

**Elmer**  
**D.O.B. 12/22/22**  
**6 1/2 months old**

## **Sepulveda Building Materials Golf Tournament**

**Thank you for all your support and sponsorship  
to make someone's dreams come true.**



**This was Elmers first trip to the grocery store. It was such a great experience for him as we shopped at Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base's commissary. He saw men in uniform, stayed behind the cart and enjoyed all the new sights.**



**Above left: Elmer is learning the correct way to walk behind the grocery cart.  
Above right: Elmer is watching me grab something off a shelf while I'm still holding the leash.**

**Below Left: Elmer is in a "Sit Stay" with the leash on the cart.  
Below right: Sweet Elmer in a "Down Stay" position as I walk around grabby groceries.  
He did so well.**

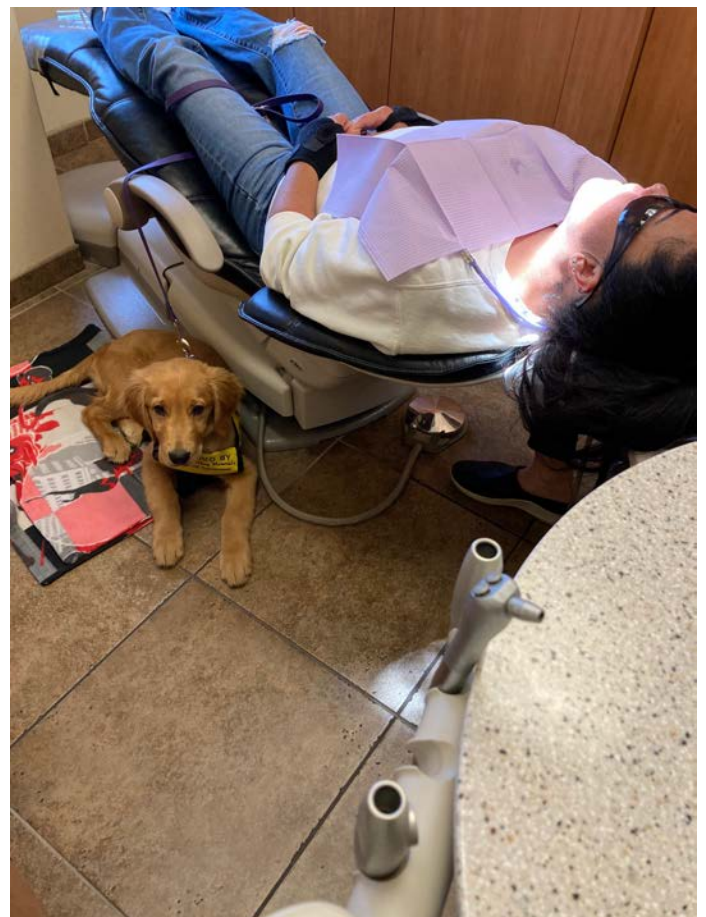






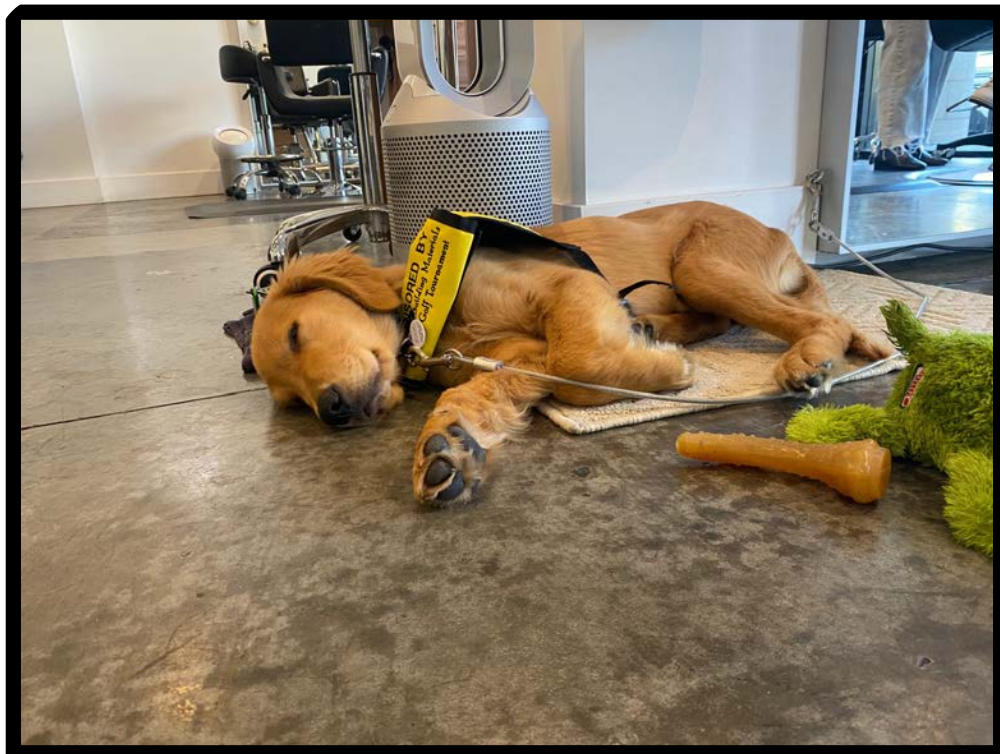
**Elmer is checking out the garbage truck. He doesn't get bothered by it at all. He just prefers to look at his momma.**

**Elmer's first time coming to the dentist with me and staying in his "down stay" position while I got my teeth cleaned. He did amazing .**





**Work Days at the Salon**  
**Elmer practicing "sit stay" and "down stay" commands and ignoring our client while I walk in front of him. Then it's nap time.**





**It's very important for service dogs to behave calmly in public and to always listen to handler no matter what the distraction is around them. This can be very challenging for any dog especially when another dog comes around him/her off leash. This happens more then it should but good thing Elmer is a GREAT listener, In the pictures below you can see how well Elmer stays in place while another dog comes around and sniffs even tries to take Elmers favorite toy**



**Oh boy is it hard to not lick the meat market windows. Elmer did his very best to keep to himself at the meat department while I get some dinner.**

