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Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Fall 2004

Congratulations to the NCPRP's latest Graduates: Fletcher, Sienna & Dolce!!!



In July, Fletcher and Sienna graduated from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Fletcher is now living in Michigan and Sienna is living in Manhattan. Dolce, also known as Dutchess, graduated in September and is now living in North Carolina.



Fletcher's Graduation

by Trudy & Will Pendergraft

In early July, we received the news that Fletcher had been matched with a visually-impaired person and that they were going to graduate on July 24th! It was a day we had been anticipating for a long time and we immediately made plans to attend the graduation ceremony at Guiding Eyes in New York, and meet Fletcher's new life partner, Andrew, from Michigan.

We arrived at the ceremony early to get good seats and to maybe catch a quick glimpse of Fletcher and Andrew before the ceremony. Fletcher and Andrew graduated with 10 other guide dog teams. All of the graduates and their guides walked in and were seated at the front of the room. All of the proud puppy raisers pointed out their puppies to each other and then the ceremony began.

It had been five months since we had last laid eyes on Fletcher and seeing him for the first time in a harness, confidently guiding his new companion into the ceremony brings tears to our eyes every time we think about it. He looked absolutely gorgeous, strong and confident. After the ceremony we were able to reunite with Fletcher and meet Andrew. Fletcher greeted us enthusiastically; just the same way he did when we would return home from work at the end of the day. Andrew decided that Fletcher could misbehave for a few minutes, so he let him shower us with his slobbery tongue, nudge us with his wet nose and press into us while turning in circles and pounding us with his ever-wagging tail.



Graduates Andrew and GEB
Fletcher with raisers Trudy & Will

We were overwhelmed by the bond Andrew and Fletcher had formed in their four weeks of training together. We also couldn't have picked a better life partner for Fletcher. Andrew is a young, ambitious, intelligent and fun-loving

Sophomore in college who is aspiring to become a veterinarian. Fletcher is sharing RA duties with Drew in their dorm this year. Drew's amazing attitude and zest for life is an inspiration to us. His graduation profile describes him perfectly: an "astute, outgoing, honest, loyal, good guy, who has a voracious love for people and life. He feels that Fletcher is a great match for his own inner qualities: an excellent worker, a go-getter and one who displays a passion for playtime."

We have been lucky to be able to keep in touch with Drew and Fletcher via email. Drew recently sent us an email that said "Fletcher has been doing well. In fact, as part of RA training, we did a walking tour of downtown, and Fletcher of course, did beautifully (not to mention had a great time). He did especially well with a rather large truck turning in on us when we were about half way across a street (scared the heck out of a few friends though). He never ceases to amaze me. More importantly though, he loves to play out on the quad. He's a heck of a dog."

Needless to say, one of the greatest benefits of raising guide dogs has been the opportunity to make friends with Drew, who we would not have met otherwise. Any person willing to raise and love a GEB puppy throws their heart wide open to the possibility of experiencing a vast range of emotions and a piece of your heart remains forever with each dog. After the graduation ceremony, we gave Drew a photo album of Fletcher's puppy hood to share with his family and one of Fletcher's favorite toys. We exchanged contact information, gave Fletcher one more hug and a few words of encouragement and hopped in our car and drove back to North Carolina. Even though we practically cried the whole way home (mostly tears of joy and pride), we knew this was something we wanted to do again. We are currently raising our fourth puppy, Dan, and we are hopeful that we will have the opportunity to welcome another friend into our lives.

Many thanks to Fletcher's vet sponsor, Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro and his food sponsor, Southern States of Carrboro, NC.

A Mountain Girl in Manhattan

by Sharon Cooke

For some reason, all of our dogs end up with nicknames and when Sienna came to live with us we began to call her "Sweet Thang." (You have to understand that Sienna spent most of her growing up time in the mountains of western North Carolina with our daughter, Katie, and so she was accustomed to that indigenous southern twang.) When Katie accepted a summer internship that would entail working long hours each day, she asked us if we would finish Sienna's puppy raising experience. We gladly accepted the opportunity.

Sienna was a joy to have around. Happy, sensitive and loving, she would entertain us with her game of "how many things can I get in my mouth at one time." (The record was 2 metal food bowls plus 1 large sterilized bone.) Sienna always liked to sleep touching someone. She would lay her head on our feet or she would snuggle up with our lab Brodie. When the day finally arrived for Sienna to move on to GEB, our house became noticeably quieter and a little sad too. I think our dogs, Bristol and Brodie, even missed her.



