

Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

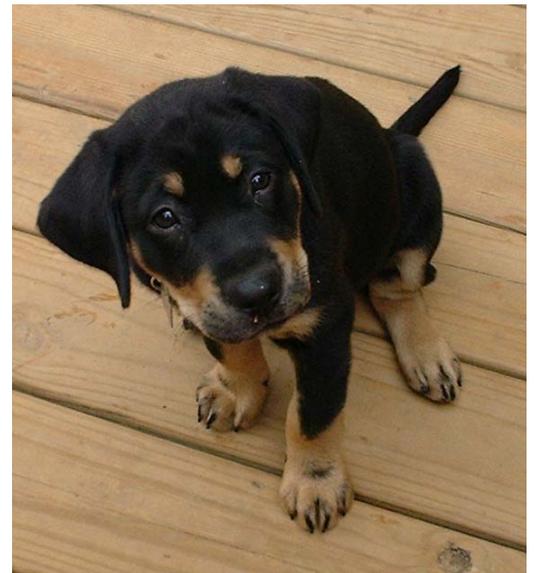
Summer 2004

Meet NCPRP's Newest Puppies!

Kiley, a black and tan female lab, is being raised by Wendy and Jim Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC. Wendy and Jim also raised Kiley's mom, Finesse. Kiley's vet sponsor is Pet House Calls of Raleigh and her food sponsor is the Bierwirth family. Wendy provided the following on Kiley.

Kiley is my 6th GEB puppy. Kiley keeps me busy explaining to people that "Yes, she really is a lab. No, her mom was not fooling around with a Rottweiler. No really, she's a full lab!" Jane explained to me that Kiley is the lucky recipient of two recessive genes, giving her the black and tan coloring. And there is something else unusual about her too. She eats slowly!! Can you believe that?

I've always considered myself to be an honorary guide dog. My father is totally blind. I used to beg him to get a guide dog but he always insisted he didn't need one because he had me and my sisters to guide him. My mother even wrote a book about her married life entitled "It didn't happen to a Dog".



Kiley



Kristoff

My first GEB puppy, a yellow lab named River, works in Toronto with a sweet lady named Melody and she says they are a great team. #2, Dahlia, had soft trachea, so she was retired and is a family dog in New York. #3 was my darling Finesse, a black lab, now working at GEB as a brood. Puppy #4 was Raine, who decided not to become a guide dog and is now successfully employed as a bomb sniffer in Italy. Sure wish she would invite me for a visit. Since then, I specialize in raising Finesse's children. #5 was Finesse's son, Hanley, a wonderful black lab, now doing well in training. When Finesse retires, I will retire as well as she has been promised to me in retirement. The only catch is that she has to return to GEB twice a year to get her eyes checked. Good thing we have family in New York!

Kristoff is a black male lab being raised by Eagle Scout, Brendan Stoddart along with the help of his parents, Laura and Bill, and siblings Mary-Cat and Cody. Kristoff is the Stoddart's first GEB puppy and is also Kiley's brother. Kristoff's vet sponsor is Academy East Veterinary Clinic of Fuquay Varina, NC and the Stoddart family is Kristoff's food sponsor. The Stoddart's provided the following about Kristoff:

Kristoff is a wonderful puppy who loves to be with us. When he hears the car keys, he is ready and waiting no matter where we are going. Even when Brendan is taking a shower, Kristoff thinks he should be in the shower with him. On the weekends, Kristoff loves helping water the lawn and wash the cars, so it is very seldom that he is dry on those days.

Jordan, a male black lab, has joined the Tanner household. Jordan is Rick and Glynis' 3rd GEB puppy. His vet sponsor is Timberlyne Animal Hospital of Chapel Hill, NC and Rick and Glynis are his food sponsors.

Vanilla, a female yellow lab, is being raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC. Vanilla is Kristen's 2nd GEB puppy. Her vet sponsor is Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell and Diversified Systems, Inc. will be Vanilla's food sponsor.



