

## Journey, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



My name is Journey, and I am a Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training for Guide Dogs of America. I was born on December 17, 2011. I have six yellow sisters (Jade, Jasmine, Jazz, Jazzy), one yellow brother (Joshua), and one black sister (Jetta). I am being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament. This is the first installment of my progress on my "journey" to become a Guide Dog!



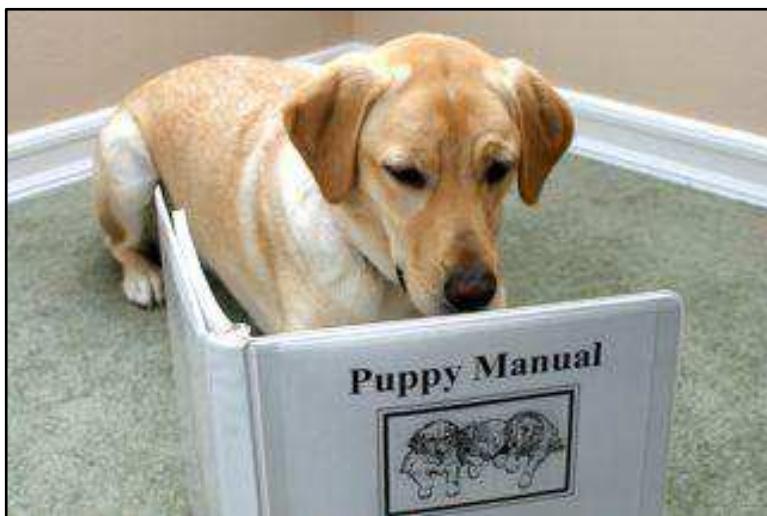
Puppy Pick-up Day is always a very exciting day! I met my new family (David, Janice, Collin, and Trevor) on February 3, 2012 and said goodbye to my littermates. Can you find me? I'm the puppy being held by the boy in the white jacket. (That's Collin, and Trevor is right next to me in the black jacket.)



Our first stop on the way home was Grandma's house. She was puppy-sitting my big sister, Denali. Denali is also a Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training for GDA. I wasn't sure what to make of Denali, but she sure liked me and wanted to play! Later, she even shared her bed with me.



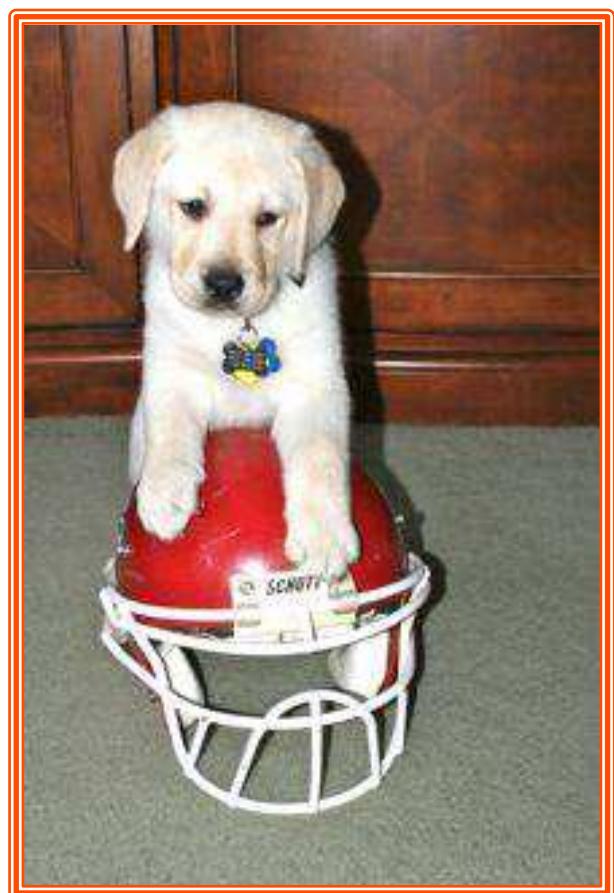
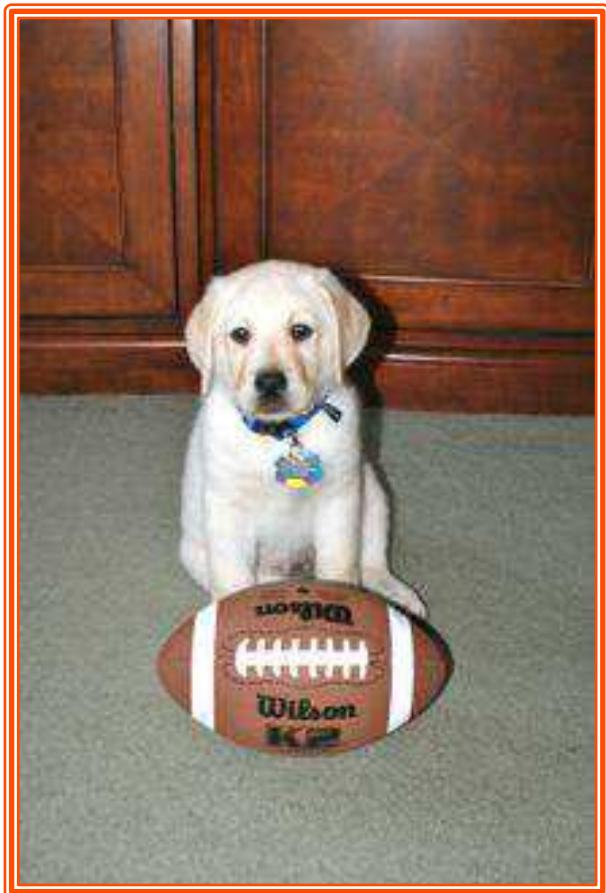
The next day, February 4<sup>th</sup>, was kind of a sad day. It was time for Denali to go back to GDA for her formal guide dog training. My family was sad to say goodbye to Denali, but they know she will do a great job at "Guide Dog College." That morning, Denali studied her puppy manual to make sure she didn't forget anything. I hope she left good notes for me because I know I have a lot to learn!





