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# Puppy Prints



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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Spring 2003

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## Iris' Graduation

By Jackie and Bob Schmidt

When we received word that Iris was graduating the excitement, relief and happiness was unimaginable. After raising four dogs for Guiding Eyes, having one finally make it was almost too good to be true.

We started making plans right away to go to the graduation. We couldn't think about not going. After all this was one of our children, who had finally grown up and was ready to face the working world. What an adventure for her and what a thrill for us.



Maryanne and Iris at their GEB Graduation Ceremony in March

We got to the Breeding Center where we stayed in the guest house on Friday and Saturday night. We made it in on time to see Jane for about 20 minutes. Enough time to get hugs and congrats, a crate to bring back to N.C. and the puppy package for the Gilliland's new puppy, Camille. We were on a roll. Made it to GEB without mishap, saw Jane, had a place to put our heads. We were all set for graduation.

The day of graduation dawned bright and sunny, a good omen, and we went on to take the breeding center tour with enough time to do some volunteer work and still have plenty of time to get to the training center, where graduation was being held. We got to the graduation site with half an hour to spare and sat talking with other puppy raisers while waiting for the big event. Fortunately I remembered to bring Kleenex, as it was a five-handkerchief event.

The staff from Guiding Eyes asked for quiet and in walked the graduates; both four and two legged. You could have heard a pin drop. All could feel the joy and awe. It was a moment that is beyond description. Tears were flowing, of course, but something else was there... determination, love, thankfulness, happiness, sadness, all of this and so much more.

Then we were introduced to the graduating teams. They were so happy and proud. Twelve people and their partners, so proud that they were able to go out into the world with a sense of freedom and safety that many had never known before. Eight of the graduates had had canine partners before and four were first timers. It didn't matter that they had been there before; they all were grateful and thrilled to have new partners. The speeches were celebrations of joy for all of us and although there were tears they were joyful ones. To participate in something like this is such a blessing. For Bob and myself, it is one of our proudest accomplishments.

After the graduation we had time to visit with Iris' partner, Maryanne. She is such a fine young woman. She has a shop in the Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn, N.Y. Iris will be living and working in Brooklyn, but she will be doing so much more. Maryanne is very active in her church and travels with the church choir to musical events in several states. Maryanne is also an advocate for the Blind and travels to state legislatures to testify before them concerning enhancing and enlarging upon the Federal laws for the disabled. Into this busy schedule Maryanne and Iris will be taking time for some fun in the form of a cruise to the Caribbean in May.

We spent several hours with Maryanne and Iris, who was thrilled to see us and couldn't give us enough hugs and kisses. But she also knew her job and she did it so remarkably well. She guided Maryanne just like a pro. It was hard for us to believe how much she had matured and how well she had taken to her true calling. This is the puppy that we were sure was going to be our last because she was such a challenge. To see her so focused and mature was so wonderful.

Now that we have had several days to mull over everything we saw and participated in we have observations to make and share with all other puppy raisers. Those of you who have already had a puppy graduate know this already but it bears hearing again, we are sure. The sadness of giving up a puppy is far surpassed by the joy of seeing them doing what they were bred and raised to do. We will, and are raising again, and for as long as we can, we will continue because it is so vital to those that need these most wonderful of God's creatures.

We also commend the GEB staff for making it such a special and meaningful day for the Raisers and the Graduates. They showed the raisers how much they are appreciated through their words and actions and they gave the graduates a much-needed forum to thank us for their eyes. What a humbling experience to be on the receiving end of such fulsome thanks for doing such a little thing as raising a puppy.

To those of you who will be having a puppy graduate, we strongly urge you to attend. It not only is one of your finest hours but it allows the graduate to make needed contact with the person who has raised their dearly beloved eyes. They want to know the endearing things that their new partners did as infants. They truly do. At this graduation there were a couple of raisers who couldn't make it and the graduates were disappointed to not have a chance to thank them personally and to know all about their friends during their growing up years.

It still amazes us that the graduates are so appreciative over us raising a puppy. In most cases it was a joy to have little feet running around the house and keeping us active and laughing.

