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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2002

Neil's Graduation

By Norm Herrmann and family

In July of 2000 we took our first dog, Nikon, to his In-For-Training Test at the Guiding Eyes Training Center in Yorktown Heights, NY. Nikon passed his IFT test and we were faced with a dogless ride home to North Carolina. To lift our spirits the four of us (Norm, Jeannie and our two children, Jennifer and Jason) signed up to help out for a day at the Breeding and Placement Center in Patterson, NY. As the staff was preparing for the Area Coordinator's Workshop on the upcoming weekend, we organized brood and stud portraits, filled vaccine kits, picked up people at the airport and assisted with puppy testing.

At dinner that evening, our then sixteen-year-old daughter Jennifer suggested that she was ready to take on the responsibility of raising a puppy of her own. We left a message for Jane Russenberger indicating an interest in a new puppy. The next evening in New York City we got the call from Jane, there was a puppy ready for Jennifer and we could pick him up in the morning. Due to the Area Coordinator Workshop that weekend, our AC, Sherry Dodson, was there to make the handoff to Jennifer and use the pair for a demonstration in puppy handling.

After getting Neil home, we learned just what a teenager is capable of. From cleaning up after Neil, to getting no sleep, to tethering him at all times, Jennifer worked hard with Neil to set the foundation needed for a future guide. A bond of love was set from the first moment Jennifer and Neil set eyes on



Kelli and GEB Neil on their graduation day with Neil's puppy raiser, Jennifer Herrmann

each other. When Jennifer would arrive home from school you knew exactly who his heart really belonged to.

As he grew, Neil became well-socialized. He eventually went to school with Jennifer, he went to all her tennis matches, soccer games and swimming meets just waiting for the time when Jennifer would return. He especially enjoyed his walks in the mall, talking to people who were interested in learning about Guiding Eyes for the Blind. He was further socialized via overnight visits to the Jacobson family in Fletcher, Mary Jane Gibbons in Waynesville and the Rierson family and Lori McHugh both of Charlotte. At the time, these were all "inactive" veteran puppy raisers whose experience and insight contributed greatly to Neil's success. We appreciate their time and effort and we could not have done it without them.

Neil progressed well keeping his grades up at the quarterly evaluations. Nikon returned to us after five months in training and had a chance to pass some of his experience on to Neil. Neil's time with us wasn't without incident, though. There was the Swimming Pool in February Incident and the Infamous Leaping off the Deck to Piddle on Mary Jane's Shoe Incident to keep us on our toes.

After nineteen months with us, it was time to move on. Neil was taken to Yorktown Heights by Will and Trudy Pendergraft of Chapel Hill. In February of this Year Neil passed his IFT test and began training. We got word he was placed with a young lady named Kelli from Pennsylvania and would be graduating in July.

Now, to the big day we thought about for twenty-six months - graduation. Neil's graduation coincided with Lion's Appreciation Day. It was a fair, sunny summer day, a tent was erected, sandwiches were served and Neil was chosen to honor a founding local Lion. To say it was an emotional day, would be an understatement. It was amazing to see how at ease and happy Neil was with Kelli. She is an extraordinary woman, confident, vivacious, and compassionate. She referred to Jennifer as Neil's first mom and thanked her for this unselfish gift. We sat on the grass under the tent talking with Kelli, Neil and her mom as workers took away the tables and chairs.

We are very proud of Jennifer as she has shown us the wonderful young woman she has become. She has given some one an unselfish gift - freedom. Neil enables Kelly to get around the Johns Hopkins campus in Baltimore, Maryland as she attends classes this fall.

We would like to thank Neil's food sponsor, Saturn of Asheville, who were indirectly responsible for getting us involved with Guiding Eyes in 1998. Chris Coleman, DVM of Haywood Animal Hospital in Hendersonville has demonstrated a level of compassion beyond any reasonable expectation and we offer our sincere gratitude for his veterinary services on Neil's behalf. You have all given Kelli a truly unselfish gift.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW???

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Here's the latest on **BADGER, BRODIE, FALLON, IRIS, KLUTE, LONDON, RAINE, SETH, PEGASUS, PORSCHE and YALE!**

BADGER's Adventure by Rick Tanner

The advent of September brought with it, the time for **Badger** to "go up" for his IFT Exam. Being first time raisers, we really had no idea what to expect. Other than Badger was going bye-bye. (Should he have failed, we were not going to keep him ... nothing personal, just that Badger needs a job). Fortunately, Badger's test was the week of Labor Day, so we took the whole week. We have family in the area, so it was all pleasure.

