

GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA Partners

Winter 2011 volume 26 number 1

The Day in the Life of the GDA Kennel

There's a Routine, but Nothing About It is Routine



*Kennel Manager,
Dixie Gadapee*

The first thing you learn about a typical day at the GDA kennel for Kennel Manager Dixie Gadapee and our five full-time and one part-time kennel techs is — it's never "typical."

"We are busy all day, every day. There are days that are less hectic than others, but there's never a day that I would describe as boring," said Gadapee, who has been at GDA for two years and has more than 30 years experience working with dogs. "We have a system, but nothing is ever routine."

Gadapee and the kennel techs make sure the dogs under their care are never bored, either. The day begins at 8 a.m. and, each day, every dog receives their personal attention. The dogs are fed twice daily, the individual kennels are rinsed and cleaned every morning, and "recycling" is picked up throughout the day. Before, in between and after those activities, the staff administers medications as prescribed to individual dogs, as well as attends to vet checks, community play time (for socialization), grooming and bathing. Guide dogs in training receive some obedience training from the kennel staff in addition to their formal training. They also have weekly weigh-ins to make sure they aren't gaining (or losing) weight, which could indicate an underlying illness or simply signal that a change of diet is necessary.

More than 150 dogs can be accommodated in the kennels, although the average number of dogs at one time is usually 60 to 75. There are two sides of the kennel, and two techs are assigned to each side. One side is for dogs in formal training and the other is occupied primarily by puppies-in-training that are boarding at the school, which means many days also involve checking dogs in and out. Dogs arriving for boarding are checked in by one of the kennel techs, who will look at the dog's teeth, gums, eyes and ears, as well as check the stomach to make sure there are no bumps or scratches or fleas. Anything that looks unusual is written up and there will be a vet check on the dog to make sure everything is O.K. Check-in also includes learning about what the dog eats, whether it's on medication and if there are any



*Chris Medina,
Kennel Tech*



*Larry Bourbon,
Kennel Tech*

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President's Message



My first year as President of Guide Dogs of America went by incredibly fast. We accomplished a lot this year, with improvements

in and around the school made possible by the generous support of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers and the hard work of the GDA staff. One of the most visible projects that we were able to bring to fruition was the enhancement of the graduation area, which was dedicated recently as the Tom and Helen Morton Graduation Area. The large, weather-proof canopy that now covers the area also features a stage, lighting, speakers and ceiling fans. This is a significant improvement to the campus that will be used throughout the year — rain or shine — for graduations, as well as events held at the school.

I am so grateful for all of the support I have received in this first year of my leadership. It was an honor to be selected for this position and I am looking forward to serving the school for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dale Hartford, President

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.

Vet's Corner

Dogs are People Too

Just as humans feel stress in situations that are uncomfortable, dogs experience stress in much the same way. Some of the most common causes of stress in dogs include changes in the home environment, physical pain, confinement, separation anxiety, boredom, noise intolerance and fear of other animals. Your dog cannot tell you in words when he is stressed or what is causing it, but there are telling physical and behavioral signals that — if persistent — could indicate your dog is feeling stressed out.

As attentive dog owners, we often sense when something is amiss with our dogs. If you notice that he is shaking, yawning or scratching excessively, or suffering from diarrhea and/or vomiting, these could be physical signs that your dog is under stress. Negative behavior changes — such as barking, digging and destructive chewing — can also be indicators of stress. Passive stress cues include, avoiding eye contact, keeping tail between the legs, or refusing food and treats. These are typical symptoms of stress; however, you should always consult your veterinarian regarding any concerns about your dog's health or well being, especially if the changes are sudden and persistent.

If your dog's reactions are stress-related, there are several things you can do to alleviate the stress:

- Keep surroundings calm until he feels better
- Play soothing music (recent studies indicate that certain music, such as harp, calms dogs and other animals)
- Provide chew toys
- Create a "safe place" where he can retreat and feel secure
- Include daily exercise in his routine
- Offer extra kindness and patience
- Take him to the veterinarian — he may need medications or a checkup for hidden illness

Dogs (and their owners) are much less prone to stress if they lead happy lives and have positive experiences. Early socialization and exposure to all kinds of experiences are important. Your dog wants to please you and early obedience training will result in a well-behaved dog and a happy owner. As a responsible dog owner, always be sure your dog gets the attention he deserves and engages in some daily exercise (it's good for both of you). All of these things will help you bond and develop a close relationship so that when your "best friend" is feeling out of sorts, you will pick up on the subtle signs and be able to avoid or eliminate stress.

The Day in the Life continued from page 1



Patrick Trigueros,
Kennel Tech

behavior issues the puppy raiser wants the puppy department to know about and work on. Every dog that comes into the kennel also receives a bath after check-in and on check-out day.

