

GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA Partners

Spring 2010 volume 25 number 1

HUNDREDS OF PUPPIES, ONE DEPARTMENT

GDA Puppy Department Keeps Track of More than 250 Puppies



Debra Prough with Vinca and Diana Snyder with Viigo

One day, the GDA Puppy Department will be sending home 8-week-old puppies with their volunteer puppy raisers. The next day may be a “turn in” day when several puppies, all of them about 18 – 24 months old, return to GDA; their puppy raisers leaving them at the school to begin formal guide dog training.

“It’s a full circle with all of our puppies,” said Puppy Department Manager Louise Henderson, who has been in the department for 21 of her 22 years at GDA. “We place our puppies with one of our puppy raisers and we oversee them until they come in for formal training. We’re here to help the puppy raisers. Their success contributes to the success of our program.”

On average, GDA sends home 20 litters every year to live with puppy raisers. That translates to more than 250 puppies-in-training at any given time being prepared for the career they were bred and born to do. Louise and Puppy Department Assistant Manager Yvonne Martin are there every step of the way doing everything they can to ensure the success of the puppies-in-training.

One of the ways they do that is with puppy testing. At seven weeks old, every puppy is tested to gauge its temperament and personality. “We give the puppies a retrieval test to see if they are willing to please. We put a puppy on its back to see if he is dominant or shy. To see if he is sensitive to sound, we’ll rattle coins in a can,” explained Louise. If we see a puppy is very shy, we will place him or her with a puppy raiser who may have previously had success with a similar-type puppy and can work to bring out its potential.”

Along the way, the Puppy Department keeps track of each puppy’s progress with monthly basic obedience classes held at the school, scheduled testing to determine if a puppy is on track with its training, puppy raiser meetings, home visits and answering calls from puppy raisers.

“Hundreds of Puppies” article continues on page 2 >

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



The second decade of the 21st century has begun, and Guide Dogs of America is ready for the challenge. Thanks to the leadership of Jay Bormann and the Board of Directors, GDA is in its best financial condition ever. Jay took over as GDA’s President/Director at a time when the future of the school was in doubt. Fundraising was down, and our reserves were far below where they are today.

Thank you, Jay. And thank you to all of the GDA supporters who made this transformation possible. Yet there is still more to do. In order to maintain the property we are blessed with and continue to improve the quality of the dogs we provide, we must be excellent guardians of your donations and expand our donor base.

“President’s Message” continues on page 2 >

Mission Statement

Guide Dogs of America is dedicated to its mission to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired men and women from the United States and Canada so that they may continue to pursue their goals with increased mobility and independence.

“Hundreds of Puppies” continued from page 1...



Tammy New and Palmer

“Most of our calls come from puppy raisers during the first few weeks the puppy is home with them,” said Yvonne. “We help them through everything from house-breaking to crate-training to biting... puppy stuff. If it’s a more difficult problem, we will go out to the puppy raiser’s house to help them resolve the issue.”

Yvonne has been in the Puppy Department for five years, but she has been a GDA employee for 10 years. She began her career as a

Licensed Instructor and has used that experience to build the curriculum for the monthly obedience and “issues management” classes held at GDA. These days are broken into three sessions, with classes tailored to the various ages and stages of puppyhood – 8 weeks to four months, five – 11 months, and one year and up.

“We work on issues that are typical to a particular age range. For young puppies it’s biting. When the puppies reach about five months, jumping can become a problem,” said Yvonne. “During each class, we spend time on behavior and basic obedience with time for questions and answers at the end.”

Louise and Yvonne manage the puppy department but are quick to admit they couldn’t manage without the hundreds of dedicated volunteer puppy raisers. “Our puppy raisers are incredible,” said Louise. “We have dozens of families that have raised more than 10 puppies and a few that have raised as many as 20. That is dedication.”

The Puppy Department circle begins when Louise and Yvonne prepare to send the puppies home with their puppy raisers, and continues until graduation day.

“The happiest day for us is puppy placement day. It never gets old. All of the puppies have their own personalities,” said Louise. “Turn-in day is one of the most emotional times for the puppy raisers but it’s a mixture of emotions. They are sad to see their dog go but anxious to see if it makes it through formal training. The most emotional day of all is graduation day. That is the day the circle is complete.”

IT’S “FIESTA TIME AT GDA” Open House



Say, “Olé!” Join in the fun and the fiesta at GDA’s annual Open House on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Wear your sombrero or throw on your serape, it’s

“Fiesta Time at GDA.” Whether you come as you are or dress for the “party,” Open House is always fun and festive!

