

# Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2003

## Seth and Neil Graduate from Guiding Eyes for the Blind!

### Seth's Transformation

By Trudy and Will Pendergraft

When Seth first joined our household on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001, he was an energetic, adorable, whiny and worrisome little pup of 5 months of age. Olgia Dawkins of Washington, NC had raised Seth up until this point. Seth was her 9<sup>th</sup> GEB puppy. Olgia had gotten Seth off to a great start and she was ready to hand him off.

Seth didn't like to go up stairs and he always had to be right next to one of us, or else he'd whine. It wasn't really whining though, it was more like scream-barking. We knew we had some work cut out for us. Seth was in need of some further obedience and gradual socialization. We learned quickly that he'd be willing to try anything just to please us.

Each day we learned a little more about Seth and he, in turn, learned a little more about us. The more we got to know him, the stronger our bond with him grew. We figured out right away that this pup needed some kind of energy release. So



Graduates Seth and Jackie Reid with puppy raisers Will and Trudy Pendergraft

we took him out to our fenced in back yard and threw a tennis ball for him. That was the beginning of Seth's immediate love affair with the tennis ball and with fetching in general. He learned "drop it" very quickly as it meant that we'd throw the ball for him again right away.

From that moment onward, Seth would fetch daily. If it were raining outside, he'd try to play fetch inside. He'd walk over to one of us, drop the tennis ball in one of our laps, take a couple of steps backwards, sit down and then stare intently at the tennis ball. Even if you just gently rolled the ball off of your lap, he'd pick it right up and give it back to you and anxiously wait for the ball to move again. He had boundless energy.

Seth gradually became comfortable with stairs, strange under-footings and eventually "unusual people." The great quality about Seth was his resilience. When we'd try something new, like open backed stairs, for the first time, he might be uneasy on the first go-around. But after lavish praise, he was willing to try it again. To Seth, our praise was the ultimate reward (2<sup>nd</sup> only to treats, which he didn't get, but his appetite indicated treats would be #1).

Just over 1 year later, on September 16<sup>th</sup>, it was time for Seth to go for his IFT test. We missed him very much, but we were hopeful that he'd give it his best shot. He is a dog that definitely needs a job. Susan Piron graciously transported him up to NY. We were very proud of Seth when we heard that he passed his IFT.

As the months passed, we received reports with updates on Seth's training. His first report was very positive, letting us know that he had adapted well to kennel life and was getting along well with his kennel-mate Augie. His next report was also positive stating that Seth is enthusiastic and likes to please. That was no surprise to us and we were glad to hear that Seth was still Seth. Then another report came along mentioning that Seth was hesitant at first with the escalators and that he was a bit insecure when the trainer put on a blindfold for the first time. Even though Seth didn't "ace" his first attempts, we were glad that Seth was progressing in his training and we were hopeful that the next time he did escalators and lead a blind folded trainer, that he'd get better.

Before we knew it, we received the wonderful news that Seth was graduating on April 19<sup>th</sup> and that he was matched with a woman named Jackie Reid from Kitchener, Ontario. Graduation day was absolutely gorgeous and we arrived at GEB early to get good seats and to maybe catch a quick glimpse of Seth before the ceremony. The ceremony was wonderful and there wasn't a dry eye in the room. 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. Then the ceremony began. One graduate sang a song and played the guitar, and two graduates wrote speeches that were very moving. Then each puppy raiser was called to the front of the room to receive a certificate and an 8"x10" photo of the graduates. After that, the human graduates

received their diplomas and then it was time for us to meet Jackie and have our reunion with Seth.

Seth was absolutely gorgeous. His coat was shiny and his chest was broad, he looked like an Olympic athlete, a well-oiled machine. He was very glad to see us. And we could tell that he was very glad to be with Jackie. We could also tell that Seth didn't need us for his confidence and that in many ways, he was now his own dog - he had achieved self-actualization. It was incredible to see how Seth had grown into a confident, mature and proud guide dog. And the motivation for Seth was praise. Seth is now a member of our list of personal heroes - those humans and animals that have taught us invaluable lessons and who inspire us in many, many ways.



**Seth at his last evaluation in August, 2002. Photograph courtesy of Rick Tanner**

We have been lucky to be able to keep in touch with Jackie via email and Seth is having a lot of fun in Canada with Jackie and her roommates and their guide dogs.