Graduates Joyce and GEB Sienna

After passing her IFT, Sienna went into Brood Evaluation but biology decided that "GEB Mom" was not to be her role either. So, she entered the Training program and soon became a guide for Joyce from, of all places, Manhattan. Since Joyce had previously had guide dogs from GEB, she and Sienna were

placed in the ACTION program. Essentially, this is an accelerated program for those people with experience, and the graduate does not stay at the Training School long enough to participate in the graduation. However, Joyce and I "met" on the phone one night and I was amazed at what a perfect match she and Sienna seemed to be for each other. It now seems that while we assumed that Sienna was a mountain girl, she was really a New York lady just waiting for her partner to find her. But no matter where she lives, Sienna will always have the joyful, loving heart of "Sweet Thang."

Sienna was raised by Katie Cooke (now Lee) and her parents, Andy & Sharon Cooke. Her food sponsors were Katie's grandparents, Al & Norma Bergeron. Dr. Johnson Russell of Western Wake Veterinary Service provided all of her veterinary needs.

A Very Special Graduation Day

by Sharon Cooke

The room was abuzz with activity as the guests anxiously awaited the beginning of the GEB September 2004 Graduation. Amidst the activity, so many questions went through my mind: Would she remember me? Would her partner love her enough? What would she be like as a working guide dog? Then, the graduates and their guides began to file in.

A hush fell over the room. I watched as Dolce and her partner, Renee, took their places and waited for the rest of the graduating class to do the same. For a brief moment, Dolce looked up and momentarily touched her nose to Renee's hand as if to say, "I'm here." In that instant, I was flooded with images of this German Shepherd named Dutchess, now called Dolce, whom I had met almost a year earlier.

November, 2003 Puppy Evaluations brought the hiatus from puppy raising that Andy and I had decided to take to an unexpected end. When Dutchess and I first met, I remember thinking that she had the kindest, most intelligent eyes that I had ever seen. Maybe that's why I volunteered when I learned that she was looking for a home in which to complete her pre-training. I'll admit that I was completely taken in and once again I learned invaluable lessons from a Guide Dog in Pre-Training.

As a puppy, Dutchess was intense, determined and tenacious. Just ask my Labrador, Brodie, who endured months of being herded everywhere. She and Dutchess took turns frustrating each other with their different perspectives on life. However, through it all, Dutchess maintained a sweetness that was undeniable. So, when we were notified that a donor requested to name a German Shepherd "Dolce" we couldn't have been more pleased. After all, in Italian, "dolce" means "sweet." And that was the quality that nose-to-hand touch brought to my heart. Renee presented the Commencement Address with a perfect balance of sentiment and humor. The ceremony was a perfect one and I couldn't have been any prouder of what Dolce had become---a very special partner for a very special lady.

Dutchess's/Dolce's food sponsors were Al & Norma Bergeron. Dr. Johnson Russell of Western Wake Veterinary Service provided all of her veterinary needs.



Graduates Renee and GEB Dolce

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Benny, a yellow male lab, has recently joined the home of the Geiner family (Dana, Rob, Andrew, Ashley, Allison & Alex) of Raleigh, NC. Benny is the Geiner's 2nd GEB puppy. Benny's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh, and his food sponsor is Geiner family. The Geiner family provided the following about Benny: *We picked Benny up along with his sister BJ. They both enjoyed the ride home and were so cute when we got them home --just seeing brother and sister playing, romping and running. Then when Benny collapsed and BJ still wanted to play Benny gave a look all siblings do- LEAVE ME ALONE. BJ went on to another home and I am sure is doing great. He is a sweet puppy and a fast learner. He tells you when he has to go out by sitting or going to the back door. Benny is very patient when any of the kids feed him and it may take too long, he sits and stays. Sure he has his OTHER moments, he is a puppy, but we still love him.*



Benny

BJ, a female yellow lab and Benny's sister, is being raised by MR Rosenthal of Pawleys Island, SC. . MR was a raiser in Ohio before and raised BJ and Benny's mother, Winda. Special thanks to Cindy Osborn of Myrtle Beach, SC for puppy sitting BJ for her first three weeks in SC! BJ's vet sponsor is pending and her food sponsor is the Rosenthal's.