Admission to the Open House is free, and there is food available to purchase. Gates open at 11 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Events begin at 11 a.m. and end at around 3 p.m. We do ask that you leave your personal pets at home.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

2009 Harley Davidson Street Glide raffle



The winner of the 2009 Harley Davidson Street Glide was Yvon Martineau of Big Bear Lake, CA. The winning ticket was drawn by

Renee Denman, a graduate of Guide Dogs of America.

“President’s Message” continued from page 1...

One thing that remains the same however, is the undeniable fact that the puppy raisers are the backbone of this organization. These volunteer puppy raisers are amazing people. They are given an eight-week-old puppy and are asked to return a well-mannered and well-acclimated 18-month-old-dog. This dog has become a part of their family and yet they willingly give the dog back so that it can serve the blind community. The puppy and the family go through a lot during this 16-month period. There are shoes and furniture to be chewed, obedience classes to attend, vet checks to go through and the constant evaluations of the puppy and its progress.

When you meet a puppy raiser at one of the many fundraising events, thank them. Guide Dogs of America could not produce this quality of dogs without them.

We are planning some changes to the format of our website. A fresh new approach to our communications is in the works. We hope you like it and hope that you will give us your feedback.

Thank you for your dedication to Guide Dogs of America,

IMPORTANT REMINDER: RE-REGISTER YOUR ALBERTSONS PREFERRED SAVINGS CARD

If you have previously registered your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card indicating that you would like Guide Dogs of America to be your charity of choice, you will need to re-register card to continue to support the school in this way. Visit our website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and click on the “Albertsons Community Partners” link located on the left side of the home page. You also can register at www.alberstonscp.com or call Albertsons customer service at: (800) 696-6419.

VET'S CORNER

An Ounce of Prevention

Canine vaccines and vaccination play important roles in disease prevention and can save lives of young puppies. The purpose of canine vaccination is to stimulate a dog's body to produce antibodies (germ-fighting proteins made by specialized white blood cells) and "memory" cells, so that if the dog ever encounters the disease again, his system will be primed and ready to defend against it.

In your puppy's first year, your vet will administer vaccinations to prevent the following diseases:

- Canine Distemper – Caused by a virus closely related to the human measles virus, it is considered the most serious viral disease of dogs.
- Canine Hepatitis – A disease of the liver and other body organs caused by canine adenovirus type 1 (CAV-1).
- Canine Parainfluenza – A highly contagious respiratory disease that contributes to upper respiratory disease and infection such as tracheobronchitis.
- Canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) – A highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract of puppies and dogs.
- Rabies – Invariably fatal disease that affects all warm-blooded animals (including humans).
- Bordetella – One of the three most common causes of Canine Upper Respiratory Disease Complex, known as "Kennel Cough."

The following is the vaccination schedule recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). This is a list of "core" vaccinations that should be administered during your puppy's first year:



Tami Johnson and Sara Hamilton from the GDA vet department

6 weeks: DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus)

7 weeks: Bordetella

9 weeks: DHPP

12 weeks: DHPP

16 weeks: DHPP and Rabies

20 weeks: DHPP and Bordetella

1 year: DHPP, Rabies and Bordetella

After one year, the CVMA recommends the DHPP and Rabies vaccinations be given every three years. Bordetella should be given yearly unless boarding, then it should be given every three months.

Depending on the age, breed and health of your dog, as well as the potential for the dog to be exposed to the disease and the geographic area where the dog lives or may visit, your vet may recommend additional vaccinations, including Leptospirosis, Giardiasis, Lyme Disease and Coronavirus. These are not considered "core" vaccines and are given at the veterinarian's and owner's discretion. Talk with your veterinarian to determine the appropriate vaccination schedule for your dog.

By properly vaccinating your dog, you are helping to ensure his health and safety as well as that of other pets and humans.

Partners in Trust



Just as blind men and women partner with GDA's remarkable dogs for additional independence and mobility, generous friends and supporters partner with GDA to help us carry out and maintain

our mission. Become a member of the Partners in Trust Society by naming GDA in your will or trust and receive this beautiful, crystal biscuit jar.

Please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

GET IT IN GEAR AND SAVE THE DATE!

