forward to traveling with their new guides and continuing to build their lives together.

Teresa will accompany Michael to work every day. In their free time they'll be hiking, exercising, and traveling with Evelyn and her Guiding Eyes dog Omega.



Michael Evers and Teresa

Teresa was raised by Chris and Rick Echols, and their children Emily and Ryan. Teresa's vet sponsor was Armadale Animal Hospital of Raleigh, and her food sponsors were the Echols family.

Meet the New Puppies!

Abigail, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Jennifer Foote and family. Jen and her daughter, Olivia, shared the following about Abigail. "Abigail is our first GEB puppy. She came to live with our family in October. We are very thankful that she is calm and sweet. Our dog, Midnight, was not so sure of this new playful puppy at first, but now they are the best of friends. She is quickly learning her commands and Pup-Peroni is her favorite reward. On Thursdays she attends our home school co-op, which has 200 students. She practices all of her skills and has become the "mascot" of our home school group. Abigail has brought much joy to our home and we are excited to be able to raise her for GEB."



Abigail with best friend, Midnight

Abigail's vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh and the Foote's are her food sponsors.

Bangle, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Emily Alsmeyer. Bangle is Emily's 1st GEB puppy! Bangle's vet sponsor is Hidden Valley Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and the Alsmeyer's are her food sponsors.

Barb, a female black lab, is being raised by Margot Bennett and family. Barb is there 7th GEB puppy! Margot said the following about Barb. "Deciding to raise Barb after having our 4th child was a huge leap, but having faith that Guiding Eyes would choose one that would fit into our lifestyle was easy. As always, Jane [Russenberger] picked one for us-as you can see-that has the patience of a saint to be with young children. She is adjusting well and is a quick learner. Her favorite training opportunity is Go Place, whereby our 2 year old then takes the opportunity to lay right next to her. She's a fun puppy and not too feisty. She has had the opportunity to stay with a few sitters who love her as well and say she is quite the diva-she's got lots of confidence! Our family is taking the "It takes a village" approach to raise her as we are lucky enough to have 3 of our kids old enough to help with her training. Actually, though Schaefer (2) doesn't talk yet, he does use the hand command for "down" and she listens! We are looking forward to being able to take her places when she's ready and love being part of the program again."



Barb thinks Jane picked just the right family for her too!

Barb's vet sponsor is Gentle Care Animal Hospital in Raleigh, and her food sponsors are Jersey Mike's of Cary and the Bennett family.



Octavian, a male black lab, is being raised by Kelly Coney. Octavian is her 4th GEB puppy! Kelly is his food sponsor. Kelly said, "**Octavian is my fourth GEB pup and definitely has the LARGEST name out of any GEB pup I have met! His name is so long that even Jane asked if I could find out what other "O" names were still available. As a result his name was almost changed to Otter, however by this time I had already had Octavian a week, and found it difficult to start calling him a different name...so Octavian it is! It is most likely a good thing as his paws are very large, and I think he will grow into his name!**"

Something interesting about Octavian is that Jane asked me to take one of the "O" pups as soon as the litter was born. My mom volunteers



Octavian



at the CDC so Jane asked that my mom get to do early socialization and home socialization with the "O" litter since one of them would be my future GEB pup. My mom attended the puppy tests and then took Octavian-my match, home right after and kept him until I arrived two days later.

Octavian is already showing his "big" personality and has no problems keeping up with my other dogs; Tyson, Image and Riley. But for the most part he is a cuddly little boy who prefers to be in a lap when he sleeps!



Octavian

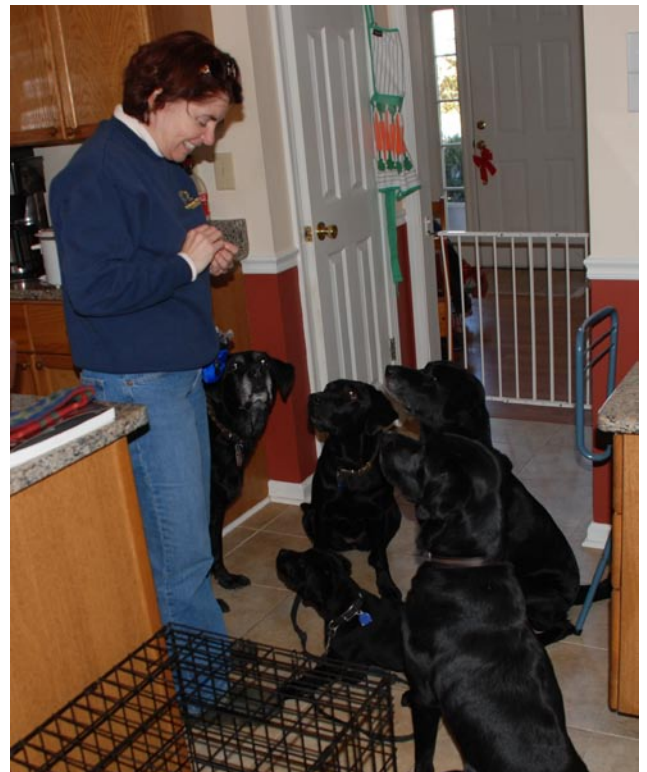
“Do my paws look big to you?”