Dan, a male yellow lab is being raised by Trudy and Will Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, NC. Dan is the Pendergraft's 4th GEB puppy. Dan was donated by Cheddar Dodson and named for Dr. Dan Hudson of Cary, NC. Dan's vet sponsor is Jordan Lake Animal Hospital of Pittsboro, NC and his food sponsor is Southern States of Carrboro, NC.

Lenny is a male black lab and is being raised by first-time raiser Carrie Barnett of Raleigh, NC. Carrie has lots of support at home with the help of roommates Abby Champagne, Beth Falkner, and Caroline Smith. Lenny's vet sponsor is Falls Village Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsors are Carrie along with help from Rebecca and Mary Thompson. Carrie provided the following about Lenny: *Fearless, energetic, and curious sums up Lenny in a nutshell!! He has*



Carrie, Lenny's puppy raiser, is also an Irish dance instructor. This photo is from her school's performance at Celtic Fest. L to R, Will, Trudy, Carrie, Barb.

yet to meet a set of stairs, a grate, person, or animal from which he will shy away. He keeps us on our toes and is always ready to give a big wet kiss. Lenny enjoys normal puppy activities, like playing with his chew toys, splashing in his pool, and running fast in the backyard. However, after watching the Summer Olympics, Lenny has also taken up a less-than-normal puppy activity -- gymnastics! Well, just somersaults at this point...he's working on the backflips.



Lenny

Maisey, a black female lab, has recently joined the home of Kathie Rysanek. Maisey is 9 months old and is Kathie's 2nd GEB puppy! Maisey's vet sponsor is Six Forks Animal Hospital and her food sponsor is the Rysanek family. Kathie provided the following in Maisey: *Maisey is a home change dog and my first female EVER so I am going to get an education. She is 9 months old and is very sweet. She is obedient and responsive and did not have much trouble taking her place in the house, a place which used to be Yacht's. I don't think he is thrilled with her presence but he is tolerating her. She is half his size but you'd never know it from her attitude. I've only had her for a short time but I know I am going to enjoy her.*

Newton, a male German Shepherd puppy, is being raised by Sharon and Andy Cooke of Cary, NC. Newton is the Cooke's 7th GEB puppy. His vet sponsor is Dr. Johnson Russell of Western Wake Veterinary Hospital of Apex and his food sponsors are Norma and Al Bergeron of Burlington. Sharon provided the following about Newton:



Newton

Newton is Here! As soon as I picked him up, I knew that there was something different about "8N304". As a volunteer helper at the Breeding Center, it was my job to carry each of the nine puppies in the "N" litter to the testing room from the kennel and then to report my observations of the "Carry" to the tester. Objectively, he was relaxed and nonplussed by my sudden intrusion into his little world. Subjectively, it was love at first sight. "8N304" (a.k.a. Newton) tested beautifully and I found myself hoping that eventually he would be the one chosen to join our family here in NC.

Opal, a female black lab is being raised by first-time raiser Angel Anderson and family of Apex, NC. Opal's veterinary sponsor is Apex Veterinary Hospital and the Anderson family is her food sponsor.

Othello, a male black (and Opal's brother) is being raised by first-time raiser Karissa Davan and family of Raleigh, NC. Othello's vet sponsor is Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and the Davan family is his food sponsor.

Rocky, a male yellow lab is being raised by Margot Bennet and family of Cary, NC. Rocky is the Bennett's 4th GEB puppy. Rocky's vet sponsor is Gentle Care Animal Hospital of Cary and his food sponsors are Roy Roth and the Bennett family. Margot provided the following on Rocky: *Looking at the photo of Rocky, we can say that he's adjusted to the lifestyle of a family with three young children! I think it wears him out. I don't have the heart to tell him though that he will not be fitting in this Boppy Pillow for very much longer... Rocky is a great low key puppy, just what I asked for from Jane. We were a little nervous about taking on another puppy with Theresia being a toddler, but I have to be honest, it's almost easier!*



Rocky

Since I am watching out for her so much, the same goes for Rocky. Believe me though, we do have our moments. The hardest part is having them battle over who gets to sit in my lap. Rocky is enjoying time with our older release dog, Decker, and going to the bus stop, walks, playtime outside, bike rides (he and I walk...) and so on. Once he gets his coat, he'll be going to church, school, basketball games and whatever else we can take him to. We can't wait to watch him grow in to his potential!



