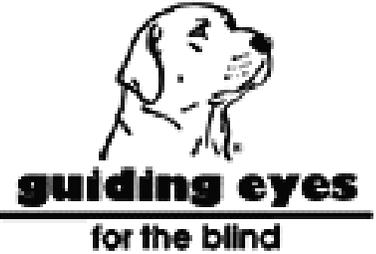


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# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2002

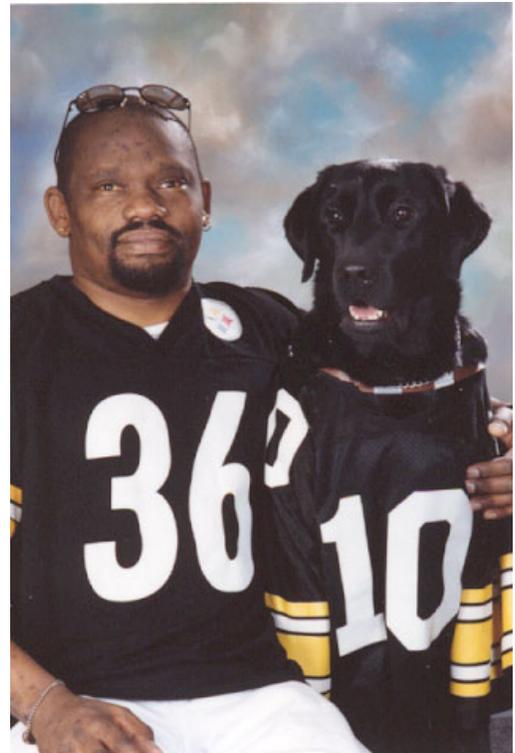
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## BUDDY GRADUATES FROM GEB'S SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM!

### Buddy's Graduation

by Sara Rose Roman, Buddy's primary puppy raiser

On January 25th I had the privilege of attending my guide dog puppy's graduation. Buddy, the black Lab puppy that I raised for 18 months, is now the best friend and companion to his blind person, Rick. The day of their graduation was met by me with very mixed emotions. I felt sad that I really did have to say good-bye to Buddy, and give him over to his new "parent" and best friend. I felt fearful that Rick wouldn't work out for Buddy, and wouldn't appreciate him as much as I do. I felt happiness for the freedom that was being given to Rick. I felt anxious about meeting Rick and seeing Buddy after 16 months. And I was so worried that Buddy wouldn't remember me after so long. But I think the two things I felt most were pride and amazement. During the ceremony, watching Buddy, it dawned on me how truly amazing these dogs are. The freedom they give their people is such a gift, and I felt so proud to be a part of the process.



Rick and Buddy 'steel' the show.

My fears and sadness were put to rest, finally, after I met Rick and reunited with Buddy. Buddy immediately recognized me and proceeded to jump on and lick me. Rick assured me that Buddy was the smartest dog in the whole world, and his very best friend. And he meant it. He told me stories about Buddy stealing a pillow off the bed to sleep on, of Buddy laughing at Rick when Rick spilled a bowl of water, and other humorous stories. In all Rick's stories the same message was conveyed: Buddy brings joy and freedom to Rick's life. Buddy is truly Rick's constant guide, companion, and best friend.

One of the GEB trainers, as well as Rick, told me the following story which really goes to show what these dogs will do for the people they love. Rick and Buddy graduated from the Special Needs Program. Rick is on dialysis for kidney failure as a result of diabetes, and is awaiting a kidney transplant. In addition, part of his foot is amputated and he wears a prosthetic. This affects his balance. One day, only a few days after receiving Buddy, Rick took Buddy to "park" (or "get busy"). While Buddy did his business Rick stood on the curb, about six inches above the ground. Suddenly he began to lose his balance and would have fallen if Buddy had not jumped up and braced himself against Rick's legs. Buddy stood this way, leaning against Rick, until Rick regained his balance and told Buddy he could go continue to "park". But Buddy was still extremely worried and it took some convincing on Rick's part to assure Buddy that he was okay. Buddy continued to keep his eye on Rick even while he continued to "park". When I heard this story I began to cry, for about the 100th time that weekend. I knew Buddy and Rick would be great together.