Getting Badger there was half the fun. We flew up to Newark, so this was Badger's first plane ride. Traveling with a dog is a challenge. Things to be prepared for: 1) you will get to bypass security. You'll get searched, but not with the masses. Badger was a big hit with the security folks, they each took turns coming by to pet him. 2) Unless you ask for pre-boarding, you will NOT get it. 3) Likewise with bulk head seating. A full grown adult and 85 lbs of dog does NOT fit in the standard coach seat. One more pearl of wisdom, you can also request to get off first. The crew is more than happy to accommodate. Once settled into our seats, Badger was wonderful. He sat and dozed, until takeoff. Always being one to enjoy the view (he loved to look out the windshield), as we took off Badger got up, and just had to look out. Soooooo curious.



Badger after his first airplane trip on his way to GEB

We changed planes in Atlanta, using our newly acquired boarding skills (see points 1, 2 and 3). Since we were late into Atlanta, we were almost last on the plane (so much for point 2). Yet we did have the airline "clear out" the bulkhead seats. Ah, the magic coat works again. Badger's only bad moment was when a flight attendant mistook him for baggage (and asked us to place "it" in overhead). Minor faux pas, yet the attendant received grief the rest of the trip. I told them an upgrade to first would make it all go away. No such luck (yet nice try).

Finally, we arrive in New Jersey and embark upon the 37 miles to the Training Center. Again, we had no idea what to expect. It was a nice drive there, yet once in town, there were no signs, no clues as to where the Training Center might be. Not a crisis, Mapquest got us there ... and there turns out to be a small white house on the side of the road in a residential neighborhood. Mind you, there is more than a white house. The vegetation and layout well conceal a graduate school for 140 dogs.

Upon our arrival, there was a graduation taking place. A very nice surprise in that you see the program come full circle. Raisers, trainers and recipients all come together to watch the transformation of human life. The look on the blind person's face is indescribable ... joy, freedom and satisfaction all rolled in to one. I heard some describe the experience as "how often do you get to be a part of changing someone's life 100% for the better"?

As we toured the facility, came the hard part ... you take them to the kennel (this is the bye-bye part). Now I think I know how parents feel when their kids leave for college. Logically, you want them to go, you know they have to leave someday, yet in the moment it doesn't seem that way. As we left, we had absolutely no doubt that Badger

was in excellent hands. He would just have to “learn the ropes”. While touring, we visited with Anton, Brodie (Badger’s sister), and Pegasus. They’ll pass him the word.

Since the drop off was Saturday, we returned on Wednesday for his test. Dogs are tested in groups of three, Badger was in the second batch. Since we could not see him prior, and could not be outside during the test (he was unaware we were there), we watched from a viewing room. Upon completion of the test, Jane motioned us over, to let us know Badger passed, scoring 4.75 (out of 5). GEB very nicely let us take Badger for one last walk (okay, a victory lap). Badger was now on his way to living into his potential. If all goes well, in about six months, he’ll be paired with his blind person, and we’ll be attending another graduation.

Finally, one more item worth sharing ... the Breeding Center. This is where Jane’s office is, as well as the guest house. The facility is also a white house along a country road, and is not adjacent to the Training Center. In fact, it is about 25 miles away. Besides being wall to wall puppies, there is a stone garden under construction. In that garden are plaques for the North Carolina Vet sponsors, and another for the raisers. You can also see the photos of all the current moms and dads or breeding dogs, as well as a “wall of fame” ... that has photos of all the great breeding dogs who had offspring that were kept as breeding dogs. There we found Badger’s parents, Nadia and Ambrose. Badger inherited daddy’s forehead, mommy’s ears and color. Of the seven living pups in his litter, Bugsy, Brodie, Brite, and Barb are also in training. Bumble and Bud were released. We just received Badger’s first evaluation ... he is doing good, getting adjusted to new role.

Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill, NC was Badger’s Vet Sponsor. Rick and Glynis Tanner were Badger’s food sponsors.

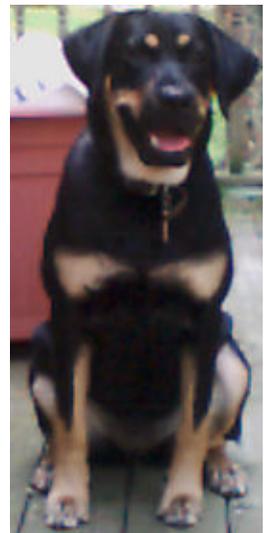
The Cooke household received the happy news in August that their GEB pup **Brodie** passed her in for training test at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Sharon shares these special memories of her girl in the black and tan fur coat:

GEB Brodie by Sharon Cooke and family

“What kind of dog is she?”

