



# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Winter 2015

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## Congratulations to NCPRP's Most Recent Graduates: Harpo and SAS!

**Harpo**, raised by Kelly Coney Pacious, graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind in December. His food sponsors were Kelly and her husband, Paul. His vet sponsor was Poplar Animal Hospital in Concord.

Kelly and Paul shared the following about Harpo and his new partner. "We are pleased to announce that Harpo has graduated and became a Guide Dog. All of his hard work, and Kelly's, has paid off. She is ecstatic that she was able to see the graduation and meet his partner—especially after the puppy raising journey Kelly, Harpo and the entire NC region experienced.

While Harpo loved Charlotte, he always felt he was destined for bigger and grander things. Well he certainly has achieved this destiny. He has been matched up with Daaiya in New York City. He will be navigating the streets of the Bronx, taking in the sights and sounds around Yankee Stadium. Harpo is Daaiya's first guide dog and she hopes to continue to pursue her dream of opening her own restaurant. In addition to the hustle and bustle of NYC, Harpo will enjoy belly rubs from Daaiya's three children as well as his favorite pastime, tug-of-war, with his new canine brother Sam.

Harpo is Kelly's second New York City Guide Dog and she was excited to see Gary and his Guide Dog, Vasco, (Kelly's first Guide Dog) while she was in NY. "



Daaiya and Harpo



Kelly with Daaiya and Harpo

**SAS**, raised by Paul Huebner, also graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind in December. Paul was SAS's food sponsor and his vet sponsor was Pinetree Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen.

Paul wrote the following about SAS's graduation. "On 12/13/14, Santa left Vivian a very special Christmas present. She went home from Guiding Eyes for the Blind with her new guide dog, SAS. SAS was the third guide dog I have raised for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

SAS is lucky. He is going to a great home, to a family willing to go to great lengths to get him. SAS has a new home and family for Christmas (and his birthday, 12/23).

After graduation, Vivian's husband asked me if it is hard to give up a puppy after having raised it. I get this question more than all other questions combined. Of course it is hard to give them up. I typically say "yes, it is hard, but it is the dog who makes the sacrifice - giving something of himself to someone who needs him." Now I need to amend that answer, because it only covers half of the guide dog - human team.

Vivian wanted a guide dog desperately. There was just one problem. She could not get one in her country. So, she, her husband, and two children left their home and moved to the United States. None of them spoke the English language. Four years later, Vivian learned enough English to be able to attend guide dog school at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and graduated this past Saturday (12/13/14). Getting a dog changes lives for blind people. Not everyone on earth gets to have one, despite their need.

So, is it hard to give them up? Yes, but it is harder not to have one.

Thank you to everyone who helped SAS achieve this accomplishment."



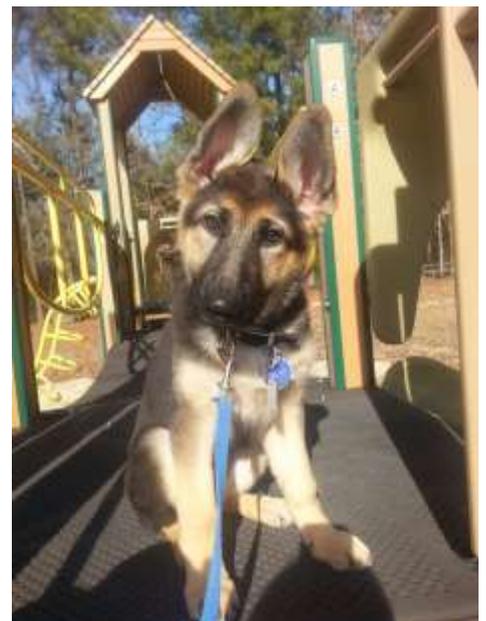
**Paul with Vivian and SAS**

## **Meet the New Puppy!**

**Oleta**, a female German Shephard, is being raised by Irene and Maria Cucurullo. Oleta is the Cucurullo's 12<sup>th</sup> Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy. Her vet sponsor is Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh, and her food sponsor is Doris Thompson of Leland, NC.