Vanilla

Where are they now?

Cheyenne, a female black lab, raised by Kristen Shamblin of Knightdale, NC is heading to New York for her in-for-training test in the beginning of August. Cheyenne's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell and Diversified Systems, Inc. was her food sponsor. Kristen provided the following on Cheyenne.

How quickly a year passes...It seems like such a short time ago that I was introducing my first GEB puppy, Cheyenne, in the newsletter, and now she is moving on to the next chapter in her life. Her IFT is scheduled for August 4th.

Cheyenne is a gentle, loving soul abounding with personality. She has been the antithesis of what I expected a lab to be like. She is very vocal with a full repertoire of sounds to tell you what's on her mind; and she is usually happier lying in the sun, than playing in the sun. I think everyone who has attended a puppy class with Cheyenne will agree that she has been the most relaxed (some might even say lazy) puppy in class this year. She does what she's supposed to, and rests until it is time for the next activity.

Cheyenne's greatest challenge was steps. We practiced for months with little progress, then, one night in April, we were going out to dinner with a group of her friends from Diversified (where Cheyenne goes to work daily) when we came to a very large set of steps. Cheyenne hesitated at the bottom, but everyone



Cheyenne relaxing

encouraged her to come up with us. Being a team player, she decided to brave the stairs. Everyone cheered her on and she has been going up and down steps ever since. I guess she just needed a little help from her friends.

Now Cheyenne's off to NY and we are so excited about her future. We will miss her terribly, but are grateful to have had her in our lives for a time. We'll savor the memories and have light hearts, knowing that she is fulfilling her destiny.

No puppy can replace another, but Vanilla, a yellow Labrador retriever, quickly managed to find her own place in our hearts. Cheyenne loves her new companion and Vanilla thinks there is no better place to nap, than snuggled up with Cheyenne. With her wrinkled brow, sad eyes and gentle temperament, Vanilla is a hit with everyone she meets.

My parents, Bob and Shirley Schneider, live down the street from my office and since I take my puppies to work from the day they arrive, they have provided Cheyenne and Vanilla with a home away from home by allowing me to bring them for lunch every day. They love being involved with their foster "grandpuppies", so when I heard that Vanilla was born on April 7th, my father's birthday, I knew she was the right puppy for us.

Many thanks to Dr. Jones and the rest of the team at Neuse River for taking such great care of both of my pups.



Camille with Dr. Ashley and staff at Jordan Veterinary Associates.

Camille, a black female lab raised by Belvie Gilleland and family of Lexington, NC, has passed her in-for-training test and is currently in training at GEB. Camille's vet sponsor was Jordan Veterinary Associates in Lexington and her food sponsors were Grace Episcopal Church and Bill and Leann Distler.

Hanley, a male black lab raised by Jim and Wendy Bierwirth of Raleigh, NC passed his in-for-training test and is currently in training. Hanley's vet sponsor was Pet House Calls of Raleigh and his food sponsor was the Bierwirth family.

Jules is the Shinn's 2nd GEB puppy. Jules' vet sponsor was Randall Veterinary Hospital in Mooresville and the Shinn family was his food sponsor.

Jules, a black male lab raised by Susan Shinn and family of Concord, NC, will be heading to New York for his in-for-training test in the beginning of



Jules relaxing with Robbie



Cheddar's 5 Puppies at 3 weeks of age

Cheddar, Don and Sherry's female yellow lab, recently gave birth to 5 adorable yellow lab puppies (2 females, 3 males) on June 20th. The puppies will be evaluated for the puppy raising program in August.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Cringle

April 21, 1996 - April 7, 2004

Cringle, a black male lab, raised by the Meder family of Apex and then by Jennifer Jorgensen of Raleigh recently passed away. Cringle was a trusted guide for Phil Herbert of Florida. Cringle's vet sponsor was Mayfair Animal Hospital of Cary and his food sponsor was the late Dr. Harry Fagan of Raleigh.