7TH-ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE "RIDE FOR GUIDES"

May 23, 2010 (Sunday)



Last year, our GDA "Ride for Guides" drew almost 500 riders on more than 400 motorcycles – what a trip! Sunday, May 23rd is the date for this year's ride, which will take you on a scenic route that begins and ends at GDA. Join us and help to make this year the biggest and best ride yet.

Riders registering before May 1, 2010, will receive a discount and a bonus – a raffle ticket for the bike shown in this issue.

For registration forms, information and sponsorship opportunities, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. Registration forms are available at our web site: www.guidedogsofamerica.org by clicking on the "Events Calendar."

HOWDY, PARDNER

Las Vegas Weekend Welcomes Guests to the “Western Frontier”

More than 1,000 guests mixed and mingled at Bally’s Las Vegas Hotel throughout the three-day Guide Dogs of America’s Las Vegas Weekend.

On Thursday, riders saddled up their “hawgs” for the 9th-Annual Nevada Hawgs for Dogs ride. The event rounded-up 70 riders and 40 bikes. They all hit the not-too-dusty trail for a beautiful ride to the oldest saloon in Nevada – the “Pioneer Saloon” in Goodsprings, NV.

The following morning, more than 240 golfers rustled up a good time on the Revere Golf Course in Henderson, NV.

Guests gussied up on Saturday night for the 29th-Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet. This year’s theme was the “Western Frontier,” and guests whooped it up and had a rousing good time. And “Yeehaw, ya’ll,” fundraising.



Four “ruff” riders get ready to hit the links.



The ball went “thatta way.”



Ooh-wee doggie – A puppy-in-training watches the action from the gallery with his puppy raisers.



The “hoping for a hole-in-one” gang.



Riders get ready to hit the trail.



Riding double at Hawgs for Dogs.



Dog gone good puppy love.



"Let's head 'em off at the pass."



GDA graduate with her cowboy and faithful guide at her side.



Round-up of Hawgs for Dogs bike riders.

"Howdy Pardner" article continues on page 6 >

"Howdy Pardner" continued from page 5...

GDA's Annual Fundraising weekend is one of the most successful ways that GDA raises money in support of its mission to provide guide dogs, at no cost, to those without sight. Throughout the weekend, graduates, puppy raisers and puppies-in-training were there to meet all those who had gathered and thank them for their support. Four outstanding members of our GDA family were recognized at the banquet and presented with the prestigious Guide Dogs of America "Gift of Sight" Award.

Gift of Sight Honorees



Lynn D. Tucker, Jr.

A member of the Machinists Union since 1976, Lynn D. Tucker has held numerous elected positions in the I.A.M. Tucker spent the first 13 years of his career in New York state. In 1989, he was appointed Special Representative for the Eastern Territory. Tucker was elected as a General Vice President in 2003 and was assigned to direct I.A.M. and activities in the union's Eastern Territory, headquartered in Cincinnati. Lynn Tucker has been on the GDA board of directors since 2003. As a member of I.A.M. Executive Council, he developed a program in the Eastern territory to encourage Local and District Lodges to do a yearly fundraiser for GDA.



James (Jim) Miller

Throughout his 30-year career at United Technologies Corporation (UTC), James Miller has worked in both HR and Labor Relations at Sikorsky, the former UTC Control Systems and its corporate office, and Pratt & Whitney (PW). Miller served as Vice President Industrial Relations at PW and was the chief negotiator in several contracts with the I.A.M. during his tenure. Currently, Miller is the Vice President, Labor Relations, at United Technologies Company. Miller also formed a partnership with the GDA chapters in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts. On behalf of UTC, he coordinates efforts with District Chair Everett Covey to develop sponsorships and fundraise for GDA throughout the region.



Mark Hebert

In 1979, Mark Hebert joined the Machinists Union while working at Hamilton Standard (HSD). His union career began in 1994 as an elected shop steward. Hebert has held several local and district and positions and has been a champion for workers' rights in the workplace. In 2003, he led a reorganization campaign for new leadership in the Local. He was subsequently elected President. Currently, Hebert is serving his third term. A long-time advocate of GDA, Hebert has served on many committees over the years and raised more than \$1 million for the school.



Hugh Hazlewood

Hugh Hazlewood started working at a very young age in the family business in Albuquerque, NM. He learned early on that success equates to giving back to worthwhile charities and the community, as well as being a dedicated employee. Today, Hazlewood has a successful career as Vice President of New Business Development for LIBERTY Dental Plan. Along with his wife, Marsha, Hazlewood strives to provide quality union-negotiated benefits to union members throughout California and Nevada. Hazlewood has been "giving back" to GDA for 19 years as a member of the Board of Directors. This past year, he also served as Vice President.