Many thanks to Olga Dawkins for giving Seth a good start and to Sherry Dodson, Jane Russenberger and Kay Jackson for their guidance. Thanks also to the Rick Tanner and Glynis Gore, Barbara Pendergrass and Kay for puppy sitting Seth and to Susan Piron for comforting us when we needed it most and for doing so much for Seth!

*Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill was Seth's vet sponsor and the Pendergraft's were Seth's food sponsors.*

## Neil's 2<sup>nd</sup> Graduation

Congratulations to Jennifer Herrmann and family of Etowah, NC on Neil's graduation from GEB. Neil's food sponsor was Saturn of Asheville and his vet sponsor was Haywood Animal Hospital in Henderson, NC.

This is Neil's 2<sup>nd</sup> graduation from GEB. Originally, Neil graduated last July. On rare occasions, some graduates encounter situations that make it difficult for them to keep their guides. In those situations, the dogs are returned to GEB. Since Neil is still very young he re-entered the training program briefly and was matched with a new person.

Norm provided the following about Neil's graduation: Neil will be joining Patty Nikel, her husband and Patty's retired guide, Java in their 20th floor New York City apartment. Patty lives on the Lower East Side, plays jazz saxophone and is a smiling, ebullient woman. She had trained for two weeks with another

dog named Jason, who did not work out for her. She said in the two days she's had to work with Neil, he's proven to have excellent skills, is a perfect gentleman and very affectionate. She'll be working with him for another week or so before returning to NYC.

They were matched up on Thursday June 26, we heard the good news on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> about the June 28<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. We had eighteen hours to make it to the graduation ceremony.

Jennifer was camping at a then-unknown campground in the Marion, NC area with a church group. I started calling the campgrounds in the area, with the third call yielding results. Jennifer wanted to attend the graduation ceremony, so we made pet-sitting arrangements, packed and left at 7:30 PM. We picked Jennifer up on the way, drove through the night, got to Guiding Eyes at 9:00 AM.



Graduates Neil and Patty Nikel with puppy raiser Jennifer Herrmann

After the graduation ceremony and seeing an excited Neil for the first time in almost a year, we joined the kennel tour and visited with Joe, our puppy that just went in-for-training, for a little while. We took Patty with us on the tour so she could meet Joe and say a tearful goodbye to Jason. Guiding Eyes graciously found a room for us in their guesthouse where we showered, collapsed and slept for eleven hours. In the morning we loaded up the minivan, stopped for breakfast and began our fourteen-hour return trip home. It was priceless.

## Meet NCPRP's New Puppies!

**Lexington**, a male black lab, is being raised by the Deeley family of Cary, NC. Lexington is the Deeley's 3<sup>rd</sup> GEB puppy. Lexington's vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary and his food sponsor is the Deeley family. Carol provided the following about Lexington:

*Lexington is totally convinced he can still fit on Robyn's lap (she weighs 75 pounds and he's already 50 pounds at only 4 months old!). After any initial greeting he can be found flat on his back for that all important tummy rub. He is so sweet you could eat him, as my Mom would say.*

**Camille**, a female black lab, is being raised by the Gilleland family of Lexington, NC. Camille is the Gilleland's 3<sup>rd</sup> GEB puppy. Her vet sponsor is Jordan Veterinary Associates of Lexington and her food sponsor is the Grace Episcopal Church and Bill and Leann Distler of Lexington. Belvie provided the following story about Camille.

*Thanks to Bob & Jackie Schmidt, Camille arrived safely in NC on March 24<sup>th</sup>. At 10 weeks old, she seemed SO BIG, but we quickly learned she had a "little puppy" attitude! She LOVES to curl up in our laps (on the floor of course!) for cuddle and nap time! What a sweetheart. Having just sent our "Halo" in for training, we were so glad to welcome this new pup into our home and give her all the love and hugs she needed (we thought)!*



Lexington doesn't realize that he doesn't fit on Robyn Deeley's lap anymore



Camille posing with one of her favorite toys

**Cheyenne**, a female black lab, is being raised by first-time raiser Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC. Neuse River Animal Hospital is Cheyenne's vet sponsor and Diversified Systems of Raleigh is her food sponsor. Kristin provided the following story about Cheyenne.