Tansy

May 4, 1990-May 2004

Tansy, a female black lab raised by Cheryl and Phil Baker, recently passed away. Tansy's vet sponsor was Lawson Animal Hospital of Maryville, TN and her food sponsor was Agri Food & Supply of Knoxville, TN. Cheryl sent the letter below about Tansy to Don and Sherry.

Dear Sherry and Don,

I am writing to tell you about our saying "Goodbye" to Tansy. Finally we decided it was time for us to stop being so selfish and took her to her vet of several years. She'd had a bladder infection the last week and her hips were getting so bad that she could hardly get up without help and when she laid down, it was often more like falling down....the sound of her bony hips hitting the floor was getting hard to take. I hope I can find your address because I don't think I could-even this many days after- talk to you about it. As I wrote this little bit for the newsletter I cried (and still have that old lump in my throat). DARN! How hard it is to give them up. So here it is- a little "ODE" to our Tansy. Having just returned from a trip to Tahoe where I rode 100 miles around the Lake on my bicycle (for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society), I thought it was time I wrote something so please feel free to use some or all of it in the newsletter for GEB puppy raisers. Thanks again for all your help and support through the years, but especially for our "gift" of Tansy girl!!

As a teacher of visually impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist, I had often been amazed and impressed by the dogs of different breeds that led the blind. Knowing all about the history of these dogs and having worked with blind persons with dogs from various dog guide schools, I became more and more interested in "foster parenting" and finally-in 1990 after the death of our Border Collie mix, I pursued the idea. So it was that in June of 1990, Matthew, our almost 9 year old, and Megan our 5 and $\frac{1}{2}$ year old and I drove to Raleigh, NC from our home near Knoxville, TN to meet Tansy, an 8 week old, nine pound black Labrador Retriever pup! How cute she was and how little we knew about raising one properly. With a LOT of excitement and not a little bit of anxiety, we left the Dodson's home to take on the daunting task of obedience training and nurturing to hopefully raise a



TANSY May 1990- May 2004

Dog Guide for a blind person. Through out the year, however, it became ever more apparent that although Tansy was learning obedience, she had other problems that would prevent her becoming a Dog Guide and so she became a "career change" pup in May 1991 and later OUR adopted puppy!!

Tansy, what a name! We found out later, it is an herb with medicinal properties and yellow flowers. We even found some on our new place when we moved in 1993. How does one describe life with Tansy? She was smart and sensitive and so wonderfully loving. Her favorite all time, number one activity was -of course you know- catching

the tennis ball or ANY kind of ball that ANY one would throw her. (no surprise to any others who have Labs, right!) She traveled well with us, but when we couldn't take her with us, she boarded well at a nearby loving kennel. The neighbors on our quiet cul de sac where we moved when she was about two and $\frac{1}{2}$ loved to play with her as she knew no strangers, especially if they were willing to throw her ball for her! Probably the only one who never really liked her was the cat we brought her home to , Chelsea, who ran away for three days after Tansy came to us in June of '90.



Although Tansy could not physically have babies (as we had her spayed as soon as we could) she did "mother" a baby later when in September of 1998, only a few weeks after Chelsea died, we found a tiny **black** kitten in a wooded neighborhood lot.

"Woody" as we finally named him, became our "puppy cat" and really adopted Tansy as his mother. Tansy tolerated him as he followed her around, slept with her in her crate (even to the last), licked her paws and cried when she acted strange at the end...We know that Woody grieves with us in his own way now as we finally made the decision to end our selfishness and say "Goodbye". Tansy's arthritic hips just made it too hard for her to walk or even stand alone. Her sense of smell seemed to be the only working sense left and she began to lose her appetite. So, on Friday of Memorial Day weekend, we did our final act of love for her and she is now without pain. And now at the point of our property near the pond where she loved to swim, under the Redbud tree where she'd lie on hot summer days, near the lawn swing I'd sit in with her (and her ball, of course) usually next to me is a newly planted dogwood tree. Maybe I'll plant some tansy there...to spread over the area as she spread joy and energy around.

