



# Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Winter 2011

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

Erin, a female yellow lab, came to Rick and Glynis Tanner at 6 months as a home change from Sarasota Springs, NY. She later went to the Echols family as a home change. Glynis shared the following about Erin. "She blossomed as she learned her basic verbal commands and hand signals, and proved herself to be a fearless, independent little girl. She got to play with GEB Vance, GEB Gwen, and Shadow, a neighbor's Labrador Retriever. When she was nice, she was very, very nice, and when she was not, she was ... herself. When the Tanners received their 7th GEB puppy, Pablo, Erin tended to play a little too roughly with the little fellow, so Chris Echols took her into her home with her adult dogs, who quickly helped Erin learn the ropes on how to play nicely.



Erin relaxing with Pablo

Erin has mastered good house manners, good manners at work, and ended her finishing school with the Echols before heading up to Training. Her independent streak did not suit the work of guiding, so she was given the opportunity to try the Heeling Autism Program where she found her niche."

Erin graduated from the Heeling Autism program and was placed with Bruce and Ursula Hopkins and their family to assist their son. While with the Tanners, Timberlyne/Legion Road Animal Clinics were Erin's veterinary sponsors, 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.

## Meet the New Puppies!

**Murphy**, a male black lab, is being raised by Katie Soost and family. Murphy is Katie's 1st GEB puppy! Murphy's vet sponsor is Carpenter Animal Hospital in Cary, and the Soosts are his food sponsors.

**Ray**, a male black lab, is being raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner. Ray is their 8th GEB puppy! Glynis tells us, "Thanks to the fine work of the Home Socialization team at Guiding Eyes, GEB Ray hit the ground running, or actually, sitting - like a perfect little gentleman - to go in, go out, eat, and just about any time his name is called. He is an exuberant, eager little fellow and has taken to bossing his older "brother" Scout around, stealing toys, and playing "keep away" like a champ - though his little size makes it easy for Scout to snatch the toy back. Ray learns quickly and seems ravenous for food, excitement, and affection. He skips on his walks and romps through his day. Despite all this



Ray - His toy is almost as big as he is!

enthusiasm and energy, Ray settles very nicely in his kennel and plays calmly with his toys until he is ready to be allowed out. Ray-Man has already been on a few "big boy" walks down at the creek and keeps a nice steady pace when walking on pavement. He is also the most "affectionate" boy we've ever had with toys so he must be planning to make the rank of stud at GEB. We are thrilled to have him." Timberlyne/Legion Road Animal Clinics are Ray's sponsors, and are featuring him on their web site with GEB's permission. Glynis & Rick Tanner are his food sponsors.

**Roger**, a male black lab, is being raised by Vaughn Stewart and Meghan Lyon. Roger is their 1st GEB puppy! Meghan says, "Roger is our first dog together and he has been quite the adventure! He is adorable, with super soft ears and such a sweet face. At our last vet visit he weighed 25lbs, so he's getting to be a big boy. The vet predicts he'll be 80lbs! He loves to chase his toys across the room. He's gradually learning that if he brings them back, we'll throw them again. Along with fetch, Roger loves bones, treats, snow, mulch, balls, belly rubs, walks, and naps. He's doing great with his commands and we have high hopes that he'll eventually learn to be nice to our cat.

Vaughn and I are his food sponsors, and his vet sponsor is the Cornwallis Road Animal Hospital in Durham."



**Roger's 1<sup>st</sup> White Christmas!**

**Tosh**, a male yellow lab, is being raised by Jo Anne and Brian Wiles. Tosh is their 5th GEB puppy! Tosh's vet sponsor is Neuse River Veterinary Hospital, and his food sponsors are the Wiles family. Jo Anne shares that, "Tosh is special to our family for several reasons. We have taken home changes since we raised our first puppy, but we knew that we wanted to raise Tosh from the beginning. Tosh's mother is Irena, whom we also raised, and we followed her pregnancy and the birth of her first litter. Irena's foster mom sent us photos of the litter and kept us updated on the puppies. Now we return the favor by sending her photos and updates on Tosh.

Tosh made his appearance in North Carolina the week before Thanksgiving. Even without the connection to his mother, we would have fallen in love with Tosh. Who can resist puppy breath? Tosh is sweet, smart, and loving. He tries hard to be a good puppy although exploring the world is too much to resist sometimes. Dried leaves blowing by must be toys to chase. Sea shells on the beach must have been placed there for him to dig up and carry around. Even eleven inches of snow must have fallen for him to learn how to bunny hop through it as he tried to keep up with the two big dogs. Luckily they made paths through the snow for him to follow and waited for him. It will be exciting to watch Tosh grow."



