



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Raiser of the Month

March-April 2020

Roma...Whip-smart and good natured!

We found out we were getting Roma over the 2018 Christmas holiday when we were vacationing in – no kidding – Rome. Our pet dog, a 12-year old Portuguese water dog, had died several months earlier. So, after giving ourselves some time to mourn her death, we decided to try raising a pup for Guiding Eyes.

We missed having a dog around the house and were looking forward to the fun and stimulation of raising a puppy, especially one that came with a specific start date and a semi-specific end date. We were also looking forward to the intensive training that GEB would be providing.

The training has been demanding, but the support from GEB staff, Jeanyne, Jean and all the wonderful trainers and raisers has been terrific. We send out a special shout-out to our raiser cohort of Bobbi and Jody and our puppy play cohort of Amy and Brian for all their generous advice.

The outings we've done with Roma have introduced us to new places like local schools and universities, and encouraged us to see familiar places like BWI Airport and the Capital building, with new eyes.



Having already passed her IFT in Yorktown Heights and being put on brood watch, Roma has come back to live with us until the coronavirus closings wind down. As a “dogini” of some local renown (having participated in 20-plus classes at “Simon Says” yoga studio in Bethesda), Roma is continuing to bring us positive energy and joy during a difficult time.

Our experience with Roma and GEB has been much more than we anticipated. Roma has been, for the most part, a delight, whip-smart and good-natured to the point of goofiness. The one exception to Roma’s charm is the constant shedding which, after our non-shedding pet dogs, can only be described as epic.



Roma dressing up for the Christmas holiday



Roma has made us proud!

Fred and Cathy



Raiser of the Month

Saxon....The squirrel whisperer!

I find myself in a very strange place writing this because things are very different from when I raised the last 14 pups and got to the time to say goodbye as they would head back for IFT.

Saxon was scheduled, tested and passed his IFT in March but was sent back the very next day to await the day when everything could proceed back to normal following the end of the Corona Virus.

After telling my pet, Louie, that we finished another puppy and Saxon would not be back, I drove home 4 days later which resulted in Louie giving me the "side eye". While I am very happy to have him back, it will be hard to go through the process of sending him back to NY again.



Saxon was different from my other pups (all black male labs as most of you know). He was known for how quickly he settled and this was never more evident than when I put him in the van surrounded by four pups on his left, four on his right and two levels high. The woman driving said "look how good that one has settled" and I looked as she was pointing at Saxon. He was already lying down comfortably and watching eight of his new best friends, many quivering with excitement.

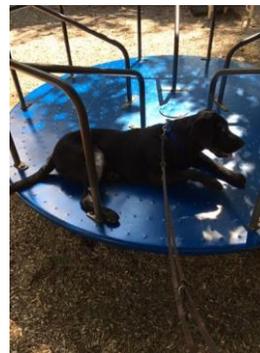
I have also nicknamed him "The Squirrel Whisperer". I have a deck that is one-story above the ground and every year there will be a squirrel family in the top of my gazebo.

The newest family had two babies that grew up under Saxon's watchful eye. Saxon loved to watch them playing in the backyard and waited for them to come back to the nest. When they climbed up, he knew too slowly lie down and stay still if they were to come up. He made fast friends with at least one of the young ones who would lie on the railing while Saxon was no more than 3 feet away looking up at him.

I was entertained most afternoons watching through the window and one day I saw the strangest thing. It looked like the squirrel he was trying to pet Saxon by reaching his tiny arm down towards him.

This was the first time I was able to watch one of my dog's IFT test prior to writing a "raiser" article. I was very proud of him and laughed when I saw him loose in the fenced area as he went back the way he came in and actually got out. I think he was going to visit the few people who were there observing the IFT.

Saxon has been a dream to raise and I am glad for the extra time I have with him.



He will make a wonderful companion in whatever career he chooses. It will be with a heavy heart when it is actually time for him to return to Guiding Eyes. We love you Saxon!!

Jody and Louie

Welcome New and Repeat Raisers

Jane's previous GEB dog, Lark, became a part of the breeding program. Now, proud grandmother Jane is raising one of Lark's pups, Blondie. and a grandson, Buddy, will be raised by another local region.



Hopi to be raised by Natalia Komissarova



Not pictured, but welcome to the Region, are the following new pups.

Repeat raiser Lauren is raising Happy
Repeat raiser Heather is raising Yasha
New raiser Zoe is raising Montana
New raiser Laine is raising Jason

Welcome repeat raiser Elaine, who will be raising Finnian along with her nephew Edward

Verizon Makes Donation to Montgomery Region

You may see him around on many occasions handling and transferring one dog for another being raised by our region coordinator, Jean. His support and dedication to help out in this manner, any many other ways we don't observe, ensures each dog can attend the proper training class and Jean is able to perform her duties for the region.

This unsung hero is Mike, Jean's husband. Mike's support has not gone unnoticed and he recently received recognition for his volunteer efforts from Verizon in the form of a monetary donation for the Montgomery Region of GEB.

Thank you Mike and thank you Verizon!

Fun Places to Go

Let us know where you like to take your pup for outings



As Roma awaits her return to New York, she is enjoying a visit from the Easter bunnies

Congratulations to Java who worked hard to earn her Canine Good Citizen badge. Jean puts a lot of time, effort and dedication to ensuring each of the guide dogs she raises does the very best they can.



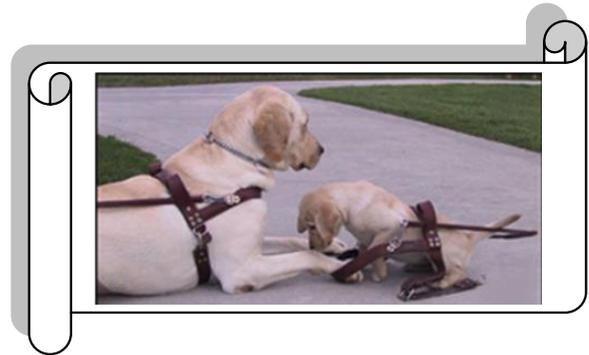
Helen visiting Belle Isle State Park in Virginia



Blondie is not afraid to explore her new environment



Fundraising in our communities Will help me grow into this harness!



The Montgomery Region is highly dependent upon donations and the monies received support class space, crates, medications and other items for our pups in training. In order to maintain this support for our volunteers and pups in training, monetary contributions are always needed.

So, how can you help? Take the time to look around your community, or inquire at your place of work or worship. You may be able to identify a business, organization or individual looking to either sponsor or contribute to a worthwhile non-profit organization.

- Restaurants – Many local restaurants will partner and host a non-profit lunch/dinner
- Retail stores – Many stores will host a shopping event
- Place of work – Is your place of work looking to make a tax deductible contribution, or already has a matching charitable contribution program
- Financial organizations, grocery stores, sororities and fraternities...can they donate
- Yard sale –Is there a yard sale in your community in which we can participate
- GEB is on the national list of non-profit participating agencies for the Combined Federal Campaign #10248

Reach out to the Region's management team, Jeanvne and Jean, with your ideas.

Listed are contributions to date for 2020

- Verizon **NEW**

*Deadline for
submission of articles
and pictures is the 1st
of each month*



Your articles will be included in future issues
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