"We have an incredible kennel staff. They all work really hard and are very attentive to every dog that comes to the kennel," said Gadapee. "They may notice something on a dog coming in or a change in one of the dogs already in the kennel. It may be something like a bit of hair loss. It may mean nothing, but often it's something to be noted. By writing it up and bringing it to the attention of the vet, we can catch things early and resolve the issue before it becomes a problem."

GDA's puppies-in-training start to become familiarized with the kennel at about six months of age. In addition to coming in for evaluations it also helps the puppy become comfortable spending the night away from the puppy raiser and adapting to a new situation.

"Puppies staying for the first time get extra attention from the staff. It helps them feel more comfortable," said Gadapee. "If they do well on the day stay, then they come and stay one night, then a couple of nights. After a few stays, puppy raisers tell us their puppies begin to perk up in the car as soon as they turn onto GDA's street."

"These stays help to make it easier on the puppies when they come in for formal training at about 18 months of age," said Gadapee. "These now guide dogs-in-training usually spend between six and eight months living in the kennel as they train to become class ready and paired with a student."

In addition to puppies-in-training being boarded and those in formal training to become guide dogs, GDA breeder dogs and puppies that come into heat spend that time in the kennels. During those three weeks, the puppy raiser or breeder family comes in to spend time with the dog. On occasion, graduates also board their guide dogs if they need to bring them in for a vet check or if they need to be gone for a few days and cannot bring their dog. The guide dogs remember life at the kennel. It provides an easy transition for them and peace of mind for the graduates.

The kennel is more than a place where GDA's dogs come and stay. It provides a comfortable and caring environment that contributes to their overall training to become a guide dog.

"We make a difference here. We make a difference in people's lives. Everything we do at the kennel has a reason, from the socialization with the other dogs to giving them that extra attention during their first stays," explained Gadapee. "When a puppy has a positive experience in a new environment, it makes it that much easier for them and their partner to experience new things together in the future as a team."



Brook Patterson,
Kennel Tech



Jan Stevens,
Kennel Tech



Xochitl Sanchez,
Kennel Tech



Matt Winchester,
Kennel Tech

Donor Spotlight

The Morton Family and The Morton Foundation

At a recent Guide Dogs of America graduation, the school dedicated the new Tom and Helen Morton Graduation Area. At the dedication, Tom's son, Paul Morton, spoke about what sparked his father's interest in GDA almost 35 years ago — as well as why, eight years after his father's passing, the school continues to receive the generous support of Helen Morton, the Morton Family, the family's various business enterprises and its Foundation.

Tom Morton's interest in GDA started when one of his first clients, the Machinists Union, asked him to support the school by playing in its annual charity golf tournament. An avid golfer, Tom agreed to play. That day, he learned a lot about Guide Dogs of America and its program and he liked everything he saw. Tom's support of the school continued to grow over the years and, in 2001, he was honored with the Gift of Sight Award. His family continues that legacy of giving.

"My father was completely inspired by GDA and all of the people that make it work. He supported the cause because he believed in it," explained son Paul at the dedication. "Our family's support of the school has survived my father's passing and is the largest single annual donation we make to any one organization."

When the senior Morton passed away, there was nothing that said he wished his support of the school continue, but that is what the family has chosen to do. In fact, every year, the six siblings gather along with Helen Morton to evaluate Guide Dogs of America and all of the charities to which they give.

"'Feel good' is great, but there also has to be a 'do good' for us (The Morton Foundation) to consider an organization or cause," explained Morton. "We base our decisions on the intellectual reasons for giving. Is it run efficiently? Is it effective in its mission? Guide Dogs of America is exceptionally well run. They don't do frills. What they do is change lives. They are a great example of what it means to 'do good.'"



Tom Morton and Sweeps

GDA President Dale Hartford approached Paul about the graduation area naming opportunity. "I thought it was a really good idea. They could have built something for two to three times the amount, but that is not GDA's style. The graduation area has been completely transformed with a new structure, stage, sound and lighting and it is perfect for the school. It is exactly what it should be and it's a very effective use of our donation. Our

family is very proud to have the names Tom and Helen Morton on the new graduation area."

At the graduation, during which the new area was dedicated, Paul listened as all the graduates spoke and was reminded that they all come from different walks of life. No two arrive at the school with the same circumstances. "One of the grads said, 'You know what we found despite our incredible differences? That we had fundamental things in common and that the loss of sight was the least of them. What we share is a desire to live a life with independence,'" recalled Paul. "Students don't come to the school asking, 'Please do something for me.' They are at the school because they want to do something for themselves. GDA lets its students know that they understand their situation and, if you are willing to work for your independence, we can help. It is an organization with great energy and a great compassion for helping people. That is the magic of Guide Dogs of America."