Today, three months later, they are still doing great and Buddy continues to entertain and help Rick. They are best friends forever.

During his puppyhood, Buddy's vet sponsor was Triangle Veterinary Hospital and Wellspring Grocery of Raleigh sponsored his food.

### **NCPRP's newest puppies are here!**

**Kittle**, a male black lab, was transported from GEB's Breeding Center in Patterson, NY by Will and Trudy Pendergraft to their home in Chapel Hill where he was warmly delivered to first-time raisers, the Shinn family, of Concord, NC. Susan Shinn will be Kittle's primary raiser, and will



**Mr. Kittle taking a short but sweet break from his busy career as a guide puppy.**

get lots of help from the rest of the family, Tom, Jordan, Caitlin, and Robbie. Susan wrote, "Kittle is a very willing and confident puppy. We are so proud to welcome him into our family! One of Kittle's favorite pastimes is playing with his new 'cousin' Boss, a 1 1/2 yr old Boston terrier." Dr. Kim Randall of Randall Veterinary Hospital will sponsor Kittle's vet care and the Shinn family will provide Kittle with all of the food he needs to grow. Please join all of us in welcoming 'little' Kittle and the Shinn family to our NCPRP family!

The following pups just arrived, and more about them is to come in the Fall 2002 issue.

**Eddie**, a male black lab, is being raised by the Deeley family of Cary. This is their second GEB pup, and Northwoods Animal Hospital is sponsoring veterinary care while the Deeley's are sponsoring edible delights.

**Fala**, a male black lab, is being raised by first-time raisers Gabrielle and Mike Willson along with their sons Matt, Adam and Steve of Apex. The Willson's are sponsoring food and the vet sponsor will soon be forthcoming.

**Fallon**, a female black lab, is being raised by Chuck and Betty Snell of Raleigh. The Snell family is new to the NC program, but they have raised two other GEB pups. The Snell's are providing food while Magnolia Animal Hospital is the vet sponsor, which is now a new addition to the program!

**Garner**, a male German Shepherd, is being raised by Cindy Osborn and family of Myrtle Beach, SC. The Animal Hospital of North Myrtle Beach is sponsoring the vet care while the Osborn's are providing food. This is Cindy's GEB pup #7!

### Where are they now?

### Anton, Finesse, Kindred, Klute, Neil, Sonar and Varsity

**Anton**, a male yellow lab, went in-for training in February. His raisers and food sponsors were Will and Trudy Pendergraft of Chapel Hill, and Anton received routine veterinary care from Timberlyne Animal Clinic of Chapel Hill.

**W**endy Bierwirth has received word that **Finesse** has attained the status of being evaluated as a prospective GEB brood. A final decision will be made once Jane evaluates



**Anton**, affectionately called 'Tony' when he isn't listening, poses with his canine compadres Seth (right) and Halo (below).

more pups in the litter. Finesse is currently living with a GEB brood and her human family in NY. And she's behaving like a little angel! Dr. Susan Robinson at Pet House Calls was Finesse's vet sponsor. Congratulations to Finesse and to Wendy and Jim for all their hard work.

**Kindred**, the Deeley family's sweet female black lab has been released from the puppy raising program due to OCD which developed in one of her back legs. Kindred's mom Carol submitted this report in which she, Carl, Kay, and Robyn share their thoughts and feelings:



*Kindred has recovered wonderfully from her surgery thanks to the care and attention she received from the two very kind and talented gentlemen Dr. Dan Hudson of Northwoods Animal Hospital in Cary, Kindred's veterinary sponsor, and Dr. William Betts of the Veterinary Surgical Referral Practice, PA of Cary. I would like to say a big thank you to them for their time and generosity and to their staff who looked after Kindred so well.*