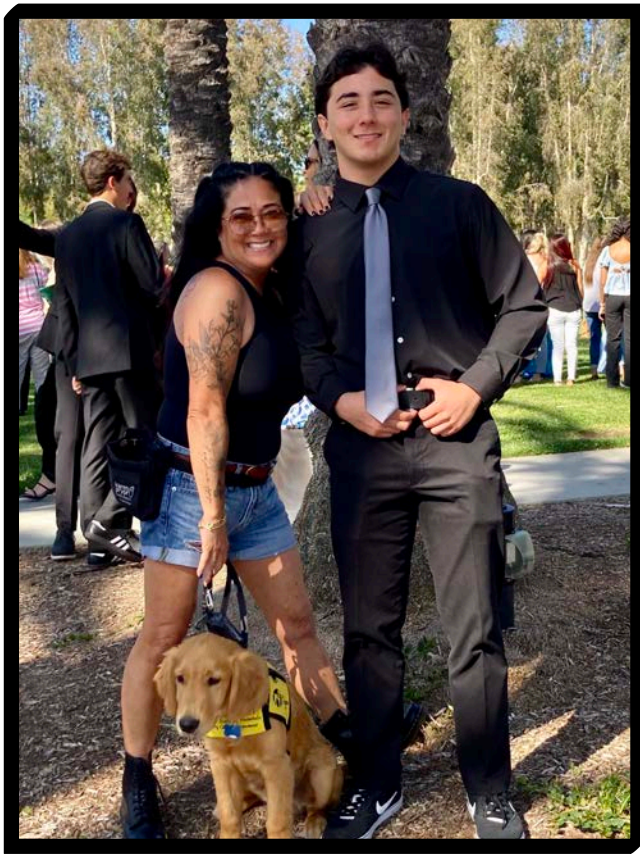




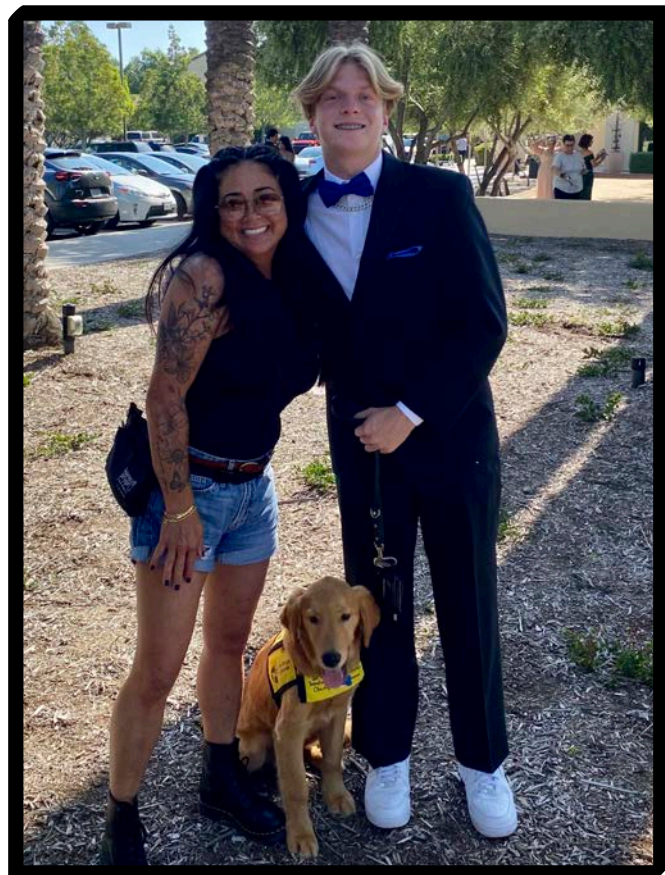


**Elmer and his “not another picture” face. I have trained other GDA dogs that have been scared of statues so I always try to take them at a young age to see and get used to them. Elmer had no issues except me taking all the pictures lol.**





**Prom 2023**  
**Elmer posed with my nephews**  
**while getting pictures done**  
**before prom. There were**  
**hundreds of people there and**  
**Elmer did great considering all**  
**the commotion going on around**  
**us.**





## **Impulse Control**

**What is impulse control, it when our dogs have the impulse to something they are not supposed to do, like jump out of the car before asked to, or to eat something off the ground when walking by, even sniffing/greeting someone while walking by them in a "let's go" command. Here is Elmer practicing "impulse control" with food. He is in a work environment where he can leave the food alone on his legs while people are talking and walking around behind me.**

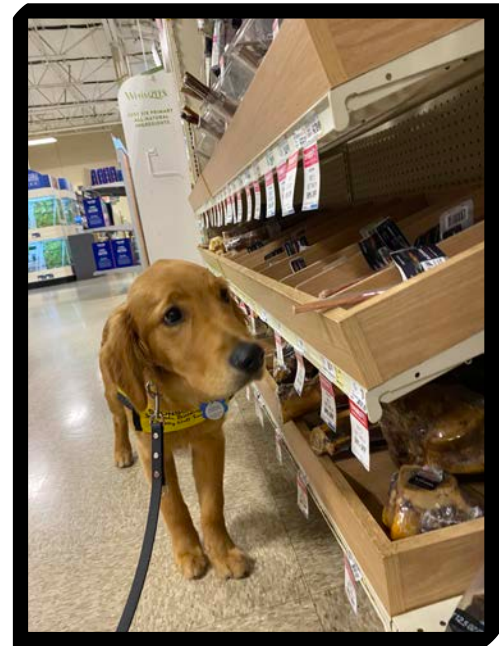




**Here we are Graduating from puppy kindergarten . Time is flying and going by so fast. I know we all say this but our boy Elmer was top of his class... He is super smart and LOVES to learn. Elmer is such a joy to train.**