Ogden, a male black lab, is being raised by Julie Haynes and her family. Ogden is their 8th GEB puppy! Ogden’s vet sponsor is Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and his food sponsor is Rosanne Bateman. Julie shared the following about Ogden. “Ogden arrived on January 3rd to a welcoming committee that included 4 GEB predecessors – my released dogs, Zeike and Parker, and Belvie Gilleland’s girls, Halo and Jewel, who were visiting for a few days. He is making himself right at home and has a classroom of second graders eagerly awaiting his first appearance! The Haynes family is all pitching in and Parker is especially happy to have a new playmate. Thanks to Kelly Coney for providing transportation and to the CDC for Ogden’s early training which has gotten us off to a great start!”



Ogden

“I’ve got my eye on you!”



Julie Haynes with Ogden and Friends - 5 Perfect Sits!

Simba, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Irene Cucurullo and her family. Simba is the Cucurullo's 5th GEB puppy! Simba's vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital. The Cucurullo's are his food sponsor.

New Puppies on their way to NC "Are we there yet?"



Bangle and Abigail



Barb, Simba, Abigail, Bangle



Simba

Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

Astro, a male yellow lab raised by Leigh and Tim Ames and family was released from training for medical reasons. The Ames family lovingly adopted Astro. Astro's vet sponsor was Coddle Creek Animal Hospital and his food sponsor was Bovis Lend Lease.

Erin, a female yellow lab, came as a home change to Rick and Glynis Tanner and then was finished by the Echols family. Erin was recently released from guide dog training and has begun training in the Heeling Autism program. While with the Tanners, Erin's vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Clinic in Chapel Hill, and the Tanners were her food sponsors. Erin's vet sponsor while with the Echols was Armadale Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were the Echols.

Hampton, a male black lab raised by Mary and Bart Austin recently passed his in-for-training test. Hampton's vet sponsor was Sharon Lakes Animal Hospital of Charlotte, and the Austin's were his food sponsors.

Hexa, a female German Shepherd raised by Sharon and Andy Cooke was released from training and welcomed as a permanent resident in the Cooke home. Hexa's vet sponsor was Western Wake Veterinary Service, and her food sponsor was the American Kennel Club.

Keegan, a male yellow lab raised by Julie Haynes and family, recently passed his in-for-training test. Keegan's vet sponsor was Animal Care Hospital of Matthews, and his food sponsor was Rosanne Bateman.

Tyson, a male Golden Retriever raised by Kelly Coney, was released from training and adopted by Kelly. Tyson's vet sponsor was Stoney Creek Animal Hospital of Charlotte, and Kelly was his food sponsor.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Caleb
10/28/96 – 12/21/09

Caleb, raised by Lynn and John Bowman of Cary, died at age 13 years.
Caleb's vet sponsor was Cary Veterinary Hospital. His food sponsor was Mary Goelz of Cary.

Journey (addendum)
5/7/95 – 7/31/09

Journey, a male yellow lab, was raised by Marie and Gary O'Neil, and Corsair (GEB released dog). Swift Creek Animal Hospital was his vet sponsor, and the O'Neil's were his food sponsors. Marie provided the following words about Journey. "Journey's bold fearlessness and boundless energy kept him from becoming a guide, and he was released from GEB to serve his special calling as a loyal and loving family member of the O'Neil's. Journey loved playing soccer with his favorite toy, a large hard plastic ball, and with Gary, his convenient and always willing opponent. A pond, his kiddie pool, and anything deep enough to wade in was Heaven on earth for journey. It likely triggered fond memories of his first puppy raisers; Laura, Pat, and Danielle Kelly, and Doyle (GEB released dog), who introduced him to their pond. His vet sponsor during his early days was Willowrun Veterinary Hospital, and the Kelley's and Pet Depot were his food sponsors. We miss you Journey, and although our hearts are heavy, they are filled forever with your faithfulness, loyalty, and love."

Many thanks to the Unionville Lions Club!

Mary Austin, Hampton's raiser, gave a wonderful presentation to the Unionville Lions Club, and in return, they kindly made a donation to our program. We appreciate their thoughtful gift.