By the way, I just found out today that TANSY is Greek for IMMORTALITY! WOW! She will always live on in our hearts. Thanks GEB for FOURTEEN wonderful years of love!!

Attention: If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and if you have an email address, please email Will Pendergraft at wfp3@med.unc.edu so that we can begin sending you the newsletter via email. We would like to cut down on the costs of printing, mailing and other supplies as well as the time that volunteers spend folding, labeling and stamping the newsletters. Many thanks!

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

Who: Puppy Raisers, Puppy Sitters, friends and potential volunteers

When: Wednesdays at 7PM

Where: Variety of locations in 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!



Sherry's Corner

NEW WEBSITE: Many thanks to Charles Haynes for taking over Steve Fine's web master duties! We really appreciate it, Charles! *****The new web address is www.guidingeyesnc.org *****

POTLUCK SOCIAL!!!

When: Saturday, August 14th, Noon to 2PM

Where: Raleigh Church of Christ (see evaluation schedule for directions)

What: Baked or fried chicken will be provided. For those volunteers located in the Triangle area, please bring a side-dish to pass. For those traveling from Charlotte or the coast, please bring a dessert.

Who: All raisers, sitters, sponsors, friends, family and anyone interested in GEB!

Jane Russenberger, Director of Breeding at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, will give a presentation on the history of Guide Dog Schools. Hope to see you all there!

Clothing for those who raise and train the finest guide dogs in the world!

Sweatshirts, t-shirts and golf-shirts available. Visit www.puppythreadz.biz for more information. Proceeds benefit the North Carolina Puppy Raising Program!



GEB included in the Combined Federal Campaign National List

Once again, we are pleased to report that GEB has been found eligible for inclusion on the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) National List. GEB will appear in the listing of "National/International Organizations" which is published in each local campaign brochure. The CFC identification number donors can use to designate their contribution to our organization is 0829.

EVALUATION SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, August 13th AND August, 14th, 2004
Raleigh Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC

Friday 8/13	PUPPY	RAISER
3:00 PM	Madison	Echols
3:30 PM	Glacier	Jackson/Sitter
3:30 PM	New Pup*	Bennett
Saturday 8/14	PUPPY	RAISER
9:00 AM	Kiley	Bierwirth
9:30 AM	Vanilla*	Shamblin
10:15 AM	Jordan	Tanner/Sitter
10:45 AM	Gwen	Gibbons
11:30 AM	Belinda	Quesenberry
12:00 PM	---General Meeting and Potluck SOCIAL**---	
2:00 PM	Kristoff	Stoddart
2:45 PM	New Pup*	Piron
3:45 PM	Gaston	Overcash
4:30 PM	Debbie	Schmidt
5:00 PM	Update Class	Schmidt & others who want to stay

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

****POTLUCK SOCIAL:** Baked or fried chicken will be provided. For those located in the Triangle area, please bring a side-dish to pass. For those traveling from Charlotte or the coast, please bring a dessert. Dinner on Saturday after the last evaluation will be discussed at the General Meeting

REMINDER: Don't forget to complete the QUARTERLY EVALUATION REPORT on the Breeding Center's website, the BCWeb (www.guidingeyesbcweb.org)

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 - 2004

August 13-14, 2004

Evaluation,
Raleigh Church of Christ,
Raleigh, NC

November 5-6, 2004

Evaluation,
MacGregor Village,
Cary, NC

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: 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
www.guidingeyesnc.org

Special thanks to Rick and Chris Echols at Total Laser Care of NC for sponsoring to offset the printing charges for this newsletter.



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program
P.O. Box 37202
Raleigh, NC 27627