**Tosh enjoying the snow!**

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

**Bangle**, a female yellow lab, raised by Emily Alsmeyer and family, and recently by Janet Newcity and family, passed her in-for-training test. She is currently being evaluated as a brood. Bangle's vet sponsor was Hidden Valley Animal Hospital in Raleigh. The Alsmeyer and Newcity families were Bangle's food sponsors.

**Barb**, a female black lab, recently passed her in-for-training test. Raising Barb was a real team effort. She started out with Margot Bennet and family, spent months with Mary Austin and family, and finally ended up with Leigh Ames and family. While with Margot, Barb's vet sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were Jersey Mike's of Cary and the Bennett family. While with Mary, her food sponsors were the Austin family. Barb's vet sponsor while with the Ames family was Coddle Creek Animal Hospital in Concord and her food sponsors were the Ames family. Leigh Ames sent the following note to her previous raisers upon receiving a video of Barb's IFT. *"You know the saying, "it takes a village..."? Raising Barb certainly took a village, and we should all pat ourselves on the back for loving her and preparing her, but also for working together as a GEB family, putting her needs at the forefront. Thanks to Margot and family, and the Austin family for their critical roles in Barb's success, and thanks for entrusting me to be her raiser for the last leg of her puppy journey."*

**Denton**, a male black lab raised by Danny and Walt Overcash and Jim and Luan Harmeson was recently released from training. Denton's vet sponsor while with the Overcash's was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital in Mooresville and while with the Harmesons was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro. His food sponsors were the Overcash's and the Harmesons.

Danny tells us, "Mr. Denton has come home to Mooresville! It seems he was strolling along in a mall up in New York with his trainer when James Taylor starts wailing..."I'm going to Carolina"...on the Muzak system and Denton, in a wave of nostalgia, burst into tears and...okay, alright, it wasn't exactly like that but it makes a good story. And who knows, these are Yankees for heaven's sake. Do they even recognize James Taylor?! Closer to the truth is that Denton decided guide work is not for him. He just said NO. It's allowed. Although we are disappointed that Denton did not join the ranks of guides, we are thrilled to have him home. Acknowledging that you are not quite as confident as you thought is brave. Better to decide this before being matched with a student...saves a lot of trouble.

Denton burst into the house at 2:00AM acting as though he'd been gone for a weekend puppysit instead of almost a year! He slid right back into routine, nosing Amigo out of his old favorite places. GEB release Pawling was happy to see his old friend and Amigo and Denton immediately became BFFs. How cool is that!

Welcome home, big guy. We are so happy to have you here...back in Carolina where you belong."

**Kayla**, a female black lab, raised by Tamara Flinchum and Jo Anne and Brian Wiles, recently passed her in-for-training test. While with Tamara, Kayla's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital, and Tamara was her food sponsor. The Wiles were her food sponsors while Kayla was with them, and Neuse River Veterinary Hospital was her vet sponsor.

**Pablo**, a male black lab, raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner was released from guide dog training, and is currently being trained in the Heeling Autism Program. Pablo's vet sponsor was Timberline-Legion Road Animal Clinic in Chapel Hill, and the Tanner's were his food sponsors. Glynis shared the following note about Pablo. "Rick and [I] have been fortunate to have raised two broods for Guiding Eyes and then have been fortunate to raise a puppy from each brood. GEB Pablo arrived with his mother Oreo's gentle manner, soulful eyes, and white markings (hers on her paws, his on his chest). Pablo was a completely delightful dog to raise meeting all the criteria one would wish for in a dog: willing, obedient, gentle, and generous. He scored very high marks on his IFT and wowed the crowd with a valiant leap to reach the flying bat! His obedient nature made him less suited for the demands of guiding, however, where the dog must sometimes make decisions independently of cues from their partner. Pablo was given the opportunity to continue training and is now in the Heeling Autism Program from which Erin graduated."

**Sahara**, a female Golden Retriever, raised by Karen and Gordon Carey was released from training, and was lovingly adopted by the Carey family. Sahara's vet sponsor was Ard-Vista Animal Hospital in Winston Salem and Karen and Gordon were her food sponsors.

**Simba**, a male yellow lab raised by Irene Cucurullo, has passed his in-for-training test! Simba's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital. The Cucurullo's were his food sponsors.