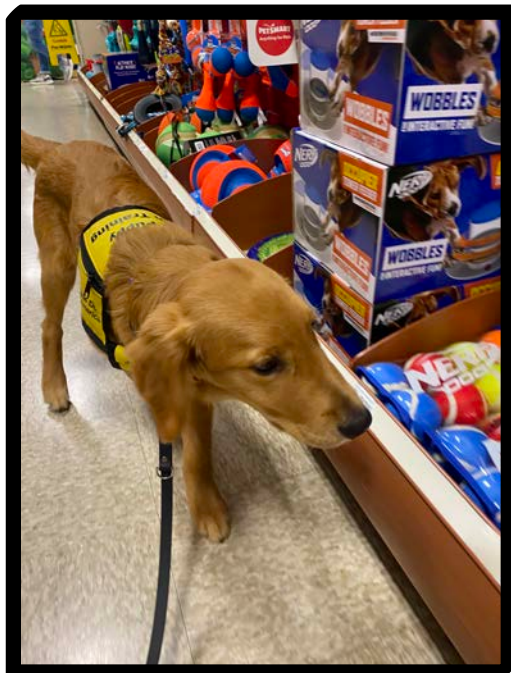




### **Pet Smart...**

**The hardest store to train in. Pet smart is the number one place I feel makes our dogs loose all "impulse control" training commands . But fortunately for me Elmer does amazing in pet smart and only sniffs when told it's ok to. With all the dogs barking, whining , and drooling Elmer keeps his composure and keeps his interest and eyes on me.**

**Good boy!**







**I took Elmer to South Coast Plaza mall to do training. We practiced all commands on the second floor while he could see through the glass at consumers down stairs. I feel its a great way to train while there are people walking around him but also below him. It helps with "impulse control" with all the distraction all around him.**  
**We also went into crowded store where he had to relax easily in small dressing rooms and not peek under the dividers.**