*It would be very remiss of me not to mention the role that Sherry Dodson plays in the raising and well-being of all our pups. We all know how much time and effort Sherry puts into every pup and Kindred has been above and beyond the normal call of duty. Sherry has always been concerned about Kindred's health and well-being from the start and is still there with us every step of the way. So, a huge thanks to Sherry!*

*We are delighted that Kindred will get the chance to work as a therapy dog with young children when the school year commences at the end of this summer. She is gentle and reliable with the*

**Kind Kindred looking her best as usual.**

*sweetest nature. Kindred loves children and should be great working with them. Although it was a really tough decision this makes it a little easier for us to see her go on to help others.*

*Of course there is the new GEB bundle of joy to look forward to. He/she will be waiting for us when we return from our Spring Break holiday and then the fun will begin all over again.*

The NCPRP sends its best wishes to Kindred as she pursues her new career. We hope to hear more news in the future about her endeavors in the field of education.

**This Just In . . .** Kindred has joined forces with Laurie Burton, an elementary school counselor who uses therapy dogs in her work environment. Kindred has established residence in Laurie's Virginia home and is adjusting well to her new surroundings. Here is Laurie's update:

*I've never had a dog do this but I guess Kindred was meant to lead another and is doing so in spite of her injury!*

*Libby is our 7-year-old rescued lab. Kindred likes to gently hold Libby's collar in her mouth and lead her. Libby will tolerate this for the most part, and it looks so funny to see her being led by Kindred all through the house. When Libby tires of this game she gives a low, rumbling growl and Kindred lets go! She's really a lot of fun! Libby and Kindred get along beautifully, but Libby doesn't have Kindred's "puppiness".*

*My original plan was to not allow Kindred on any of the furniture. That lasted about 4 days. She is now allowed on my daughter Amy's bed. Kindred and Amy will go to bed at about 9:00 and Kindred will remain there until I get up the next morning.. Kindred then goes outside with the others and hops back in bed with Amy until I wake her at 6:30. Amy's in 7<sup>th</sup> heaven!*

*Kindred is going to make the best therapy dog! Her personality is perfect for this type of work! We will begin training soon and I'll let you know when she earns her certification.*

**Klute**, the handsome yellow lab puppy known for his youthful rambunctiousness, has been released from the puppy-raising program and is currently seeking a career change. Klute has passed his ATF entrance exam and is expected to begin formal training in June. Klute's raisers, Amy and Carlos Alfaro of Garner, are extremely proud of their boy, and they have promised to keep us informed of his progress.

Dr. Nelson Hayden at Animal Medical Center of Garner was Klute's vet sponsor. Jim and April Pruden of Carolina Pet Supply Center in Garner were his food sponsors. Good luck and best wishes to Klute as he trains for his new career in law enforcement.

**F**rom the beautiful foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains Jeannie Herrmann reports that **Neil** passed his IFT on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Growing up in Etowah, NC, Neil enjoyed eating, attending car shows and sporting events, eating, swimming, eating, Frisbee, eating, jumping into leaf piles . . . well, you get it. Oh, and also hanging out with GEB alumni Noah,



**Neil is aspiring to be a supermodel/spokesdog for GEB.**

Amherst, O'Malley, and Irish. Haywood Animal Hospital in Henderson County was Neil's vet sponsor and the Saturn car dealership in Asheville served as his food sponsor. Neil is the second GEB puppy to reside in the Herrmann household, which also includes Norm, Jason, and Jennifer. Jennifer was Neil's primary raiser while Noah provided his services as GEB teacher and role model.