**Denton reclaimed his bed from Pawling and Amigo.**



**Bangle Goes IFT!**



**Simba poses with a GEB statue.**



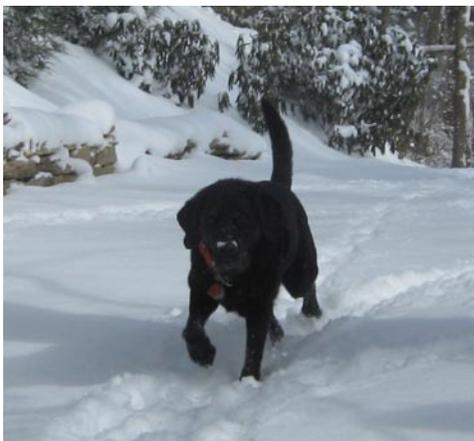
**So long Simba and Kayla!  
Irene Cucurullo, Brian and Jo Anne Wiles, and  
Tamara Flinchum at the Training School.**

---

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Kearney**  
**1/14/99 – 11/23/10**

Kearney, a male black lab, was raised by Nicole LaMotte and her family (GEB released dog). Oberlin Road Animal Hospital was his vet sponsor, and the LaMotte's were his food sponsors. Nicole provided the following words about Kearney. "Kearney will be soooooo missed. He was a perfect match for our family in helping me to raise my three children and five foster children. Kearney gave his free time to the Wake County School System as a therapy dog for the special classrooms in Daniel's Middle School. He brought joy to everyone he met. In his last two years of life, he brought peace and tranquility to hospice patients. He enjoyed moving to the mountains this last year and liked taking to the hills every morning to take in the smells, and wandering in the Christmas trees while searching out hiding deer."



**Kearney hiking in the hills!**

---

***Let it Snow!***  
***Let it Snow! Let it Snow!***



**Fenwick (GEB Pup on Program) and Sandy (GEB Released)**  
*Submitted by Tamara Flinchum, Puppy Raiser*

## A Special Note from Don and Sherry Dodson...

It is with sincere and heartfelt appreciation that Don and I thank you for your kindness in celebrating our 25 year involvement with Guiding Eyes. It was a complete surprise to have the cake and festivities at the evaluation in November! The sponsorship of the December graduation in our name absolutely stunned and amazed us. We were and remain very deeply touched. We genuinely thank each and every one of you who contributed to make that possible.

We could not and would not have devoted the time and energy to Guiding Eyes and the NC Puppy Raising Program for this long if GEB was not a premier organization. Their standards are superior and we have never known them not to do the "right thing". GEB truly cares about their mission, their volunteers and doing what is correct.

Also, we would not have been involved for so long if the volunteers we have met weren't, without a doubt, some of the nicest, most dedicated and giving people to know. We have forged very close and long-lasting friendships over the years and we feel truly blessed to have had each one of you in our lives. The level of volunteerism and dedication to purpose has been a remarkable thing to see. Our raisers, veterinary sponsors, food sponsors, other volunteers and donors give so much and we believe that the NCPRP's volunteers would rival any other organization anywhere for their level of commitment, enthusiasm, loyalty and congeniality. No one, two, three or four people can make this program work. It is a team effort and is about all the volunteers, sponsors, all the wonderful puppies and ultimately the graduates. The NCPRP could not have continued without everyone that has been a part of it and worked so hard over the last 25 years. You are truly a remarkable group of people and we feel unbelievably blessed to be able to associate with you.

Again, thank you so very much.

Don and Sherry

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, February 3, 4, 5, 2011  
 Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606  
 Updated 1/19/11

<b>Thursday, 2/3</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
5:00 PM	Tally	Echols
6:00 PM	Alise	Shamblin
7:00 PM	Tosh **	Wiles
8:00 PM	Dandy	Jiamachello
<b>Friday, 2/4</b>		
1:00 PM	New puppy **	Cucurullo
2:00 PM	Fenwick	Flinchum
3:00 PM	Ladybug	Carey
4:00 PM	Break	
4:30 PM	Murphy **	Soost
5:30 PM	Tripp	Huebner
6:30 PM	Ray **	Tanner
7:30 PM	Roger **	Stewart/Lyon
<b>Saturday, 2/5</b>		
9:00 AM	Harper	Harmeson
10:00 AM	Jamaica	Baur
11:00 AM	Jan **	Vogelhut
12:00 NOON	Short General Meeting	
1:00 PM	Amigo	Overcash
2:00 PM	Jax **	Lyman
3:00 PM	Crystal	Jennings

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

## **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.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org))!

## UPCOMING EVENTS: 2011

### February 4-5, 2011

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### April 29-30, 2011

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

### July 29-30, 2011

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### November 4-5, 2011

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

## 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 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