The Morton Family has been a proud GDA donor for more than three decades. For anyone considering making a gift to the school — in any amount — Paul, who was a Gift of Sight honoree recommends they go to a graduation.

"Go sit for an hour and watch 10 lives come to 'life' in front of you. You will understand how profound it is to give a dog as a partner to someone who is visually impaired. What a difference this is going to make in their lives."

Partners in Trust



Make your gift to Guide Dogs of America last a lifetime and beyond. The Partners in Trust Society was established by GDA as a way to recognize and honor the generosity of those who have included the school in their planned giving. Providing life income gifts and bequests lets your gift continue working beyond your lifetime to help others achieve

their goals with increased mobility and independence through a partnership with a loyal and loving guide dog. Charitable organizations are not subject to gift or estate taxes so your gift continues to support the causes close to your heart, like Guide Dogs of America, without being diminished by the IRS.

You will receive our special "Partners in Trust" crystal jar as our way of thanking you. We hope that you will display it proudly, knowing the difference you are making in the lives of others through supporting Guide Dogs of America. Please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

Have you visited our Financial and Gift Planning Guide website?

1. Go to www.guidedogsofamerica.org
2. Click on the "How to Help" link along the top.
3. Click on the "Gift Planning" link on the left.
4. Click on "Estate Planning" from the drop down menu.

GDA Las Vegas Charity Weekend

Raising Money for GDA and Living It Up in “Margaritaville”



There was much to celebrate in “Margaritaville” (a.k.a., Guide Dogs of America’s Las Vegas Charity weekend), which once again proved to be one of GDA’s most popular and most successful fundraising activities.

The three-day event got off to a roaring start with the 10th Annual Las Vegas Hawgs for Dogs motorcycle ride, which drew 38 motorcycles and 57 people. This year’s route included taking riders 900 feet above the Colorado River on the newly completed Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge.

The following morning, nearly 200 golfers gathered for the charity golf tournament at Angel Park Golf Club

The final event of the fundraising weekend was the 30th Annual Guide Dogs of America William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet, which was held at the Paris Hotel. One of the highlights of the evening was an inspirational speech made by GDA graduate Thomas Olzak. With guide dog Wrigley at his side, Olzak explained to the almost 1,000 guests that he was fortunate to have many successes prior to losing his vision and shared how having Wrigley has helped him to continue to thrive and to live life to the fullest.

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. Three 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



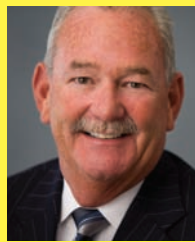
Jay Bormann joined the Machinists Union in 1969 when he was hired as an apprentice machinist for Portland Iron Works. Bormann held several elected positions in Local Lodge 63, including auditor and trustee, vice president, delegate to Multnomah Central Labor Council, Oregon State Machinists Council, and District 24 Council. He worked on the first Guide Dogs of America fundraiser in District 24, an event which continues to this day. Bormann

was appointed by the governor to the State Machinist Apprenticeship Board and served in this position for 13 years. Bormann was elected president of District Lodge 24 in 1982. He was elected full-time secretary-treasurer 1988 and, in 1991, he was appointed as a Grand Lodge auditor covering the states of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama. Bormann was appointed director of Guide Dogs of America in 1999 and served in this position until he retired in 2009.



Dave Ritchie has been a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) for the past 37 years. Immediately upon joining the Toronto IAM Local Lodge 1755 in 1973, Ritchie became active in his union. He has held numerous positions at the local level and currently serves as a member of the IAM Executive Council and coordinates the administration of services for some 50,000 Canadian IAM members. As senior

officer of the IAM in Canada, he serves as a vice president on the Executive Council of the Canadian Labour Congress. He is also co-chair of the Canadian IAM Labour Management Pension Fund. Ritchie is now a member of Local Lodge 235 following its merger with Local Lodge 1755. Ritchie is an avid supporter of the Guide Dogs of America. Since 1997, through the Dave Ritchie Invitational Golf Tournament held each year in Toronto, he raises more than \$30,000 annually for GDA.



Casey Scott had the opportunity to advise District 24 in Portland on its 401(k) plan investments. Since then, he has been involved with numerous Machinists Districts and Locals, advising them on investment strategies for their funds, and has been giving investment advice for Guide Dogs of America since 2004. Scott formed the Scott Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities, now of Wells Fargo Advisors, in 2000. It brings its clients the

service and experience of a family boutique with the financial network and strength of one of the nation's largest investment firms. With

more than 25 years of experience, Scott has received firm-wide recognition with inclusion in Wells Fargo Advisors' Premier Advisor program for achieving high ethical standards and maintaining his commitment to client service excellence.