Yes we miss Iris. Yes we love her and will always have a place in our heart for her. The biggest yes of all, however, is that she is out there guiding and helping her new partner in meeting life full tilt and head on. Yes Iris. We love you.

## **Yale-Bristol Able to Leap Tall Buildings in a Single Bound**

by Sarah Glover and Jody Strickland

Yale was a bouncing baby puppy when he came to us in December of 2000 and two years later he still acts like a bouncing baby puppy. At the first evaluation we had with Yale, I thought Jane was going to release him, but we made it through that one and several more. This past August the truth had to be faced that Yale was not suited to be a guide dog. Several weeks after he was released, Sherry called to tell us that the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) was interested in a dog for their accelerant detection program.



**Sarah & Nathan with Yale-Bristol**

We met several SBI agents at the Apex Fire Department.

They performed several types of tests to determine if Yale was suitable for accelerant detection work. All of the tests involved food so Yale exceeded their expectations. One of the agents present that day was Jody Strickland, as most of you know, she is a puppy sitter for the NC Puppy Raiser Program. She was the lucky agent to take Yale as her partner in accelerant detection.

That day was a very sad day for us. One of the hardest things Nathan (my son) and I have ever done, was to walk out of the fire station without Yale knowing he would never come back to us. It was a real adjustment at home, the house was so quiet and our cats decided it was safe to

come back out again. The positive to this was Yale was going to have a job that he was well suited for, he would work with a great handler, provide a service to the public and the best thing, he would be paid in food.



Sarah, Jody, Nathan and Bristol

After going home with Jody, Yale had two months to acclimate before going to train in accelerant detection. During this time Jody changed his name to Bristol. Jody's reasons for doing this, "...was partially due to the ease of trying to use Yale with some of the commands. But mainly because I have always wanted to be a police officer since the age of 5 and wanted to be a K-9 Handler. I was born and raised in a small town in RI called Bristol. That is where all my dreams began and he is where they have finally come true! So I decided to name him Bristol."

Bristol went to Connecticut to train with the CT State Police on November 4, 2002 for three weeks of training. His initial training took three weeks. Jody joined him on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jody's comment, "It took me 4 weeks to learn what he learned in 2 weeks." They graduated on December 20, 2002. We were not able to go to the graduation since it was in CT, but Jody sent us some great pictures.

The official title of the new team is Special Agent/Arson K-9 Handler Jody Strickland and Accelerant Detection K-9 Bristol. He is trained to detect accelerants that may have been used to set a fire. He is trained on "trace" amounts; he is trained daily and hand fed for his alerts. Bristol alerts anywhere from 50-100 alerts a day/7 days a week. For those lucky individuals who were at the general meeting at the last evaluation in February, Jody and Bristol did a demonstration of accelerant detection for us.

Jody added, "He will work for 5 years and then retire comfortably with the SBI supporting his food and medical expenses. He will remain with me. I have 21 years left in my career before retirement and I hope to have 3 more K-9's before I retire. He is a wonderful dog and he just loves his new home and other labs that he can play with. He is VERY spoiled! We are together 24 hours a day and have built quite a bond. That has been built on the time spent together, the training together, and running obstacle courses which challenge him and his trust in me (the fire scenes are the same)."

We still miss Yale (Bristol) as he added real excitement to our lives. Now he is doing a great service for our community and that makes Nathan and me really proud.



## You're Invited to NCPRP's Potluck Dinner and Dessert Social!

- When:** Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30PM  
Program by Lee Nordin, Director of the GEB Puppy Raising Program
- Where:** Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Dr. Raleigh, NC  
See evaluation schedule for directions.
- What:** Bring a side-dish or dessert to share. Triangle-based puppy raisers – please bring side dish to pass; all other raisers, please bring dessert to share.
- Who:** GEB puppy raisers, puppy sitters, Vet sponsors, Food sponsors, potential puppy raisers or puppy sitters, family members, friends, former raisers and sitters. Come one, come all and meet some of the NCPRP's GEB puppies!

**Special thank you's go to Whole Foods Market of Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Durham; Weaver Street Market in Carrboro; Harris Teeter of Chapel Hill for donating potluck supplies, drinks and main dishes!**



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## New Guide Dog Leash

The GEB Puppy Program is offering a new style of guide dog leash for sale to raisers and volunteers. The leash is 5 feet in length, 5/8" wide, and made from Burgundy Latigo Leather with 2 chrome-plated bolt snaps and 2 chrome-plated rings.

