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# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2003

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## Joe Graduates from Guiding Eyes for the Blind!

By Norm Herrmann

We heard the call. There was a bumper crop of puppies in the fall of 2001. They needed to be placed.

About the same time, Lori Sullivan, (formerly Lori McHugh, North Carolina raiser of the well-traveled Slater) and her family decided to sponsor a pair of pups in memory of their parents, Joe and Ann. Sherry Dodson, the Guiding Eyes North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Area Coordinator asked us if we would raise. We were honored.

Our stalwart vet, Chris Coleman Haywood Animal Hospital in Hendersonville, NC for a third time very generously sponsored veterinary care.

The Beirwirth family kindly brought Joe down from the Guiding Eyes Breeding and Placement Center in Patterson, NY on Thanksgiving weekend. Erin Beirwirth, then a sophomore at UNC Asheville, took Joe on the final leg of his trip and we finally met Joe at her apartment near the campus.

Joe settled in like the creamy center of an Oreo cookie with GEB BLM Neil, and the released GEB BLM Nikon. Nikon would regale Neil and Joe with stories about his days at the Guiding Eyes Training Center in Yorktown Heights, NY. They would listen intently around the fire after long days of playing in knee-high (to a puppy) snow.



Graduates GEB Joe and Ray. The happy couple will reside in Nashua, New Hampshire

Neil left the following spring and passed his In-For-Training Test and was on his way to earning his first degree at Guiding Eyes. Joe grew from a cute pudgy pup to a handsome young dog.

As he grew, Joe learned all the Guiding Eyes basics and enjoyed some extracurricular activities. He visited with children at Estes Elementary in Arden, NC, attended a Etowah, NC Lions Club meeting and attended many West Henderson High School track meets and football games. Joe went to the Grey Eagle in Asheville to listen to live music, resided temptation at the Essence of Thyme Coffee Shop in Brevard, NC and got a taste of city life in Charlotte, NC.

Soon, it would be time to send Joe back to Guiding Eyes to take his In-For-Training test. Joe passed with flying colors. As we got reports on Joe's progress, we began to plan a trip to his graduation. We had no way of knowing but September seemed about right time. Norm's father Helmut would be visiting at the time of the September graduation. Helmut requires a wheelchair to get around and we needed to take Nikon, so renting an RV for the trip seemed to make sense. Unfortunately advance reservations and cash deposits are required to rent an RV. I guess we must have had a lot of faith in Joe, we made the plans and waited for the call.



Joe with his food sponsor, Lori Sullivan. Joe is also named after Lori's late father.

On a Tuesday a few weeks before the graduation, Sherry called with the good news, Joe would be graduation in the September class. Our plans were made and events were falling in place around them.

Graduation day started out drizzly, as we approached the Guiding Eyes School the clouds parted and the sun came out. The graduation ceremony was moving and bittersweet as only a Guiding Eyes graduation could be. Thirteen people worked day and night with perfectly matched dogs to gain a level of independence in their life that would otherwise be impossible. Guiding Eyes does this with such regularity and consistency it can be difficult sometimes to fully comprehend just how much they have changed the world for the better. The trainers basically spend a month at the school with the guide teams with very little time off to get them to a point where they can be sent off into the world safely and confidently.

Joe was paired with a man named Ray from Nashua, New Hampshire. Joe will have a fenced in yard with a swimming pool for recreation and will be Guiding Ray to his teaching job at a local elementary school. They make a very fine looking team and have already been approached to do community outreach work in the Nashua area.

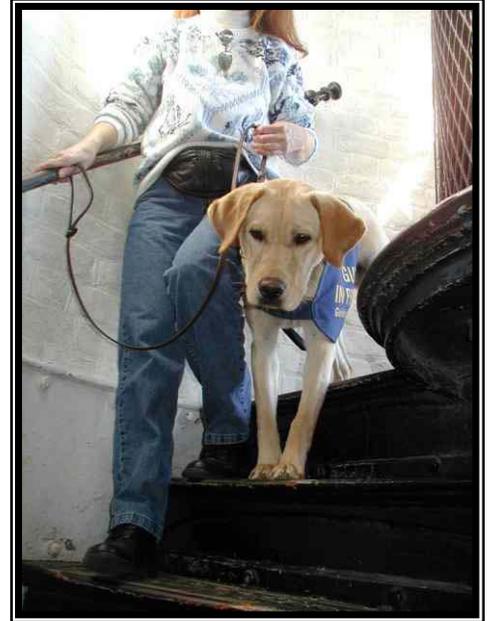
On the Sunday following graduation we traveled down to Manhattan to see our previous dog Neil and his person Patty. Neil was happy to see us as we were to meet him. Again it was an inspirational moment to see the freedom a Guiding Eyes dog can provide for a visually impaired person. Here we were in the biggest of cities and this dog that we knew from puppyhood was guiding this lady though traffic and other dangerous obstacles, daily.