Maria introduced Oleta as follows. "Oleta arrived to NC the week before Christmas with one floppy ear. She is a spunky and loving little girl who is eager to work, play with her Guiding Eyes pal, Coal, and meet new people.

When her day is done, she loves nothing more than to get a short "puppy massage" to put her to sleep. As she is picked up to be put into her in her crate, she lightly grunts like a drama queen because she doesn't like when her beauty sleep is disrupted."



**Oleta**



**Oleta with Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Coal**

## *In Loving Memory*

**Fonda**  
**7/22/2000 – 12/7/2014**

Fonda, a retired guide dog raised by Bill and Belvie Gilleland, passed away in December. Her vet sponsor was Jordan Veterinary Clinic, and her food sponsors were Grace Episcopal Church, Lee-Anne and Bill Distler, and the Gillelands. Belvie shared the following thoughts about Fonda.



**Belvie and Fonda**

"Amid the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, yesterday, our world came to a screeching halt... Fonda, our 1st guide dog puppy, passed away. She was staying here with us while her partner's widow was visiting family in California. Our hearts are very sad, but we are also very grateful to have spent the last four weeks with her. She came into our lives 14 years ago - a bouncy, loving, strong-willed yellow pup and she left our lives to accompany, comfort, and guide her partner, Lawrence through his everyday life just a few miles away. Yesterday, she quietly left this world a better place and the people she shared her journey with better people. Rest well sweet girl, you touched us in ways that words cannot describe. You will always hold a special place in our hearts!

To all our GEB family and friends - Thank you for all you did (and continue to do) to help us grow with these pups! Our lives are enriched by each of you and we do not let you know that often enough! Enjoy the wonder of this holiday season and appreciate the small moments and blessings people and pups (and kitties, too) share with you. Give your pups a hug (even though they might not particularly like it!) and love them dearly until their last breath. Life really does change in an instant sometimes!"

**Porsche**  
**2001 – 10/19/2014**

Porsche, raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown passed away in October. Porsche was released from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and worked as a detection dog for ATF. Her food sponsors were Gaston Point Properties and CAPS (Citizens for Animal Protection of Warren County, NC) and her vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital in Warrenton.

## **General Meeting on Saturday**

Please join us on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at noon as we welcome our new Regional Manager, Kate Schroer-Shepard. As a former trainer at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Kate brings a wealth of knowledge to our team. We are fortunate to have Kate working with our team.

*Welcome Kate!*

## **Public Relations**



**Irene and Maria Cucurullo, with Guiding Eyes for the Blind – Coal, presented at a Delta Gamma Chapter Meeting at North Carolina State University. In return, Delta Gamma made puppy toys for our North Carolina puppies.**

**Many thanks to Delta Gamma!**

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE

**Thursday, February 5, Friday, February 6 & Saturday, February 7, 2015**

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

Revised January 21, 2015

DATE	PUPPY	RAISER
<b>Thursday 2/5</b>		
2:00 PM	Nettles	Laura Daniels
3:45 PM	Oleta **	Irene Cucurullo
5:30 PM	Noble	Eric Morrow
7:15 PM	Coal (IFT 2/15)	Irene Cucurullo
<b>Friday, 2/6</b>		
10:30 AM	Kismet	Linda Robinson- Mildwurf
12:15 PM	New Puppy**	Hannah Matthews
2:15 PM	Break	
2:45 PM	Omaha	Glynis Tanner
4:30 PM	Malley	Paul Huebner
6:15 PM	Team Meeting/Dinner	
<b>Saturday, 2/7</b>		
10:00 AM	Yeats	Kelly Coney Pacious
12:00 Noon	<b>General Meting</b>	<b>COME MEET KATE!</b>
1:00 PM	New puppy**	Stacey Hansen

**\*\* 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 drive. 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 your eval video on your own computer if you want to keep it.**

## **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: 2015

### February 5-7, 2015

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### April 30 - May 2, 2015

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC  
Pittsboro Baptist Church

### July 30 - August 1, 2015

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### November 5-7, 2015

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

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



**North Carolina Puppy Raising Program**  
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