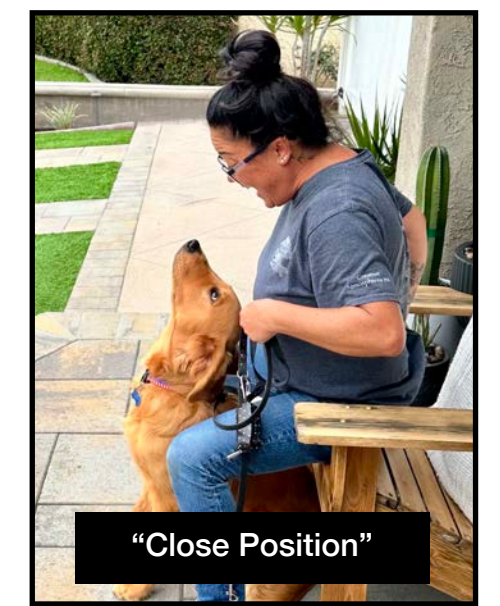
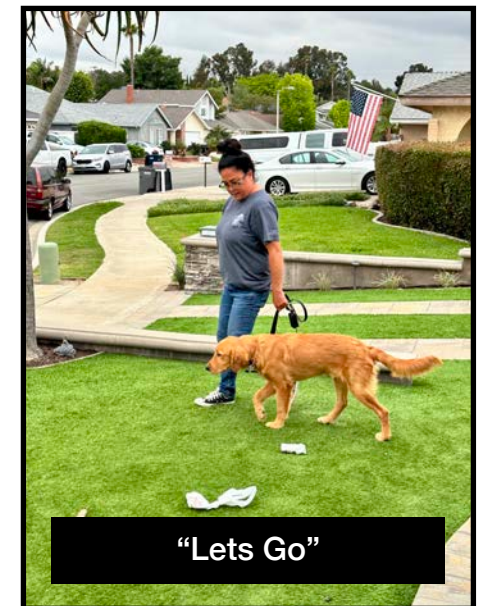
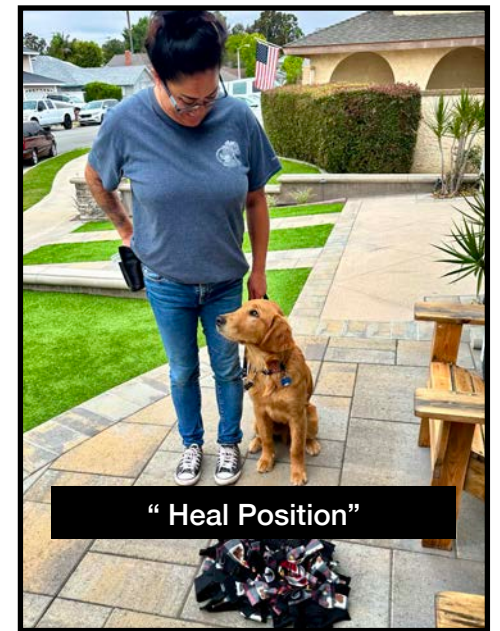
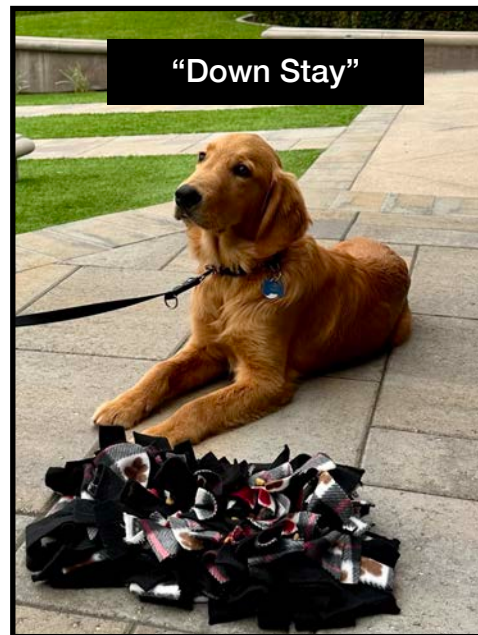
## **BUNNIES**

**Elmer visits these bunnies a lot and he absolutely loves them. He is always trying to lick them through the gate. He is so gentle around them and I think they really like his visits.**





# These are what a typical training day at home looks like.





## Hope Valley elementary school "Service Dog Day"

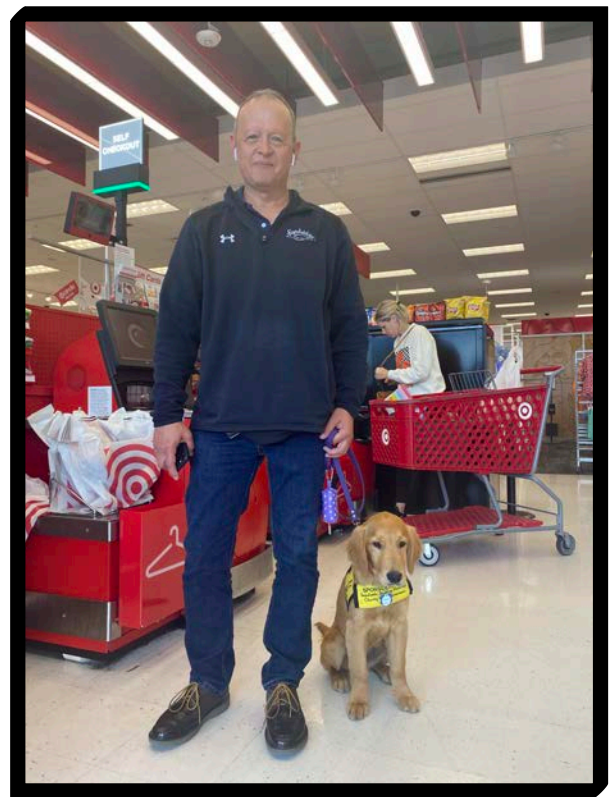
Hope Valley Elementary School does a service dog day every year where we volunteer to bring our dogs in training to walk the hallways, visit classrooms, practice a fire drill, sit at recess while kids play and run around, and have an assembly to present a check to GDA with funds raised by the kids. This is such good practice for the dogs to learn and relax easily in a chaotic situation. Elmer has a **STRONG** love for kids and always wants to play and kiss them so this was a great challenge for him.