We look forward to hearing more from Joe as he guides Ray around Nashua. We'll be sure let those involved in his raising know all the news.

# Mr. Truman Goes To Washington, en route to Vermont

By Julie Haynes

Although our visions of Truman's future included wearing a leather harness, his ambitions lay elsewhere. As a puppy, this sweet yellow guy came to us with the most expressive eyes. He had a way of looking right into your heart and we were immediately captivated by his dynamic personality. Always confident and adventurous, this boy had fun everywhere he went. As a young pup, he traveled with the "big-dogs" of Charlotte to visit "Grandma" Mary Jane Gibbons, puppy raiser of Truman's mom, Saturn. Following their lead, he took in the sights, sounds, and smells of Waynesville and Dillsboro on this overnight trip. Another road show saw him at the TOP of St. Simon's Lighthouse. Those 170 steps didn't even faze him. This boy thought stairs and grates were a stage to play on. A favorite puppy act was walking across the skinny wire grate that lay under the gas grill.



Truman's abundant energy and occasional case of "boogie-man-itis" were his ways of letting us know that a guide dog career was not for him. His many special talents, though, told us that he was meant for another role.

In March, he "auditioned" with the ATF and received rave reviews! He went on to train in the explosives detection program at ATF's beautiful facility in Front Royal, Virginia. Upon notification of his upcoming graduation, we immediately began making plans to attend and to include a family side-trip to Washington, DC while there. Those plans were scrapped at the last minute as Hurricane Isabel threatened to strike the eastern seaboard upon our arrival. Nevertheless, a hasty rewrite of our script had us going up to Front Royal and straight back to Charlotte so that we could see our boy's grand debut.



It was an award-winning event! The ceremony was moving. Meeting Truman's new co-star - ATF Special Agent Joseph Harrington - left us with no doubt that our boy had made the big time. Joe works out of the Burlington field office and would be taking Truman home to live on his family's farm in Vermont! We had a brief but wonderful visit before Joe and Truman had to leave. Vermont's newly trained explosives detection team had an appointment on Capitol Hill to meet with Senator Patrick Leahy to thank the senator for his efforts in putting them together.

So this story, with its unexpected twists, has a happy ending - and a new beginning for our shining star, Truman.

*Truman's vet sponsor was Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and his food sponsor was the Haynes family.*

## Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppy!

**Jules**, a male black lab, is being raised by Susan Shinn and family of Concord, NC. Jules is Susan's 2<sup>nd</sup> GEB puppy. Jules' vet sponsor is Randall Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville, NC and his food sponsor is the Shinn family. Susan reports that "Jules is a sweet, sweet, boy. He seems to love everyone and is very willing to please. We are enjoying him very much."

## Where are they now?

**Baldwin**, a male black lab, raised by Susan Piron of Lake Gaston, NC was recently released from GEB for medical reasons. Baldwin has permanently joined the home of Susan, husband Joe Brown and Labrador retriever Lake. Baldwin's vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital in Warrenton, NC and his food sponsor was Citizens for Animal Protection of Warren County.



Baldwin enjoying attention from kids at the Littleton Library after story hour. Susan read "Rugbie and Rosie" a story about a puppy raiser family and their experiences.

**Fala**, a male black lab raised by the Willson family of Cary, NC was released from GEB due to lack of confidence and has been adopted by a family in Wilton, CT. Cornerstone Animal Hospital was Fala's vet sponsor and the Willson family was his food sponsor.

**Garner**, a male German Shepherd, raised by Cindy Osborne of Myrtle Beach, SC and Elizabeth Oliverio of Virginia Beach, VA was released from training for medical reasons and is being adopted by Cindy's father-in-law. While in Myrtle Beach, Garner's vet sponsor was the Animal Hospital of North Myrtle Beach and his food sponsor was the Osborn family. In Virginia Beach, Garner's vet sponsor was Acredale Animal Hospital and Elizabeth was Garner's food sponsor.

**Lexington**, a male black lab, raised by the Deeley family of Cary, NC was recently released for medical reasons and is awaiting adoption at GEB. Lexington's vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary and his food sponsor is the Deeley family.

**Sienna**, a female yellow lab, raised by Katie and Sharon Cooke of Cary, NC recently passed her in-for-training test in flying colors and is being evaluated for the breeding program. Sienna's vet sponsors were Western Wake Veterinarian Service of Apex, NC and Sylva Animal Hospital of Sylva, NC. Her food sponsor is Norma and Al Bergeron of Burlington, NC.