Cheyenne, looking completely placid. Looks like she's already mastered the "down-stay"

*Cheyenne stepped into our lives and has captured not only my heart, but those of everyone in our family and at Diversified Systems, Inc., where she goes to work each day. She is generally very sweet and loving, though she occasionally "barks" her mind when she*

*isn't getting her way. Her seat of choice is on someone's lap (of course, only if they are sitting on the floor). We love it, but know it won't be long before she will only be able to rest her head on our laps! Cheyenne's favorite things to do (other than eating and sleeping) are to hide in tall grasses and to play in her swimming pool, an under the bed plastic box, that is a perfect size for her.*

*I remind Cheyenne every day of how special she is and that she is destined to enrich the life someone who needs her. In fact, she has already brightened many lives. We feel blessed to be helping her with her mission.*

### **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**

## Where are they now?

**Eddie**, a male black lab raised by the Deeley family of Cary, NC is part of the GEB breeding program. He is already expecting two litters of pups - one due in September and one due in November. Eddie's vet sponsor is Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary and his food sponsor is the Deeley family.

**Fala**, a male black lab raised by the Willson family of Cary, NC passed his In-For-Training (IFT) test in July! Fala is the Wilson's 1<sup>st</sup> GEB puppy. Cornerstone Animal Hospital was Fala's vet sponsor and the Willson family was his food sponsor.

**Fallon**, a female black lab, passed her IFT test in July along with her brother Fala. Chuck and Betty Snell of Raleigh raised Fallon for her first few months before she joined Sharon Cooke and the rest of the Cooke family household in Cary. While with the Snell's Fallon's vet sponsor was Magnolia Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was the Snell family. With the Cooke's Fallon's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital of Cary and her food sponsor was Norma and Al Bergeron of Burlington, NC.

**Garbo**, a female yellow lab raised by Kay and Glen Jackson of Raleigh, NC is officially part of the GEB breeding program. Swift Creek Animal Hospital of Raleigh was Garbo's vet sponsor and Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh were her food sponsors.

**Garner**, a male German Shepherd, raised by Cindy Osborne of Myrtle Beach, SC recently joined the home of Elizabeth Oliverio of Virginia Beach, VA. 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 is Acredale Animal Hospital and Elizabeth is Garner's food sponsor.



Garner, looking handsome as usual

**Joe**, a yellow black lab raised by the Herrmann family of Etowah, NC passed his In-For-Training Test and is doing well in training at Guiding Eyes. Norm reports that Joe is improving, especially with his social skills and that he has done well with escalators and indoor work and Joe will start preliminary blindfold work soon. Joe is the Herrmann's 3<sup>rd</sup> GEB puppy. Haywood Animal Hospital of Hendersonville, NC is Joe's Vet sponsor. Joe's food sponsor is the McHugh family in memory of Joe McHugh.



Joe, leaping through his doggie door at GEB

**Porsche**, a female black lab raised by Susan Piron and Joe Brown of Lake Gaston, NC was recently accepted into the ATF training program in Front Royal, VA. Porsche was recently released from training at GEB. Porsche's vet sponsor was Pine Hollow Animal Hospital of Warrenton, NC and her food sponsor was Citizens for Animal Protection of Warren county. Susan Piron provided the following story about Porsche's new career.

**The Choice**  
By Susan Piron

Raising Porsche was a pleasure. Along with an incredible amount of energy and curiosity, she brought with her to our sedate home in June 2000 lessons about patience and determination that we would learn together. Joe and I fell in love with her over the year and a half she was with us and we were concerned about how we would handle her return to GEB, knowing it would be a win - win situation regardless of the outcome.

The day of the IFT came. I can still remember the end of the test when Jane looked over at me, hiding behind the fountain, and gave me a thumbs-up, I was so proud of Porsche and excited about what she would accomplish in her career and the possibilities before her. I left GEB that day with the bittersweet emotions that pride and happiness but also sadness can bring.

So, when I learned 8 months later that Porsche had been released from Guide Dog training my first reaction was to blame myself. What did I do wrong? Where did I not help her enough? Was I too slow to encourage her progress?

There were so many questions I had and of course the biggest being what Porsche's options would be. Of course my first thought was, we would exercise our option and have her come

back to Lake Gaston and be a pet, but we would explore the other options to make an informed decision. Coincidentally I would be going to GEB in a week to escort Fala and Fallon for their IFT's and would be able to visit Porsche.

Option 2 would be ATF and detection work. We spent an hour on the phone with Sherry, who obviously sensed my thoughts of failure and assured me that "not all dogs are meant to be guides and it would be very unfair to force them into a career that was not safe for them." Sherry provided information about the ATF program, their facilities, their training methods and possibilities of where she might be stationed. I also burned up Jane's laptop with my emails to her gleaning any information we could about the ATF program. I thanked Sherry and Jane for their counsel and promised them I would try not to be a "high maintenance raiser" and both assured me there is no such thing.

