



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Featured Stories

Liz and Ocala Speak to Region
Welcome Repeat Raisers
Fun Places to Go

Liz and Ocala Visit Montgomery Region

July-August 2022

On June 26 Montgomery Region raisers, sitters and other volunteers attended a wonderful presentation by Liz and her Guiding Eyes dog, Ocala.

This is Liz's fourth guide dog; her first, Katarina, came to her when she was a senior in high school, helped her walk across the stage so both could receive the graduation diploma, then Katarina was retired.

Her 2nd dog, Olivia, arrived in 2004, assisted Liz through her undergraduate studies at Ithaca College, then across the graduation stage to receive their diploma. Her 3rd dog, Dalton, arrived in 2011 and worked with Liz in Chicago where she completed her Master's degree, then escorted her across the graduation stage to receive their diploma.

In February 2019 she began partnering with Ocala who now escorts her to work in Washington, D.C. where she is enjoying a Blindness Rehabilitation Technology teaching career. In addition, Liz and Dalton are partnered as a Certified Running Team.

Liz stated the decision to retire a guide dog is the most difficult, but she has always put the wants and needs of the dog above all else; but, knowing that the retired dog will go to a well-loving family (most often the original puppy raiser family), is very reassuring to her that the dog will have a good retirement life.

Below are highlights from Liz's talk:

- Set up the dog for success
- House manners are very important
- Expose the dog to as many experiences as possible
- The dog is a dog, so let it be a dog by having fun as well as training...it can't be work all the time
- As a guide dog recipient, we can have trainers, but without the raisers we would not have the dogs



February 2019 graduate – Liz and Ocala

Liz comes from southwestern Connecticut and for the last three years has played goalie for the Hartford Brailers, a Blind Hockey team in her area. Liz enjoys trying new things and says that she will try anything once. She enjoys being active, traveling, reading, and spending time with friends. She is excited to continue building a partnership with Ocala and is looking forward to those "lightbulb" moments when you succeed as a team.

She has personality! She is confident and very sure of herself. She is definitely the "I got this" type!

Guide dogs and white canes are both great Orientation and Mobility tools but come with different versions of independence. Having a guide dog works for me because I like that we overcome obstacles together. I am really looking forward to continuing to forge that bond with Ocala.

The New York City trip is always a highlight for me. It is my favorite place in the world. It's a great confidence-builder to zip down the sidewalk, navigating obstacles, when you and your dog are really in the zone together.

My advice to anyone thinking about getting a guide dog is that everyone is different and needs different things. Talk to current guide dog users about their experience and ask questions. Know what it is that you are looking for.



Welcome Repeat Raisers

Carson and Jacob will be raising Sonic



Allison welcomes new pup O'Hara



CJ is doing puppy start for Opus



Jennifer, Jay and Brian are co-raising Georgette

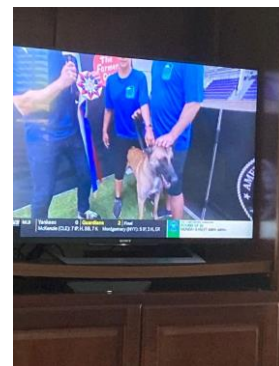
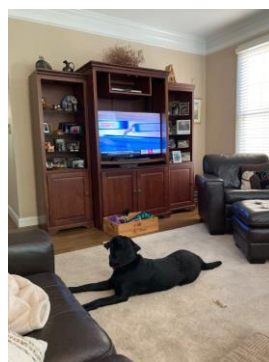


Fun Places to Go

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



While Krissy was not a candidate for the AKC Air Retrieve competition, she had a front row seat watching the event on the television. Mack received the blue ribbon jumping 21 feet and catching the hanging item in the air.



Krissy celebrating her first 4th of July day and first voting experience.

Send your articles and fun pictures for inclusion in the Newsletter



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