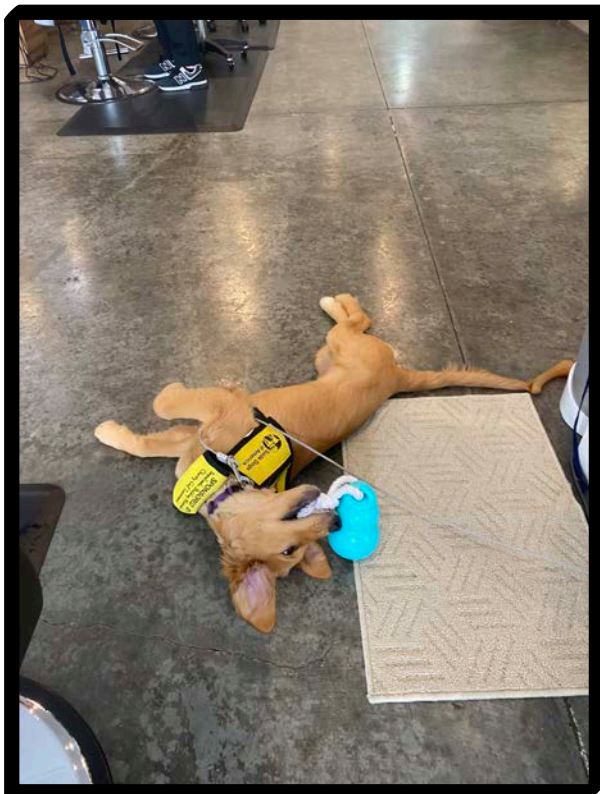








**On our breaks at work, Elmer and I train a lot, but sometimes going on walks, giving or receiving love, playing, or even just snoozing on his favorite toy is better than anything . We ran into Sepulveda worker RICK at Target.**



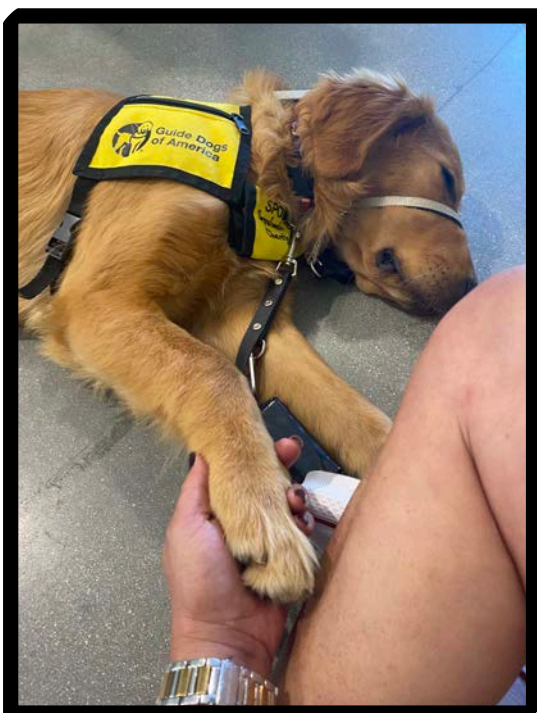
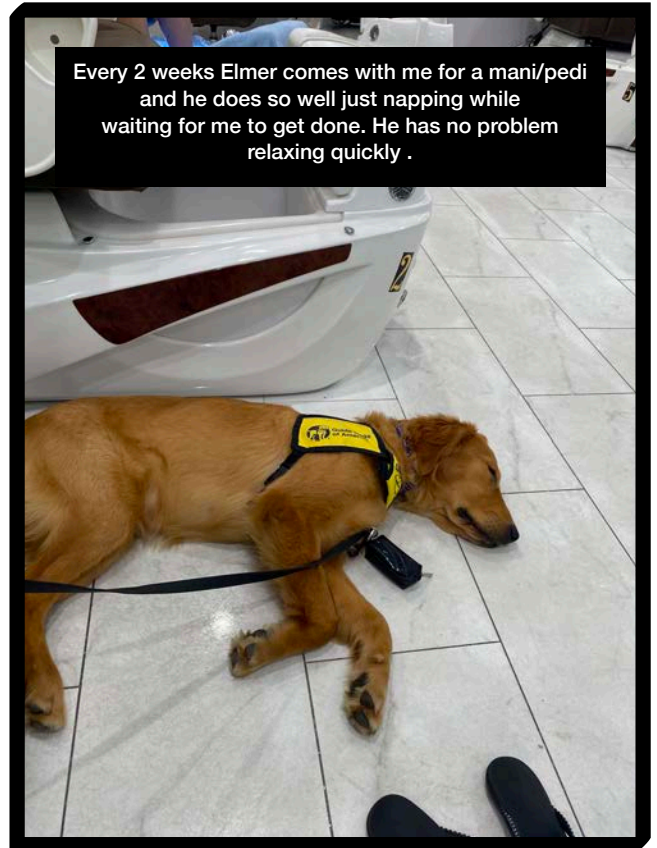


