



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Featured Stories

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Raiser of the Month

May-June 2021

Fenwick...Oh the zest for life!

From the beginning, Fenwick greeted me with an abundance of personality and spunk. New to GEB, I had no idea what was in store, but was in love immediately after picking Fenwick up from the GEB van. After no more than a few classes and one puppy sit, Fenwick became known for his vertical leaps. With his sweet personality and zest for life, he also rapidly became an office favorite at work.

While at 7 weeks, I had no idea how the tiny 12 lb. puppy in my hands was going to learn to become a guide dog. It has been an incredibly humbling experience to be part of the puppy raising journey and to experience how much work goes into training, as well as how much joy comes from the process.



It has been wonderful being able to watch Fenwick mature over the last few years, witnessing the transformation from a rambunctious teenager to a very dependable pup. Fenwick was the best of sports, trekking with me from mountains to beaches to campgrounds to fairs... you name it! He is a lover of all humans, dogs, and food... did I mention water? That boy could swim for days.

Fenwick has been a pleasure to raise, and I wish him the best of luck! As I have recently moved out of the area, he is spending the last few weeks leading up to his IFT with his puppy sitter Justin and his buddy Teddy.



Thank you to the GEB Team and all who have sat Fenwick and helped bring him to where he is today – it truly takes a village!

Cayla – Fenwick’s puppy raiser

Raiser of the Month

Doc...a ball of energy!

Doc was a ball of energy and playfulness from the moment I met him. He loved EVERYONE, and people quickly came to also love him. Doc enjoyed going for long walks, splashing in the creek near our apartment, and playing with puppy friends (especially his best bud, Neville). He was a super fan of squeaky toys, stuffed Kongs and booty scratches.



Ultimately, Doc was the sweetest, snuggliest boy and he made me laugh every day. I joke that Doc woke up each morning, stretched and said “This is going to be the BEST DAY EVER.” He really lived like that - each moment was an opportunity to enjoy whatever was put in front of him.

I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to raise the big, lanky boy. Doc Doo - I’m excited to see where your journey takes you next!

Despite his easy-to-love personality, Doc was a challenging pup to raise: He had enough testosterone to power a small army. He was never content lying down - he always wanted something to do and someone to give him attention. And he was insanely strong, which meant he tried to pull me into oncoming traffic... multiple times. While I was definitely frustrated at times, Doc taught me so many lessons in patience, gentleness and self-control. I redefined what it means to fail. I learned to love Doc for Doc, quirks and all, and he loved me right back.



Rachel – Doc’s puppy raiser (thank you to Libby also)

Raiser of the Month

Reed... taught to clean up his toys!

Whenever I’m asked “how can you give your pups up”? I often explain that it is a bit like dating. You know sometimes you go out with someone knowing it is not going to be a long term. But, they are cute and fun so you figure you’ll do it for a while. Then, after spending 24/7 together for a while, all those traits that you thought were cute and charming are now starting to get on your nerves; so, you know it’s time to break up. Then the next person they meet they marry, and you think, “yeah, that’s the right match.” People get it when I explain it this way.

But even now and then one comes along to make you think maybe I should have kept that one. Am I talking about man or pup? Well, in this case I’m talking about pup. Reed, my sweet 16, stole my heart. I don’t know if it was the timing of having him through the pandemic, but he is really the first of 16 guide dog candidates I’ve raised that I’ve wanted to keep.



He’s also the first pup I’ve taught to “clean up” his toys and put them back in his toy box. It could be where I am in life or it could be that he is just *THAT* special dog. You know the one you just click and bond with like no other.



My first German Shepard Windsor, that I got in college when my Mom talked me out of puppy raising (the only time she’s ever really been wrong about anything), was *THAT* dog. No dog has come close to Windsor until now.

It was bound to happen at some point. It just took 16 pups. We say every dog picks their path. I’ve always wanted my pups to pick the path of guiding without question. I have to admit it, this time I hope the path is back home.

Amy – Reed’s puppy raiser

“Operation Cuddle Up”

If you have not had the opportunity to read some of the articles published in the Guiding Eyes for the Blind newsletter, you will certainly enjoy reading about their newest endeavor...Operation Cuddle Up

Guiding Eyes for the Blind SPRING 2021

INSIDE GUIDE

Meet Flyer, a special passenger on a mission with “Operation Cuddle Up.”

Flyer is an affectionate, playful yellow Lab who is the first placement through “Operation Cuddle Up,” our partnership with the Chicago Lighthouse. Operation Cuddle-Up places fully trained companion dogs in the homes of families who have a child with vision loss between the ages of five and fifteen.

Though not certified guide dogs, these well-trained pets can help children reduce anxiety, learn responsibility, and prepare for guide dog ownership in the future. Flyer was excited to meet his new family, and he quickly settled in and began bonding with his new person, 14-year-old Isaac, and the rest of the family.

Flyer polices his head out of the motorcoach window before meeting his new family.

After delivering Flyer to his forever home, we met up with puppy raisers in Ohio to pick up five dogs who needed a ride back to the Guiding Eyes campus to take their In-for-Training (IFT) evaluations. Finally, we picked up one recently retired guide dog who was preparing to enjoy her golden years with a local family. All in all, a highly successful week on the road!

To read more about our journey and meet all the dogs, visit <https://www.guidingeyes.org/tails-from-the-road-rv-trip/> anytime. We extend our sincere thanks to the donors who made it all possible!

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Fun Places to Go

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



Blondie has a new home in Larchmont NY with her brood foster. They have 3 adult girls ranging in age from 18-22 who are madly in love with this sweet, smart girl.

Blondie’s brother, Baron, has also been selected as a stud. (Jane – our very own puppy raiser is so proud of Blondie)

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



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***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.

