

Journey, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



I am growing every day! Today I got to wear my “big boy” jacket for the first time. I am being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament. This is the second installment of my progress on my “journey” to become a Guide Dog!



In June I got to participate in the “Puppy Trials” at GDA’s Open House. There were lots of distractions – chickens, llamas, balloons, and even hot dogs in flower pots! I was a good boy and didn’t eat any of the hot dogs, but they sure looked good. The trainer said there are things I need to work on (like not pulling on my leash) but that overall I did a good job.



Each month I go to a GDA meeting with the South Bay Group. All of the dogs practice their obedience before the meeting starts. There are lots of other dogs there, so I try to ignore the distractions and focus on what I'm supposed to do. Sometimes it's hard to stay focused, but I try my best!

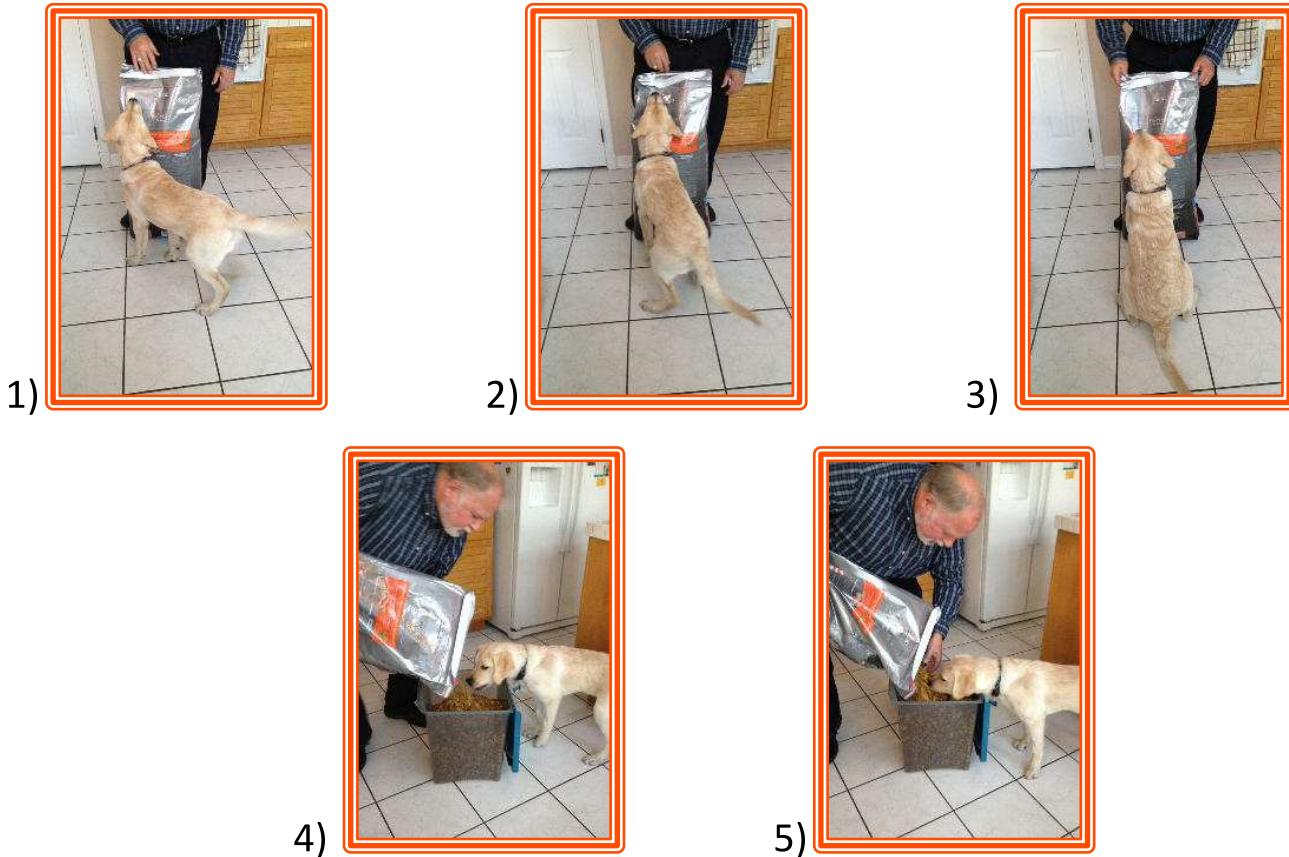


One of the things that I'm very good at is behaving in restaurants. I am expected to lie quietly under the table while my family eats. There are always lots of good smells on the floor, and sometimes there are even bits of food! I'm always very good while I'm under the table. Sometimes I forget and lick the floor, but one "Leave it!" reminder is all it takes and I go back to behaving.



Remember the picture from my first day in my Mom's office at school? Look how much I've grown! Mom swears that every time I go to sleep I grow even more! I'm a good boy when I'm at school. I know I have to practice my self-control. I have several toys to play with and I always have one of my favorite compressed rawhide bones to chew on.

Dinner Time – My Favorite Time of Day!



- 1) "Oh look! Dad's got a brand new bag of food!"
- 2) "It's my favorite kind. Hurry Dad! Put it in my bowl, please!"
- 3) "Ok, ok. I'm sitting. Can I have my food now please?"
- 4) "Could you put some in my bowl first, and then fill the dog food bin? I'm starving!"
- 5) "Never mind, Dad. I'll just help myself!"



As a puppy-in-training for Guide Dogs of America, I get to go to lots of fun places. Here I am at a shopping mall and the Rancho San Joaquin Senior Center.



While my family was on vacation, I got to stay with Colby Morita. Colby is also a puppy raiser for GDA. He raised Dublin, Denali's brother. Dublin is a real working guide dog! I want to be just like him when I grow up! I got to go to one of Colby's hockey games, and I also got to hang out with Linus and Stetson, Colby's dogs. My favorite part was going to the Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament! I got to help hand out refreshments at one of the golf holes, and I even got to sit in a golf cart! I had lots of fun while my family was gone, but I missed them and was happy to see them when they came home.



A different ending than was planned...



Sometimes things don't turn out quite as we plan them. On September 21st, we were notified that Journey was going to be career-changed, which means that he will not continue with his guide dog training. We are thankful that we had the opportunity to raise Journey and know that he will be a wonderful pet. Thank you Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament for sponsoring Journey.