**Sonar**, John and Mary Cantando's big gentle yella fella was released from formal training at GEB and has returned to his home in North Raleigh. Mary has provided this update on Sonar's activities since his fall departure from RDU:

### *Sonar Returns!*

*The good news is Sonar went IFT in early October and was progressing through training with an anticipated Spring graduation. The bad news is he developed a chronic paw dermatitis that GEB couldn't eradicate. The good news is he's back home with us in Raleigh!*

*Although we're disappointed that he won't be able to fulfill his mission of being a guide dog, we're personally thrilled that this "change of orders" brings our Sonar Boy back home.*

*"S-Boy" (one of a dozen nicknames we have for him) arrived back home in mid-February and returned to his old routine without missing a beat. "Mr. S" loves to be around our three cats and they, in turn, tolerate him. He's also returned to his old habit of lying on my feet while I work in my home office...you heard that right, he doesn't lie AT my feet, but a good portion of his 75 pounds lies ON my feet!*

*Although "Sonar-S" would have loved the busy, going-places lifestyle of a guide dog, he doesn't complain about dividing his time between racing around with our grandchildren and lying on the rug in front of the fireplace. And we're not complaining either!*

Sonar's vet sponsor was Dr Craig Wilson of Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh. John and Mary were his food sponsors. The NCPRP wishes to welcome Sonar back and we hope to see him at future puppy raising events.

**Varsity**, Sara Little's sweet, affectionate, curious black lab has been released from the puppy-raising program. Sara provided these details as she and Varsity prepare for their roles as future educators in The Lone Star State.

*Varsity has elected to pursue a career change! He decided the demands and rigors of life as a guide dog would be too taxing and stressful. He never could fully overcome the nagging feeling something awful lurked in grates and sewers and that they best are avoided with a three-foot radius. He has instead decided he is better suited to be a man of leisure and pampering. To this end, his new interests include sleeping night AND day on the bed, learning new tricks with treats, and other previously off-limit activities.*

*Varsity will not be a totally indulged mama's boy. He will become a Texan! Sara will be moving for a year to Ft. Worth, Texas in July to finish her doctorate in school psychology with*

*an internship at the city's schools there. Once she completes her degree and is a full-fledged psychologist, Varsity would like to join her and be trained as a therapy dog with a special interest in working with school children.*

*A potential area of research for Varsity includes helping children learn to read. Data suggests that children with reading disabilities are often embarrassed and shy to read aloud in front of classmates, teachers, and tutors. However, they are more than willing to practice reading to a patient and attentive canine who never points out or laughs at mistakes and loves to give positive feedback for good effort and improved ability with tail wags and kisses.*

*Varsity would like to say thank you and good-bye to all his GEB friends. He will miss everyone greatly, especially his closest friend, Badger!*

Special thanks to Varsity's vet sponsor, Dr. Joe Gordon at Oberlin Road Animal Hospital in Raleigh and to his food sponsor Shelley Lindem who lives in Cary.

## **Amherst and Noah and their therapeutic careers...**

Jean Jacobson sent the following to Puppy Prints:

*Just wanted to let you know that Amherst and I were on the local news last night. A cameraman and interviewer came out to do a "spot" on our visit to the high school. I am one of five dog handlers who make 13 visits a month, individually, to classrooms of mentally and physically challenged children.*

*Noah and Amherst alternate weeks so make one visit a week to a different classroom. They both enjoy and work well with the children but Amherst is especially responsive. Most of the kids we see are teenagers with MR, autism, spina bifida, etc. and are in wheelchairs. That means Amherst has to sit beside them where they can reach him for pets or light brushing. A couple of the kids also throw, so he catches treats from them. The program just started in November so we are learning as we go along.*

*The boys are also visiting kids in the outpatient chemo ward, the pediatric ward, and adults in the oncology ward of the local hospitals. They are terrific and warmly welcomed by everyone, patients and nurses included.*

*Mark comes with me to the hospital visits. It is hard to express what a wonderful opportunity we have because of Noah and Amherst. Without them, we wouldn't have thought of getting involved in these programs and that would have been a terrible loss in both our lives. We even had our 12-year-old Springer certified and he is like a puppy during these visits.*