Little did I realize how many times I would answer that question when the cutest little black and tan puppy that I have ever seen stepped out of her airline crate. My reply, “full-blooded Labrador” was inevitably met with disbelief and surprise. Sometimes the more detailed explanation of “recessive genes left over from cross-breeding Gordon setters with Labrador retrievers hundreds of years ago” would follow.

Whatever the explanation, it didn’t take long to realize that Brodie’s special qualities extended far beyond her physical appearance. Initially Brodie was quite the challenge. As some of you well know, her love for yodeling could be a bit of a distraction in puppy class and, at times, her distractibility was a true frustration to her raisers.



Black-n-tan Brodie

But through it all, Brodie was a wonderful teacher. She taught us the value of persistence and the wisdom in the Guiding Eyes training methods. She taught us the value of sitting close on cold winter days and even on hot summer evenings. And she is still teaching us that one of the greatest gifts that we can give to those whom we love is the freedom to pursue their own destinies.

There will always be a special place in our home and in our hearts for GEB Brodie. But for now all I can say is, "You did it! Way to go, Girl!!!!" By the way, I know that Brodie would want you to know the real explanation for her unique markings. You see, Brodie was born on Halloween and she thought she would dress up as a Rottweiler just for fun. Unfortunately, she didn't have time to change back into her black Lab suit before making her grand appearance. Go figure.

Mayfair Animal Hospital was Brodie's vet sponsor and Sharon's parents, Norma and Al Bergeron, were her food sponsors. Brodie is the Cooke's 3rd GEB puppy.

Fallon, a female black lab, has recently joined the home of Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, NC. Fallon's vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital and her food sponsors are Norma and Al Bergeron of Burlington, NC. Fallon was raised for her first 6 months by Chuck and Betty Snell of Raleigh. Thanks to Dr. Jon Dick of Magnolia Animal Hospital in Raleigh, NC for being Fallon's veterinary sponsor and to Snell family for being her food sponsor while with the Snells.

Iris goes In-For-Training. In August Jackie and Bob Schmidt received the joyous news that **Iris** had passed her in for training test and was looked at as a brood, however, she is now in training at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind training school in Yorktown Heights, New York. Remaining in the breeding evaluation requires that the siblings have desirable traits but unfortunately, some of Iris' brothers and sisters were too sensitive to be guide dogs. Here are Jackie's thoughts and feelings in her own words:

"Bob and I are relieved and lonely and happy and sad all rolled into one. We are also very, very proud. We observed Iris during her in for training test and although we knew she performed well, we had no idea how well until Jane spoke to us. Iris and I had been experiencing a teenage daughter-mother type of relationship for several months and I kept telling myself I couldn't wait until she left. I also wasn't at all sure she would pass. But I was wrong on both counts.

We were also able to visit Iris's mom Vivian and the two of them really look alike. And such a sweetie. Viveanne was at the Breeding Center with a litter of pups when we were there. It killed me when I put Iris in the kennel at the training center and left her there. The look on her face was questioning as if saying, "I don't understand why you are leaving me." Those moments of saying good-bye as we sent her off to "college" were some of the hardest.

I do miss Iris very badly. She did the best job she could and she did it well. We now have a new GEB puppy. Her name is Rhodi and she is a sweet little goldie girl".

Iris is the Schmidt's 4th GEB puppy. Dr. Robert More of Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital was her vet sponsor and St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Oriental served as her food sponsor.

London Returns to NC By Danny Overcash

London's September 18th IFT will be remembered for the attack of the *dreaded umbrella!* London's sensitive nature was exposed in all its glory. London will be living in Charlotte with Lori and Kevin Sullivan. Instead of training to become a guide dog, London will be pursuing a career as a therapy dog (his strong suit), acting as mentor and role model at GEB puppy classes, continuing his role as GEB ambassador in the community, and, hopefully, finding time in his busy schedule to visit his raiser mom, Danny Overcash.

This handsome blonde fellow won friends and influenced people at both the Breeding Center and at the Training School but he is genuinely happy to be back in North Carolina. He will have a happy, productive life with Lori.



London's vet sponsor was Dr. David DeQuick and Lakewood Veterinary Hospital in Mooresville, NC. His food sponsors were Paul and Brenda Sullivan of Hendersonville and Joan White of Raleigh. They are relatives of Louise and Michael White who were London's first raisers. I thank them all.

Special thanks go to all the Charlotte area raisers who jumped in and helped out when I found myself unexpectedly London's permanent raiser. It was truly a joint effort and a great experience.