# Random Places with Elmer

Left we are in San Juan Capistrano having dinner were ELMER practices a "sit stay while a miniature pony walks by.



Every 2 weeks Elmer comes with me for a mani/pedi and he does so well just napping while waiting for me to get done. He has no problem relaxing quickly .



To the left Elmer and I at GDA graduation.



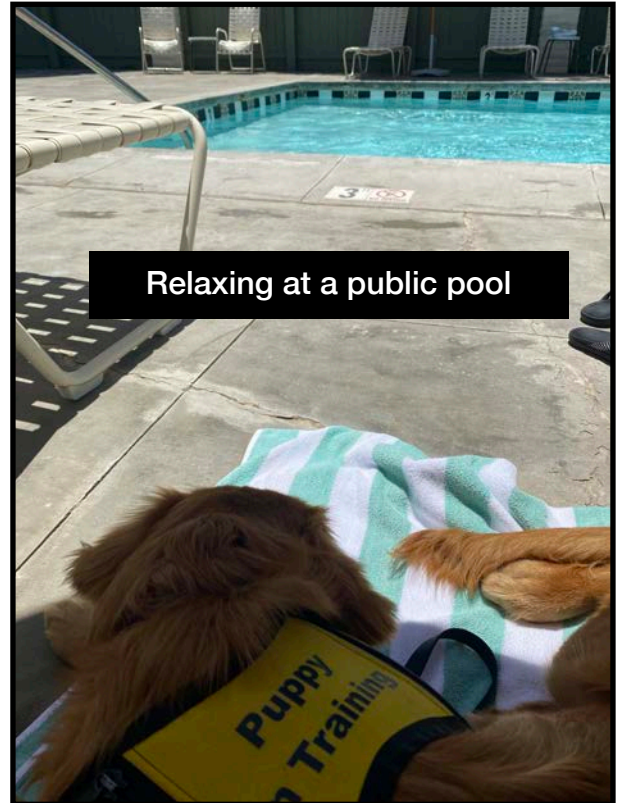


Alex and I took Elmer on vacation to Ojai. He did so well as we went to restaurants, bars, outdoor shopping, pools, and even massages. He never had an issue at any new experience and followed all his commands.