Gloria and Jay Bormann

A Tip of the Hat to Our Sponsors

Tournament Sponsors

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WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR \$5?

A Customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide

Donate \$5 on a raffle ticket and you could be the lucky person riding away on a Donnie Smith-customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide as the winner of this year's GDA bike raffle. Increase your chances with a \$20 donation – you'll get five raffle tickets at that price...it's like getting one free! For more information and photos please visit the photo gallery at www.guidedogsofamerica.org.

Complete and return the order form on this page (postmarked by Nov. 13, 2010) to purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased at GDA or from our secure website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) through Nov. 13, 2010. The winning ticket will be drawn on Nov. 20, 2010, at the Guide Dogs of America Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to claim prize.)



"A DAY WITH THE TRAINERS" IS AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Once a year, two lucky people have the opportunity to spend "A Day with the Trainers." The one-day experience of a lifetime includes accompanying our trainers on training routes; observing daily training exercises; and, after being blindfolded by a trainer, taking the harness in hand and going on a short route with a dog to experience how it feels to be led by a guide. Winners must be at least 18 years of age and be able to walk three to four miles in one day. The actual training date will be determined once the winners are selected.

Use the order form included in the newsletter or purchase tickets at GDA before or on June 12, 2010 (Open House). Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Winner will be notified on June 16, 2010.

IN MEMORY

It is with sadness that we note the loss of three members of our GDA family:

Brownie – Class #325

Paige – Class #333

Vidayo – Class #328

"SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PUPPY LOVE"



This beautiful "I Love Dogs" quilt was made and donated by the Orange County Quilters Guild. The quilt measures 72" x 84" and has 20 panels, each featuring a precious pooch; the quilt's border is a pattern of playful puppies.

Purchase tickets using the order form on this page and mail it to GDA postmarked by Dec. 1, 2010. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The drawing will be held at the GDA December puppy raiser meeting on Dec. 11, 2010. Winner does not need to be present.



RAFFLE TICKETS Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429.

Mail this entire form with your payment. Please note the deadline dates for the raffle ticket purchases to ensure your eligibility.

A DAY WITH THE TRAINERS RAFFLE

To be eligible, entry must be postmarked by June 10, 2010.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00. QTY \$

CUSTOM HARLEY-DAVIDSON FLHX STREET GLIDE

To be eligible, entry must be postmarked by November 13, 2010.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00. QTY \$

QUILT RAFFLE

To be eligible, entry must be postmarked by December 1, 2010.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$2.00 or 6 tickets for \$10.00. QTY \$

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Credit Card (check one) VISA MasterCard Discover

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Card Number: _____

Signature: (required for credit card purchase) _____

Check (make your check payable to **Guide Dogs of America**)

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America ATTN: Raffle Tickets Order Form
13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342 **Or use the enclosed envelope.**

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Class #364

GRADUATES from LEFT to RIGHT:
Pam Hill-Metz & Kingston (*Jeff & Melissa Orenstein*),
Kristi Stone & Persia (*The Lockman Family*), Michael
Nelson & Tanner (*The Jewell Family*), Lorri Bernson
& Carter (*Ruth-Anna Congrove and Brian &
Nancy Matthews*)

INSTRUCTORS (standing, left to right): Patty
Elizondo, Tiffany Andrews and Linda Hawes
(*not pictured*)



**GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

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GDA STUDENT DORM SPRING SPRUCE UP

The GDA dorm houses our students and their guide dogs during their four weeks of class on campus. It is their home away from home while they are in training and it is in need of a Spring Spruce Up. We have a short list of items that are in need of replacement and we would greatly appreciate the donation of any of the following:

- Bath towels
- Hand towels
- Washcloths
- Bath mats (non-skid)
- Lamps (side table, floor, desk)*
- Double/full sheets
- Homestore gift cards (for example: Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, IKEA, etc.)

*Please call (818) 833-6431 before ordering these specially marked items to make sure these "wishes" have not already been filled, as we only need a small number of each. Items sent directly to GDA should be addressed:
"Attention: Lorri Bernson."

YOU HAVE OUR ATTENTION

If you have suggestions for future articles or "Graduate Questions," or if you have comments about the newsletter, please email :
partners@guideddogsofamerica.org.

GDA EVENTS – HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE



For events and involvement opportunities in your area, please visit the GDA website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and click on "Events Calendar."



Partners
newsletter

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