←London in the familiar 'coat'

Pegasus, a female black lab raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC is officially in training! Pegasus was originally part of the GEB breeding program for about 6 months before transitioning to the training program. Pegasus' vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital, and she was well-fed due to the kind support of Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh.

Porsche, a black female lab raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown of Lake Gaston, NC recently went in-for-training and passed her test with flying colors! Congratulations Porsche, Susan and Joe! Porsche's vet sponsor was Dr. Sherry Wilson of Pine Hollow Animal Hospital in Warrenton, NC and the Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPPS) of Warren County sponsored Porsche's food.

Seth, a black male lab raised by Will and Trudy Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, NC and Olga Dawkins of Washington, NC was able to make it to NY to pass his in-for-training test thanks to Susan Piron and Porsche for letting him ride along with them on their trip to the training center! Seth's vet sponsors were Timerlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill and Pamlico Animal Hospital of Washington.

Yale has a new career path! On Saturday, August 14th, the arson detection unit of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation tested **Yale** and they loved him! He recently completed his training and has returned here to begin his career as an arson detection dog. Yale's new handler is Jody Strickland who was very active in the NCPRP as a puppy sitter.

Congratulations to Sarah Glover and her son Nathan for doing such a terrific job and for loving Yale enough to realize that he needed a job. He now has an important one. Hopefully they will be able to visit Yale on those days when he isn't fighting crime or educating school children on the importance of fire safety.

Dr. Todd of Hidden Valley Animal Hospital was Yale's veterinary sponsor. His food sponsor was Mary Mattison of Creedmoor.

NCPRP's NEWEST ADDITIONS

Meet the NCPRP's 4 newest additions this fall – BALDWIN, FARBER, PARI SH and RHODI

Baldwin is a black male lab raised by Susan Piron of Lake Gaston, NC. Baldwin's veterinarian sponsor is Dr. Sherry Wilson of Pine Hollow Animal Hospital in Warrenton,



Baldwin working hard on the job...

NC. The Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPPS) of Warren County is sponsoring Baldwin's food. Baldwin is Susan's 2nd GEB puppy. Susan reports *"We've only been home for 2 days so still getting to know each other. He's very sweet with a mild temperament and he made the ride home from New York much better after leaving Porsche and Seth. The picture is Baldwin already at work. All my co-workers have accepted Baldwin and are excited he's here."*



Farber with his pal Devon Scott

Farber, a black male lab is being raised by first-time puppy raiser Devon Scott of Raleigh, NC along with some help from her parents, Sue and Rick Scott. Farber's vet sponsor is "Dr. D" at Bowman Animal Hospital in Raleigh and the Scott family is sponsoring Farber's food. Devon reports that Farber is *"a really easy-going pup. He loves playing ball and irritating the cats."*

Parish, a black male lab is being raised by Melissa Mejia of Charlotte, NC. Parish's vet sponsor is Dr. Richard Coe of the Animal Medical Hospital in Charlotte, NC. Melissa Mejia and husband Tony Moore are Parish's food sponsors. Melissa reports that *Parish has settled into his new home and family nicely – fits like an old comfortable shoe. His foster-brothers have accepted him into the home and enjoy his company. We knew Parish was a confident lil' pup when he and all of his 20 pounds sauntered right up to our 100 pound German Shepherd, Buster, and took his kong chew toy right from his mouth.*



Parish, the fire chief

Buster cocked his head sideways and looked at him for a second, then looked at me, and just put his head down on the floor as if to say, "I guess my reign here is over." And so it goes... also, on one of his first trips to the fire station where my husband works, the fireman gave Parish a fire chief hat and called him honorary fire chief for a day. Parish is also a good swimmer and likes to relax at home.



Golden Rhodi taking her siesta

Bob and Jackie's 5th GEB puppy. Dr. Robert Moore of the Oriental Village Veterinarian Hospital is

Rhodi is a female golden retriever being raised by Jackie and Bob Schmidt of Florence, NC. Rhodi is

sponsoring Rhodi's veterinary care and the St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Oriental, NC is Rhodi's food sponsor. According to Jackie and Bob: *Rhodi plays endlessly with our long haired chihuahua and uses her tail as a lever to haul her around the house. She watches the cat and is fascinated when he jumps up on the bureau. She has the most quizzical look on her face like "how'd he do that". She is a natural born retriever and will bring anything back whether you want it or not. At the end of a long tiring day she crashes on the air conditioning grate to cool off and take her siesta.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENT GRADUATES, Zeike and Anton!!