**Farber**, a male black lab, raised by Devon Scott of Raleigh, NC recently passed his in-for-training test in flying colors! Farber's vet sponsor was Bowman Animal Hospital in Raleigh and his food sponsor was the Scott family.

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## We Want YOU! At the Triangle-Area Puppy Classes!

Who: Puppy Raisers, Puppy Sitters and Friends of GEB and potential volunteers

When: Monday evenings at 7PM

Where: Variety of locations throughout the Triangle

How: E-mail Will Pendergraft at [wfp3@med.unc.edu](mailto:wfp3@med.unc.edu) to be added to the puppy class e-mail distribution list to receive information about the dates, times and locations of upcoming puppy classes!



Devon Scott with Farber at his final puppy class before his In-For-Training Test. To practice body-handling, puppy raisers put t-shirts on their puppies.



Puppy sitter Emily Echols, puppy raiser Will Pendergraft, GEB Fletcher and puppy raiser Ryan Echols at the Triangle-area puppy class

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## Sherry's Corner

We were saddened to learn of the death of former puppy raiser Marjorie Hall of Southern Pines, NC. Marjorie raised 5 GEB puppies and started a 6<sup>th</sup> puppy named Dahlia for Jim and Wendy Bierwirth. She gave so much to the program, not the least of which was her marvelous wit and sense of humor.

We also understand the sadness of Mike Denehey and family who are mourning the loss of their 12-year-old career change pup, Nifty. Nifty's veterinary sponsor was Mallard Creek Animal Hospital of Charlotte, NC and his food sponsors were the Denehey family.

We are also saddened to learn of the death of Irish, a career change pup who was 14 years old. Irish was raised for two months by Betty and Jerry Essick of Darien, GA and then by Mary Jane Gibbons of Waynesville, NC, who adopted him after he was released from GEB. While with the Essick's, Irish's vet sponsor was Terry Noble, DVM of Brunswick, GA. Northwoods Animal Hospital and Mayfair Animal Hospital of Cary, NC were Irish's vet sponsors when Mary Jane was raising him.

Each team in this program has been a significant part of our lives over the years and we thank all of you for your contribution to Guiding Eyes and the North Carolina Puppy Raising Program. So it is with much gratitude and sadness that we say good-bye to these past team members who have left us.

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### **NOTE TO RAISERS with NEW PUPPIES:**

Once your pup outgrows his or her blue puppy collar, please be sure to return the collar to Sherry Dodson or bring the collar to the next evaluation and give the collar to Jane Russenberger. Thank you!



### **FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

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

### **MOVING?**

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

Did your dog just eat something bad?

Call the 24 hour TOXICOLOGY HOTLINE FOR ANIMALS at 1-900-680-0000

\$20.00 minimum charge per call

**EVALUATION SCHEDULE**  
**FRIDAY, November 14<sup>th</sup> AND SATURDAY, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**MacGregor Village, Cary, NC**

<b>Friday 11/14</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	Glacier	Jackson *
<b>3:45 PM</b>	Jules	Shinn *
<b>4:30 PM</b>	Dutchess	Oliverio *
<b>Saturday 11/15</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Hanley	Bierwirth
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Fletcher	Pendergraft
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Cheyenne	Shamblin
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Unix	Tanner
<b>11:00 AM</b>	Caper	Quesenberry
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>---General Meeting and Lunch---</b>	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Parish	Mejia
<b>2:15 PM</b>	Gaston	Overcash *
<b>3:15 PM</b>	Camille	Gilleland
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Rhodi	Schmidt

\*Means that Raiser and Pup Need Photo Taken by Rick Tanner on Saturday Around General Meeting Time or Friday by Sharon or Sherry.

**Dinner on Saturday after the last evaluation  
will be discussed at the General Meeting**

**Driving Directions to MacGregor Village Shopping Center, Cary, NC for Fall Evaluation:**

From I-40:

- Exit onto 293A, which will be Route 1 South/64 West
- Continue to Exit 98B, which will be 64 West towards 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2003/2004

### November 14-15, 2003

Evaluation, MacGregor Village, Cary, NC

### February 6-7, 2004

Evaluation, TBD

### May 7-8, 2004

Evaluation, TBD

### August 13-14, 2004

Evaluation, TBD

### November 5-6, 2004

Evaluation, 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

**WEBSITES:** [www.guiding-eyes.org](http://www.guiding-eyes.org)

[www.mindspring.com/~mefine/ncprp](http://www.mindspring.com/~mefine/ncprp)



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Special thanks to Mail Boxes, Etc. and owner/operator Chris Derby of Chapel Hill, NC for sponsoring to offset the printing charges for this newsletter.



MAIL BOXES ETC.



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P.O Box 37202

Raleigh, NC 27627