These leads offer versatility with the following options:

1. snap into the top ring and make a 4' lead with handle
- or 2. snap into the bottom ring and make a shorter, 30"

You may purchase the leash through the Puppy Program Department by emailing us at [puppyprogram@guidingeyes.org](mailto:puppyprogram@guidingeyes.org), or you may order through your local Area Coordinator. The cost is **\$20**. If shipping is needed, there will be an additional fee of **\$4**.



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## NEW!! Guiding Eyes for the Blind NCPRP Sweatshirts and T-shirts for Sale!

Order your t-shirt or sweatshirt after the general meeting at the May Evaluation! Proceeds benefit the NCPRP. Samples and sizes will be available!

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## Meet the NCPRP's Newest Additions – Faith and Hanley!

**Faith**, a female German Shepherd puppy, is being raised by Julie Haynes of Indian Trail, NC. Faith is Julie's 4<sup>th</sup> GEB puppy. Faith's vet sponsor is the Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and The Haynes family is Faith's food sponsor. Julie provided the story below about Faith.

### We Have Faith!

By Julie Haynes

Faith von Wiesbaden came to the Haynes household with the cold snows of January! She was bred by Jack and Venita Whitaker of Von Wiesbaden German Shepherds [[www.vwgs.com](http://www.vwgs.com)] and joins GEB thanks to Sue Masters, her donor. The following appears on our BCWeb:



"This is Faith, donated by Sue Masters of Atlanta, GA. Inspired by the book 'First Lady of the Seeing Eye', Sue has been looking for outstanding GSDs to donate to a guide dog program. When Jack and Venita Whitaker returned from Germany, they brought some great GSDs with them and when their dog, Olympia, gave birth to 8 girls, it seemed like the best opportunity to acquire a pup for GEB. The girls in Olympia's last litter

were exactly the right size and temperament for guide work. If Faith grows up to be like her older sisters under the care of puppy raisers, she should make a wonderful guide someday."

We are delighted and honored to be raising this special girl! The cute, cuddly, floppy-eared bundle that arrived such a short time ago is growing so quickly into a beautiful specimen of her breed. Of course, it'll be awhile longer before she grows into those ears and paws!



When she arrived, Truman was here to welcome her and show her the ropes, ... and the balls, and the bowls (FOOD!) Soon after, Zeike returned home and joined forces to teach her the ways of a GEB Lab! She definitely got the FOOD part; she does enjoy her meals, but true to her breed she distinguishes herself in many ways. And besides, she's the GIRL!

We take pride in being a part of the gift of mobility and independence that is Guiding Eyes for the Blind. For puppies, and puppy raisers, there are always lessons. We learn that we can do our best but can control very little. We learn to be thankful for all good things that come our way. Zeike's return brings us joy as we make up for time lost. Again we wait, this time for news that Truman's new career with ATF will prove to be a good choice for him. And, for now, we have FAITH.

**Hanley**, is a black male lab being raised by Wendy and Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC. Hanley is the Bierwirth's 5<sup>th</sup> GEB puppy. Hanley is extra special because he is the son of GEB Finesse, who was also raised by Wendy and Jim. Hanley's vet sponsor is Dr. Susan Robinson of Pet House Calls of Raleigh and the Bierwirth family is Hanley's food sponsor.



Hanley, Mr. blue eyes

## Where Are They Now?

**Brodie**, a female black and tan labrador retriever raised by Sharon Cooke and family, was released from training at GEB and has returned home to the Cooke household. Mayfair Animal

Hospital was Brodie's vet sponsor and Sharon's parents, Al and Norma Bergeron, were Brodie's food sponsors.

**Garbo**, a female yellow lab raised by Kay Jackson and family of Raleigh, NC, recently passed her in-for-training test with flying colors and is currently being evaluated for the GEB breeding program! Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh was Garbo's vet sponsor and Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh were Garbo's food sponsors.