Dushyant Desai and Zeike



Bill Zimmerman and Anton

Zeike, a black male lab raised by Julie Haynes and family, went in for training on Oct 10 of last year and officially graduated on August 31, 2002. Julie wrote: *It has been a long road and he has made us very proud. Two days before graduation he had injured his pad on an escalator, but were pleased that fortunately he and partner, Dushyant Desai, were able to take part in the graduation ceremony! Dushyant is returning to GEB later this month to finish training.*

Zeike's vet sponsor was Dr. Frank Rutowski of Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and his food sponsor was the Haynes family. More on Zeike's journeys in the next newsletter!

Anton, a yellow male lab raised by Trudy and Will Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, graduated on September 28, 2002 with William Zimmerman of Darlington, SC! Will and Trudy were able to attend graduation and will provide their story in the next newsletter.

Tessa, a yellow female lab raised by Reba Burkett, also graduated on August 31. Reba was formerly part of the Virginia puppy raising program, but has recently moved to Winston Salem and is now a part of the North Carolina Puppy Raising Program. Congratulations to Reba and family and welcome to the NCPRP!

Driving Directions to November 15-16 Evaluation at MacGregor Village Shopping Center, Cary, NC

From I - 40:

- Exit onto 293 A, which will be Route 1 South/64 West
- Continue to Exit 98 B/64 West toward Pittsboro/Asheboro
- As you approach the bottom of the exit ramp, stay in the left lane
- Look for a traffic light there. Both lanes will be turning right.
- Go to the next light. MacGregor Village Shopping Center will be on your left.
- Turn left onto Edinburgh Drive and then left again into the shopping area.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If you have pictures or stories you would like to share, then please e-mail them to:
pprints2000@yahoo.com

MOVING?

Send address, phone, e-mail changes, and/or requests to receive puppy prints online to:
gae@attglobal.net



Puppy Prints Newsletter

Managing Editor: Will Pendergraft

Associate Editors: Elizabeth Oliverio and Trudy Pendergraft

**The North Carolina Puppy Raising Program for
Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Proudly Announces
Its Newest Additions
To
The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
Crime Fighting Forces**

GEB Klute

ATF Explosives Detection Specialist

Graduation date: September 18, 2002

Assignment destination: South Africa

Raisers: Amy and Carlos Alfaro

Vet Sponsor: Dr. Nelson Hayden of Animal Medical Center, Garner, NC

Food sponsor: Jim and April Pruden, Carolina Pet Supply, Garner, NC

And

GEB Raine

Candidate in training, ATF Explosives Detection Specialist

Raisers: Wendy and Jim Bierwirth

Vet Sponsor: Pet House Calls, Raleigh

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 2002
MacGregor Village, Cary, NC

Friday 11/15	PUPPY	RAISER
12:30 PM	Fallon	Cooke
1:00 PM	Garbo	Jackson
1:30 PM	Eddie	Deeley
2:00 PM	Fala	Willson
2:45 PM	Rhodi	Schmidt
3:45 PM	Farber	Scott
4:30 PM	Kittle	Shinn
5:30 PM	Namath	Barabash
Saturday 11/16	PUPPY	RAISER
9:00 AM	Fletcher	Pendergraft
10:00 AM	Baldwin	Piron
11:00 AM	Garner	Osborn
12:00 PM	---General Meeting and Lunch---	
1:30 PM	Ivanhoe	Quesenberry
2:15 PM	Joe-S	Herrmann
3:00 PM	Parish	Mejia
3:45 PM	Sienna	Cooke
4:30 PM	Truman	Haynes
5:00 PM	Halo	Gilleland

SATURDAY EVENING "DINNER WITH JANE"

Please join us as we are planning to eat around 6:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2002

November 15-16, 2002

Evaluation, MacGregor Village, Cary

February 7-8, 2003

Evaluation, place TBD

May 2-3, 2003

Evaluation, place TBD

August 15-16, 2003

Evaluation, place TBD

November 14-15, 2003

Evaluation, place TBD

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 37202, Raleigh, NC 27627

Raleigh Area: Sharon Cooke 919.677.8365

Charlotte Area: Richard Yercheck 704.296.0758

Julie Haynes 704.821.6521

Western Area: Mary Jane Gibbons 828.926.3501

Area Coordinators: Sherry&Don Dodson 919.642.0185

Emergency Pager: 919.310.1340

→ enter full phone # that we are to call after tone

WEBSITES: www.guiding-eyes.org

www.mindspring.com/~mefine/ncprp



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

P.O Box 37202

Raleigh, NC 27627