Roxy

Roxy, a female black lab, is being raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown of Lake Gaston, NC. Roxy is Susan & Joe's 3rd GEB puppy. Her vet sponsor is Pine Hollow Animal Hospital of Warrenton, NC and her food sponsor is CAPP (Citizens for Animal Protection of Warren County) of Macon, NC. Susan provided the following on Roxy:

Three times the charm, not that the others weren't charming, but Roxy just exudes friendliness and interest in everything!! She loves the water and already jumps off the boat dock, which is great, since swimming almost every day is our main source of play and exercise. Roxy has a lot of her dad's personality (Buzz) and her mother's grace and charm (Garbo). Roxy gets to go to the office every day along w/ Baldwin so we are working on manners every day.

Where are they now?

Cheyenne, a female black lab raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC passed her in-for-training test in August! Cheyenne's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc.

Glacier, a female yellow lab raised by Kay and Glenn Jackson of Raleigh, NC recently passed her in-for-training test in New York. Glacier is the Jackson's 5th GEB puppy. Glacier's vet sponsor was Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh and her food sponsor was Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh.

Gaston, a male yellow lab (and Glacier's brother), raised by Danny Overcash of Mooresville, NC recently passed his in-for-training test in New York. Gaston is the Overcash's 7th GEB puppy. Gaston's vet sponsor was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsor was the Overcash family

Jules, a black male lab, raised by Susan Shinn of Concord, NC passed his in-for-training test in August! Jules is the Shinn family's 2nd GEB puppy. Jules' vet sponsor was Randall Veterinary Hospital of Mooresville and his food sponsor was the Shinn family.

Unix, a female black lab raised by Rick and Glynis Tanner of Carrboro, NC is officially a brood for the breeding program. Unix is the Tanner's 2nd GEB puppy. Her vet sponsor was Timberlyne Animal Hospital and Rick and Glynis were her food sponsors.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Eddie, Camille, Hanley and Caper are still in training.

In Loving Memory

On Saturday, October 2nd, Jodi Strickland was killed in an automobile accident. She was a wonderful sitter for GEB puppies and also had Bristol (originally named Yale when he was in the NC Puppy Raising Program) who is an arson detection dog with the NC SBI. Jodi eventually left the SBI to assume a position as Orange County Deputy Sheriff and Bristol is now teamed with another SBI arson investigator. Bristol (Yale) was raised by Sarah Glover for the NCPRP. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jodi's family at this tragic time.



Jodi is pictured in the middle holding Bristol and is flanked by puppy raiser Sarah Glover and her son Nate.

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

- Who: Puppy Raisers, Puppy Sitters and Friends of GEB and potential volunteers
When: Wednesday evenings at 7PM
Where: Variety of locations throughout the Triangle
How: E-mail Will Pendergraft at 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!

ATTENTION ALL PUPPY RAISERS:

Please bring an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next evaluation and don't forget to fill out a Quarterly Evaluation Report (www.guidingeyesbcweb.org)!

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, November 5th and SATURDAY, November 6th, 2004
MacGregor Village Shopping Center, Cary, NC

Friday 11/5	PUPPY	RAISER
3:00 PM	Newton *	Cooke
3:45 PM	Benny *	Geiner
4:45 PM	Rocky*	Bennett
5:30 PM	Opal	Anderson
6:00 PM	Othello	Davan
Saturday 11/6	PUPPY	RAISER
8:00 AM	Kiley	Bierwirth
8:30 AM	Dan *	Pendergraft
9:00 AM	Vanilla	Shamblin
9:30 AM	Jordan	Tanner
10:00AM	Roxy	Piron
10:30 AM	Debbie	Schmidt
11:15 AM	Belinda	
12:00 PM	General Meeting and Lunch	
1:30 PM	BJ *	Rosenthal
2:30 PM	Kristoff	Stoddart
3:15 PM	New puppy *	Haynes
4:00 PM	Maisey *	Rysanek
4:45 PM	Lenny	Barnett
5:15 PM	Madison	Echols

*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 for Fall Evaluation:

From Interstate 40:

- Exit 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 - 2004 & 2005 MISSION STATEMENT

November 5-6, 2004

Evaluation,
MacGregor Village Shopping Center, Cary, NC

February 18-19, 2005

Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC

April 22-23, 2005

Evaluation, location TBD

August 5-6, 2005

Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC

November 4-5, 2005

Evaluation, location TBD

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

www.guidingeyesnc.org

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