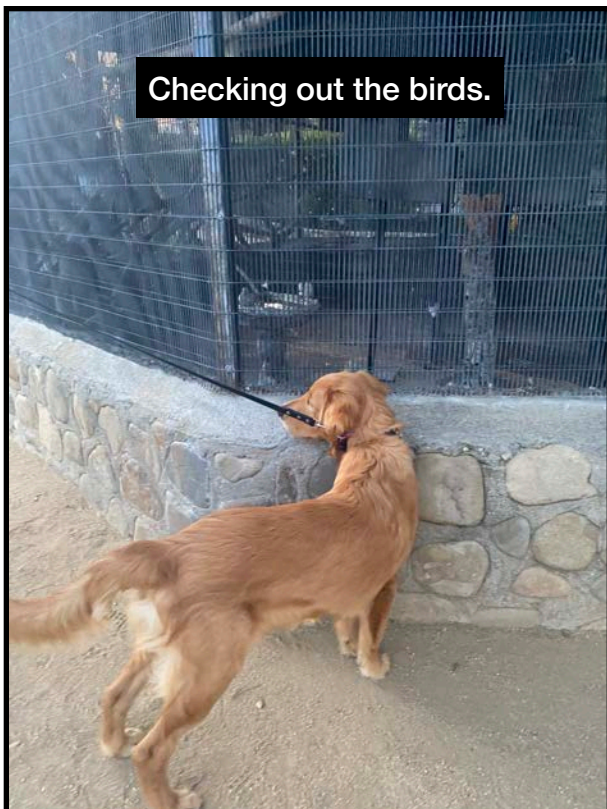
If you have ever been to Ojai you know that it is a huge dog town which means **DOGS** everywhere .  
This was a great way to train and have fun.



Meeting new friends .



Relaxing at a public pool



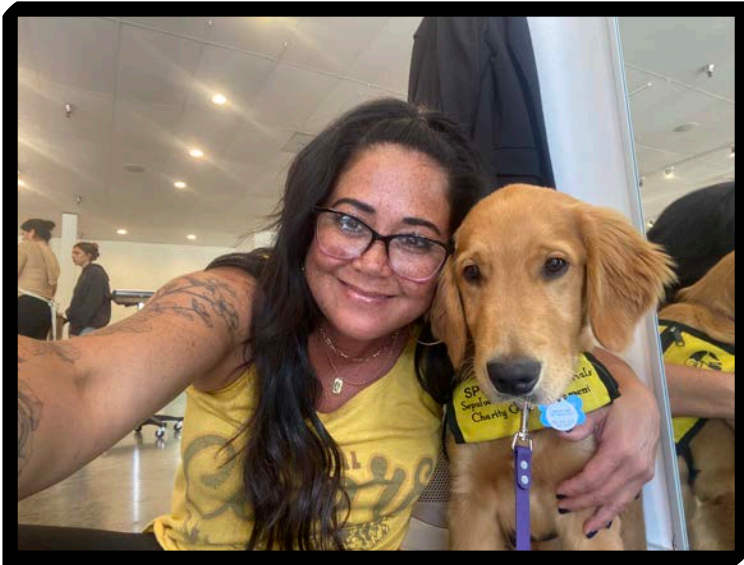
Checking out the birds.



Waking around town shopping.



# FAMILY LOVE



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**Thank you so very much Sepulveda Building Material for all you do for GDA and all the sponsors you give out. Your passion, love, and commitment to these service dogs is nothing short of selflessness and the best gift to give anyone. We are so proud to raise Elmer in behalf of you all and hope he makes you proud. Elmer is a very smart boy and quick learner who loves to play tug of war, and wrestling with our residential dogs. He ceases to amaze me at how well he does in every environment and how quickly he can relax in any public setting.**

**Elmer loves to be groomed and lay on wet grass.**

**I have found one thing he hates... FLIES.**

**Due to our dogs at home and their sensitivity to fireworks, we remained home to be safe on the 4th of July and Elmer did not have any reactions to the boom and crackling of the fireworks.**

**Thank you again for this opportunity and can't wait to give you his next updates.  
See you all around the shop**

**Elmer, Charlene, and Alex Gagnon**

**Paws & Kisses**