This picture is from the first day that I went to work with Mom. She works as a High School Counselor at Beverly Hills High School. Everyone was very happy to meet me, and I was a good boy in Mom's office. Lots of students came by to see me, and they all commented on how cute I was. Mom showed me where to "get busy" outside, and I was good and didn't have any accidents.

Super Bowl Sunday was fun! I don't know who won (I fell asleep before the game was over), but I had fun posing for pictures.





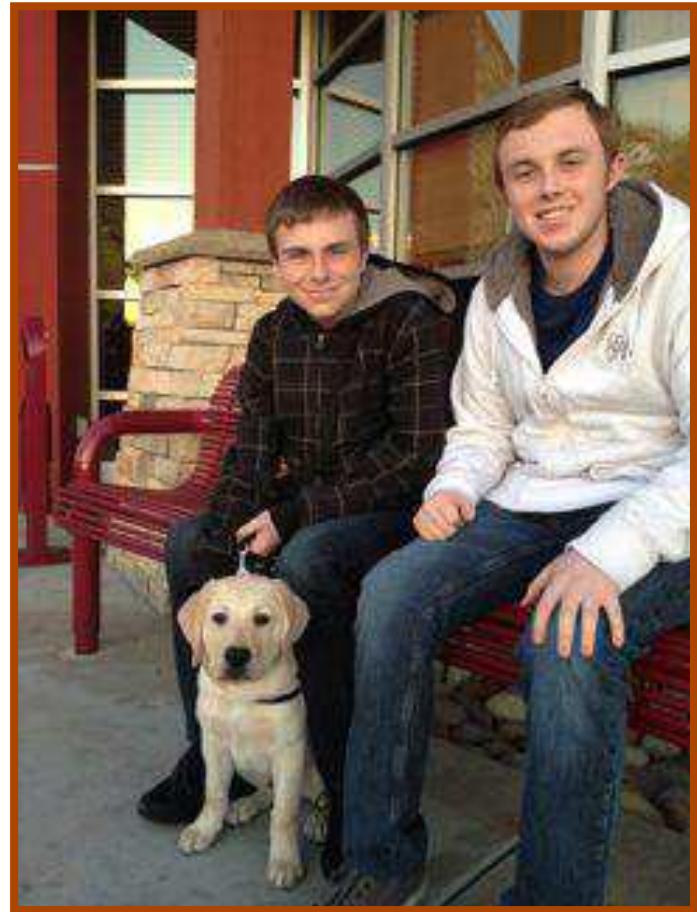
I'm getting bigger! This is a picture from one of my first outings – to Dr. Collons' office (Orthodontist extraordinaire). I worked on my public manners and remembered to stay calm, even when people pay attention to me. I was sure tired when I got home!



Being a good Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training takes a lot of work, but it's lots of fun too! Each month I go to our monthly meeting to work on obedience skills. I get to hang out with the other GDA puppies, and I learn lots from my older friends.



When I wear my special yellow jacket, I get to go special places. As part of my training, I have to go everywhere a blind, or visually impaired, person might go. This means I get to go to fun places like restaurants (but no people food for me – I'm on a strict diet of dog food only)! Here I am with Trevor and Collin outside Red Robin – one of their favorite places to eat.



Another thing that I've learned is how to be a good passenger in the car. My favorite thing to do is get comfortable on the passenger floor and fall asleep. Lucky for me – this is exactly what I'm supposed to do!

One of my favorite places to go is the monthly obedience class at GDA. I learn lots of important things there. I know I have a lot to learn if I'm going to grow up to be a guide dog, so I always pay attention in class. I'll write again in a few months and hope you'll check back in on my "journey" to be a guide dog.

Thanks for reading!

Wags and Licks!

Journey