**Halo**, a female black lab, was recently released from training at GEB and will soon return home to Belvie Gilleland and family. Sandra Prater of Durham, NC raised Halo for her first few months in North Carolina before handing Halo off to Belvie and family. Halo's vet sponsors were Triangle Animal Hospital of Durham and Jordon Veterinary Hospital of Lexington. Her food sponsors were the Prater-Roman family and the Lexington Downtown Lions Club.

**Ivanhoe**, a male black lab, recently passed his in-for-training test with flying colors and was placed into GEB's Special Needs Program! Ivanhoe was raised by Brenda and Gerry Quesenberry of Franklin, VA. Southhampton Veterinary Clinic in Franklin, VA was Ivanhoe's vet sponsor and Brenda and Gerry were Ivanhoe's food sponsors.

**Pegasus**, a female black lab raised by Kay Jackson and family, was recently released from training at GEB and has returned home to the Jackson household. Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh was Pegasus' vet sponsor and Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh were Pegasus' food sponsors.

**Truman**, a male yellow lab raised by Julie Haynes of Indian Trail, NC, was recently accepted into the ATF training program. Truman's vet sponsor was the Animal Care Hospital of Matthews and the Haynes family was Truman's food sponsor.



Brodie



Pegasus



Halo



Truman



## **And Guiding Eyes for the Blind**

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Program has chosen to work with The Iams Company to be our standard food supplier. Iams has graciously agreed to provide each puppy with a 4# starter bag of puppy food along with (7) \$2.00 Off coupons for additional Iams food during the raising period of the puppy.

It is our hope that all puppy program dogs can be fed the same dog food as there are many advantages for the puppies. Whether your pup is going to a sitter home, being swapped with another puppy program pup, or will be visiting the GEB kennel for any reason, you no longer have to send food. Wherever the dog goes, they will be eating Iams dog food.

Young puppies leave our kennel eating Iams Puppy. You may convert your pup over to Iams Adult Chunks anytime after the age of 4 months.

Please work with your Area Coordinator if you have any questions.



**EVALUATION SCHEDULE**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AND SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003**  
**Waverly Place, Cary, NC**

<b>Friday 5/2</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Fallon	Cooke
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Fala	Willson
<b>2:00 PM</b>	New Pup	Deeley *
<b>3:00 PM</b>	Yacht	Rysanek
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Farber	Scott
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Sienna	Jackson *
<b> </b>		
<b>Saturday 5/3</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Fletcher	Pendergraft
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Hanley	Bierwirth*
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Unix	Tanner
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Baldwin	Piron
<b>11:00 AM</b>	Caper	Quesenberry*
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>---General Meeting and Lunch---</b>	
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>---Class for Assistants---</b>	
<b>2:00 PM</b>	Faith	Haynes
<b>2:45 PM</b>	Wendy	Chryst
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Camille	Gilleland*
<b>4:15 PM</b>	Parish	Mejia
<b>5:00 PM</b>	Rhodi	Schmidt
<b>5:30 PM</b>	Garner	Oliverio*

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

***SATURDAY EVENING POTLUCK & DESSERT SOCIAL!!***

Please join us for a potluck at 6:30 PM at the Raleigh Church of Christ  
 Program by Lee Nordin, Director of the GEB Puppy Raising Program  
 All Raisers, Food Sponsors, Vet Sponsors and Interested Persons are Welcome!

## **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 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.

## **Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for Potluck Dinner & Dessert Social**

### From Waverly Place:

- Turn Left onto Tryon Rd, drive approximately 0.75 miles
- Merge onto US 1 North towards Raleigh, drive approximately 4.25 miles
- Take Exit 1-C, Jones Franklin Road
- Turn Left onto Jones Franklin Rd, drive approximately 0.35 miles
- Turn Left onto Barringer Rd and the church building will be on the Right, about 0.11 miles

### From Interstate I -440 Beltline:

- Take Exit 1-C, Jones Franklin Road, and go North 0.36 miles
- Turn Left at Barringer Rd and the church building will be on the Right, about 0.11 miles

### **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

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2003

### May 2-3, 2003

Waverly Place Shopping Center  
Cary, NC

### May 3, 2003

NCPRP Potluck and Dessert Social, 6:30PM  
Raleigh Church of Christ

### 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

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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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North Carolina Puppy Raising Program

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