(left to right) David Ritchie (honoree), Dale Hartford, GDA Director, Jay Bormann (honoree), R. Thomas Buffenbarger IMAW International President, Casey Scott (honoree)



30th Annual – Guide Dogs of America Charity Golf Tournament



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Special Thanks

Aer Lingus
Alaska Airlines
Continental Airlines



Corrections

The following individuals and organizations were left off of the Parade of Partners list in our fall 2010 issue in error. Please join us in thanking these dedicated volunteers and sponsors.

Puppy Raisers

The Blanco-Johnson Family ... Giselle
Alan & Cindi Bleemers Farah
Denise Brown Fern
Ed & Marilyn Johnson Fia
The Kim Family Ginny
Tina Nilsson Finley
Tom & Gabriela Park Fletcher
The Phillips Family Genghis
The Pitt Family Doug
Audrey Rohrer Garfield
Bob & Kathy Stegemann Fenix
Sheila Treston-Abrania Fergie
Brian Warloe Gunner
Dave & Cindi Weldon Gypsy

Individual Puppy Sponsor

Ventura H.O.G. Chapter Harley

In Memory

It is with sadness that we note the loss of a member of the GDA family:

Mark Oswald – Class #s 294 & 326, in-home

With sadness, we also note the passing of the following guide dog and breeder dog:

Breena – Breeder

Maverick – Class #362

2011 GDA “Trike” Raffle



Photo representative of make and model only

This year the GDA bike raffle will be a “trike” raffle – a 2011 Harley-Davidson FLHTCUT Tri Glide Ultra Classic. The winning ticket will be drawn on Nov. 19, 2011, at the Guide Dogs of America Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to claim prize.) More details and photos will appear in the next newsletter.

2010 Bike Raffle Winner



Congratulations to the winner of the 2010 Bike Raffle. Darla Morgan of St. Paul, MN held the winning ticket for the FLHX Streetglide, which was drawn at the Charity Banquet in Las Vegas.

Congratulations Graduates

Class #367



Graduates (left to right): Jessica Pitzer and Kip (*Chuck & Pat Czuleger*), Alberta Hall and Loman (*Sheila & Shelly Harvey*), Scott Bernstein and Thunder (*Jerry & Sydney Cain*), Dennis Meech and Lefty (*The Manzer Family*), Laura Landry and Jack (*Glyn Judson*), Desi Noller and Trevor (*Nancy Ward*), Brent Avery and Tyler (*Butch & Karen Reyburn*), Gail Powell and Naina (*Brian & Tina White*), Mike Premro and Brisco (*Kathy Tallant & Art Richardson*)

Instructors standing from (left to right): Bryan Young, Tiffany Andrews, Dave Ponce, Mindy Romero

Class #367.5



Graduates (left to right): Wanda Burnett & Rusty (*The Lockman Family*), Jim Bobryk & Mark (*Chris Housel*), Lynn Coats & Kendall (*Cindy Valancius*), Phil Hughes & Norman (*The MacKenzie Family*), Rhonda Hutson & Pax (*Roger Reyes*), Sherry Layne & Nellie (*Don & Rita Tayenaka*), Ron Govin & Sulley (*Bill & Grace Scully*), Victoria Herrera & Purdue (*The Frieman Family*), Donni Mitchell & Moby (*Sarah & Margaret Jackson*)

Instructors standing from (left to right): Linda Hawes, Bryan Young and Tiffany Andrews

In-home Graduate: Roy Novotny and Chuck (*Allen & Beverly Adams*)



**GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

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2011 Holiday Card Contest

This Year's Holiday Memories Could Be Next Year's GDA Holiday Card



You know your precious pup or adorable dog brings you comfort and joy year-round, but he or she could be sending holiday cheer to everyone next season if your photo is chosen in this very special GDA holiday card photo contest. Send us your favorite photo — only one entry per family, please. The winning photo will be used for the 2011 GDA holiday card. Submission details follow:

- All photos **MUST** be submitted via E-MAIL (as an attachment) by June 1, 2011 to partners@guidedogsofamerica.org
- Winner will be notified on June 15, 2011 and will be posted on the website
- Please make sure that the e-mail includes your full name, address, phone and best e-mail address for contact
- All photo entries become the property of GDA
- Credit for the winning photo will be given



2011 Calendar of GDA Events

Graduations – Jan. 23, May 1, July 10, Oct. 23

5th Annual GDA Partners Dinner – Feb. 26

8th Annual Ride for Guides – May 22

Open House – June 11



Partners newsletter

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