*We hope someday to be puppy raisers again, but I wanted you to know how much we love and appreciate having Amherst and Noah in our lives. They may not be doing the job they were bred for, but they are just as valuable in a very different way.*

## **GEB Slater carried the torch for the Paralympics!**

-adapted and excerpted from Guiding Eyes for the Blind's Breeding Center website

Deborah Groeber and GEB dog **Slater** carried the torch in Salt Lake City Thursday, March 7, prior to the opening ceremonies of the Paralympics Winter Games, which featured the world's premier athletes with disabilities. Deborah and Slater (10SS97) were in the last group of runners before the opening ceremonies. The website for the Paralympics ([www.paralympics2002.com](http://www.paralympics2002.com)) has a short write-up about the runners, including Deborah, under Journey of Fire - Runners Tale. Slater was raised by **Lori McHugh** of North Carolina and his parents were Kaitlyn x VanDyke.

### **A note from GEB's Puppy Program Director, Lee Nordin...**

We are pleased to inform you that as of April 1, 2002 Graduates and Puppy raisers will receive one complimentary copy of graduation videos.

Additional copies can be ordered as priced below:

Graduates: \$10.00 each

Puppy raisers: \$15.00 each

We will be providing you with a time frame of when the back-ordered videos will be sent. Thank you for all you do!

### **Driving Directions To Waverly Place Shopping Center for Spring Evaluation:**

#### **From Interstate 40:**

Exit 293 A onto Route 1 South/64 West

From Route 1 take Exit 98 A onto Tryon Road.

At the second traffic light you will continue through the intersection where Kildare Farm Road crosses Tryon Road. Look to the right for the New Waverly Place street sign, which marks the second entrance to Waverly Place shopping center. Turn right onto New Waverly Place Drive and park in the 3<sup>rd</sup> parking area on the right, behind Waverly Place Cinema. You will see the open courtyard where the evaluations are taking place.

#### **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)**

#### **WE WANT YOU!**

Due to the aftermath of 9/11, the NCPRP needs volunteer drivers to transport pups to and from GEB in New York. If you are willing, then please call your local coordinator to let them know when you are coming or going. Thanks to all of you who have contacted us so far. It is a real help!

**EVALUATION SCHEDULE  
FRIDAY 5/10 AND SATURDAY 5/11, 2002  
WAVERLY PLACE, CARY**

<b>Friday May 10th</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
9:30 AM	Brodie	Cooke
10:00 AM	Garbo	Jackson
10:30 AM	Halo	Prater
11:00 AM	Eddie	Deeley
12:00 PM	Fala	Willson
1:00 PM	Vesper	Bennett
1:30 PM	---Lunch---	
2:00 PM	Porsche	Piron
2:30 PM	Fallon	Snell
3:30 PM	Iris	Schmidt
<b>Saturday May 11th</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
8:30 AM	Seth	Pendergraft
9:00 AM	Badger	Tanner
9:30 AM	Namath	Barabash
10:00 AM	Raine	Bierwirth
10:30 AM	Yale	Glover
11:00 AM	Ivanhoe	Quesenberry
12:00 NOON	---General Meeting and Lunch---	
2:00 PM	Garner	Osborn
3:00 PM	Kittle	Shinn
4:00 PM	Joe	Herrmann
4:30 PM	Truman	Haynes
5:00 PM	London	Overcash

***SATURDAY EVENING DINNER:***

If anyone is interested, we are planning to eat at 5:30 or 6:00 PM.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2002

### May 10-11, 2002

Evaluation, Waverly Place, Cary

### August 9-10, 2002

Evaluation, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh

### November 15-16, 2002

Evaluation, MacGregor Village, Cary

### February, 2003

Evaluation, date/place TBD

## ATTENTION:

The NCPRP's annual Dessert Social has been postponed until the Fall due to scheduling issues during May. Please stay tuned for date and place.

## 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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Guiding Eyes for the Blind

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**Emergency Pager: 919.310.1340**

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

Fax: 919.467.0581

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

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



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for the blind

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