Glen raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo is working hard, but having fun at GEB!

Porsche is in the News!

Posted on Thu, Sep. 10, 2009

Her life's something to sniff at: Porsche, an arson dog, is a true hero

By DANA DiFILIPPO
Philadelphia Daily News
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Porsche couldn't resist the smells.

First trained as a [guide] dog, the black Labrador got so distracted by all the delectable odors that the world had to offer that she flunked her certification.

But the vision-impaired community's loss was the Philadelphia Fire Department's gain. Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives trained her in accelerant detection, and Porsche went to work as an arson dog with city firefighters about five years ago.

"She just can't stop sniffing - that's the trait that breaks her [as a seeing-eye dog]," said Lt. Art Czajkowski, her handler. "But [the ATF] took this 'deficiency' and funneled it into this."

"This" is a constantly twitching nose adept at detecting gasoline, kerosene, charcoal-lighter fluid and other substances used to intentionally set fires. Fire officials credit Porsche with helping pinpoint causes in more than 300 fires, including 100 arsons that caused \$24 million in damage.

Tonight, she'll be honored for her efforts at a tribute for "Hero Dogs." The ceremony at the National Liberty Museum, 3rd and Chestnut streets, is part of a larger program celebrating police and firefighter heroes.

It's the museum's fourth year honoring human heroes - 33 from the Delaware Valley will be saluted tonight - but its first year for the Hero Dog program.

Besides Porsche, two other Hero Dogs will be recognized: Sam, who patrols city prisons and conducted more than 5,000 narcotics searches in cells in 2007 and 2008; and Tag, who tracked and held two robbery suspects in Falls Township last fall, even though the thugs had fled into the woods at night in the rain.

Porsche doesn't look like a hero, as first impressions go.

Allergies make her itchy, keeping her hind leg in constant scratching motion. When she runs to keep up with Czajkowski, she gracelessly slides past him like she's on ice skates on the fire headquarter's polished floors. And at 8, she's old enough to need regular rest, curling up on the floor to nap whenever she's not needed.

But the girl is good.

Just like her name, "she's revved up and ready to go whenever we get to a fire scene," Czajkowski said.

She helped authorities solve the arson spree that kept Coatesville burning for much of last year.

"She ruled out numerous areas where burn patterns resembled ignitable fluids," said Deputy Chief Jim Bonner, the fire marshal who nominated Porsche as a hero dog. "It was determined that burned plastic caused the patterns, thus driving the investigators toward proving a fire-cause theory resulting in the arrest of three individuals."

Porsche also recently helped investigators crack two arson-for-profit cases that caused more than \$3 million in damage to commercial properties, Bonner said.

When she detects an accelerant, she sits at the spot and looks dolefully at Czajkowski. He rewards her with dog food.

"We get scenes where it's been burning; our guys put thousands of gallons of water on it - there are layers and layers of debris. But [if there's an accelerant there], she'll find it," Czajkowski said.

Porsche was raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown.

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, February 5 and 6, 2010
Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

REVISED 1/14/10

Friday, 2/5	PUPPY	RAISER
2:00 PM ~	Simba w/ Jane	Cucurullo
2:00 PM ~	Crockett w/ Lee	Newcity
2:45 PM	Irena w/ Jane	Wiles
2:45 PM	Abigail w/ Lee	Foote
3:30 PM	BREAK	
4:00 PM	Barb w/ Lee	Bennett
4:00 PM	Briana w/ Jane	Gilleland
5:00 PM	Meeting for Leadership Team	
Saturday, 2/6		
9:00 AM	Bangle **	Alsmeyer
10:00 AM	Kayla w/ Jane	Flinchum
10:00 AM	Pablo w/ Lee	Tanner
11:00 AM	Denton w/ Jane	Overcash w/Harmeson
11:00 AM	New Puppy** w/ Lee	Waddell
12:00 NOON	General Meeting	
1:00 PM	Lilac w/ Lee	Baur
1:00 PM	Ogden ** w/ Jane	Haynes
1:45 PM	Octavian ** w/ Lee	Coney
2:00 PM	Kirstie ** w/ Jane	Carey
2:45 PM	Timmy	Meyer

**** Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph Saturday morning around the General Meeting time or with someone on Friday. Please let Sherry know if you can't make it at the General Meeting time on Saturday if you need a photo.**

Raisers, please be a little early for your evaluation as we may be running ahead of schedule. The ~ beside the time means that we will probably be earlier, depending on arrival flight time. Thanks!

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.

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)!

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2010

February 5-6, 2010

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

April 30-May 1, 2010

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

July 30-31, 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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