In New York I saw Porsche. After having a "talk", she assured me with her still high energy level that she would prefer a career to being a house pet and she had heard they feed you all day long in the ATF program and that appealed to her immensely. I remembered seeing "Bristol" at last winters evaluation and how excited he was working and how connected he seemed to his "handler," they were definitely a "team".

The ATF looks for 2 traits, one is high energy, Porsche definitely had that and the second is food motivation and she goes to the head of the class on that one. Health and breeding are also high on the list but they are very confident that the GEB dogs will meet their requirements triple-fold.

The decision was made... Porsche would go for the ATF test the following Monday and Jane promised to have it video-taped so we could see how she did. Did I make the right decision?? **Absolutely**, we had raised Porsche to be part of a successful team and knowing she would go on to an active career helping her community stay safe and possibly saving multiple lives has helped us to see the success she will accomplish. We have wiped away our bruised feelings of failure and realized we had succeeded far beyond the sights we had so narrowly focused on. You go girl!!!!

**Raine**, a female black lab raised by Wendy and Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC is on her way to Italy! Raine was released from GEB and subsequently joined ATF training. She has graduated soon as an arson detection dog and is on her way to Italy. Her vet sponsor was Pet House calls of Raleigh and her food sponsors were the Bierwirths.

**Sienna**, a female yellow lab raised by Katie Cooke, has recently joined the home of Katie's mom, Sharon Cooke. Sienna's vet sponsor is Western Wake Veterinarian Services and her food sponsor is Norma and Al Bergeron of Burlington, NC. While with Katie, Sienna's vet sponsor was Sylva Animal Hospital of Sylva, NC.

**Wendy**, a female yellow lab raised by the Chryst family of Kings Mountain, NC, recently joined the home of Kay and Glen Jackson of Raleigh, NC. While with the Chryst's, Wendy's vet sponsor was Kings Mountain Animal Hospital and her food sponsor was the Chryst family. Wendy's vet sponsor in Raleigh is Swift Creek Animal Hospital and her food sponsor is Art and Mary Lockwood of Raleigh. Wendy will be leaving the Jackson's home in August to join the Puppies Behind Bars program in NY for additional puppy raising experiences.

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## Sherry's Corner

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of former puppy raisers Jackie Goertz and Joan Wiles and we extend our sincere sympathy to their families. Jackie Goertz and husband, Ray, raised Innis and Jackie was in charge of the newsletter for quite a while. She gave so much to the program, not the least of which was her marvelous wit and sense of humor. Joan Wiles, and husband, Alan, raised Shira. Shira was their 7<sup>th</sup> guide pup. They had formerly lived and raised pups in New York and joined the NCPRP when the family moved to Georgia. They were extremely dedicated to Guiding Eyes and they gladly traveled 8 hours to each evaluation without any mention of the distance. I spoke to Joan after Shira's death and she mentioned that she really enjoyed staying in touch with the NCPRP through the newsletter.

We also understand the sadness of Elise and Leon Geary who are mourning the loss of their career change pup, Scotty. Scott was their second pup raised for the program. Scotty's veterinary sponsor was Triangle Veterinary Hospital and his food sponsors were Albert and Helen Weinrich of Chapel Hill.

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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**EVALUATION SCHEDULE**  
**FRIDAY, August 15<sup>th</sup> AND SATURDAY, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC**

<b>Friday 8/15</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Faith	Haynes
<b>1:45 PM</b>	New Pup	Shinn*
<b>2:45 PM</b>	Parish	Mejia
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Camille	Gilleland
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Yacht	Rysanek
<b>4:30 PM</b>	Lexington	Deeley
<b>5:00PM</b>	Garner	Oliverio
<b>Saturday 8/16</b>	<b>PUPPY</b>	<b>RAISER</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Hanley	Bierwirth
<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>1:45 PM</b>	Cheyenne	Shamblin*
<b>2:45 PM</b>	Unix	Tanner
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Farber	Scott
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Fletcher	Pendergraft
<b>4:30 PM</b>	Sienna	Cooke

\*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 Raleigh Church of Christ for Summer Evaluation:**

From I-440 Beltline:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2003

### August 15-16, 2003

Evaluation, Raleigh Church of Christ  
Raleigh, NC

### November 14-15, 2003

Evaluation, place TBD

## 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

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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P.O Box 37202

Raleigh, NC 27627