

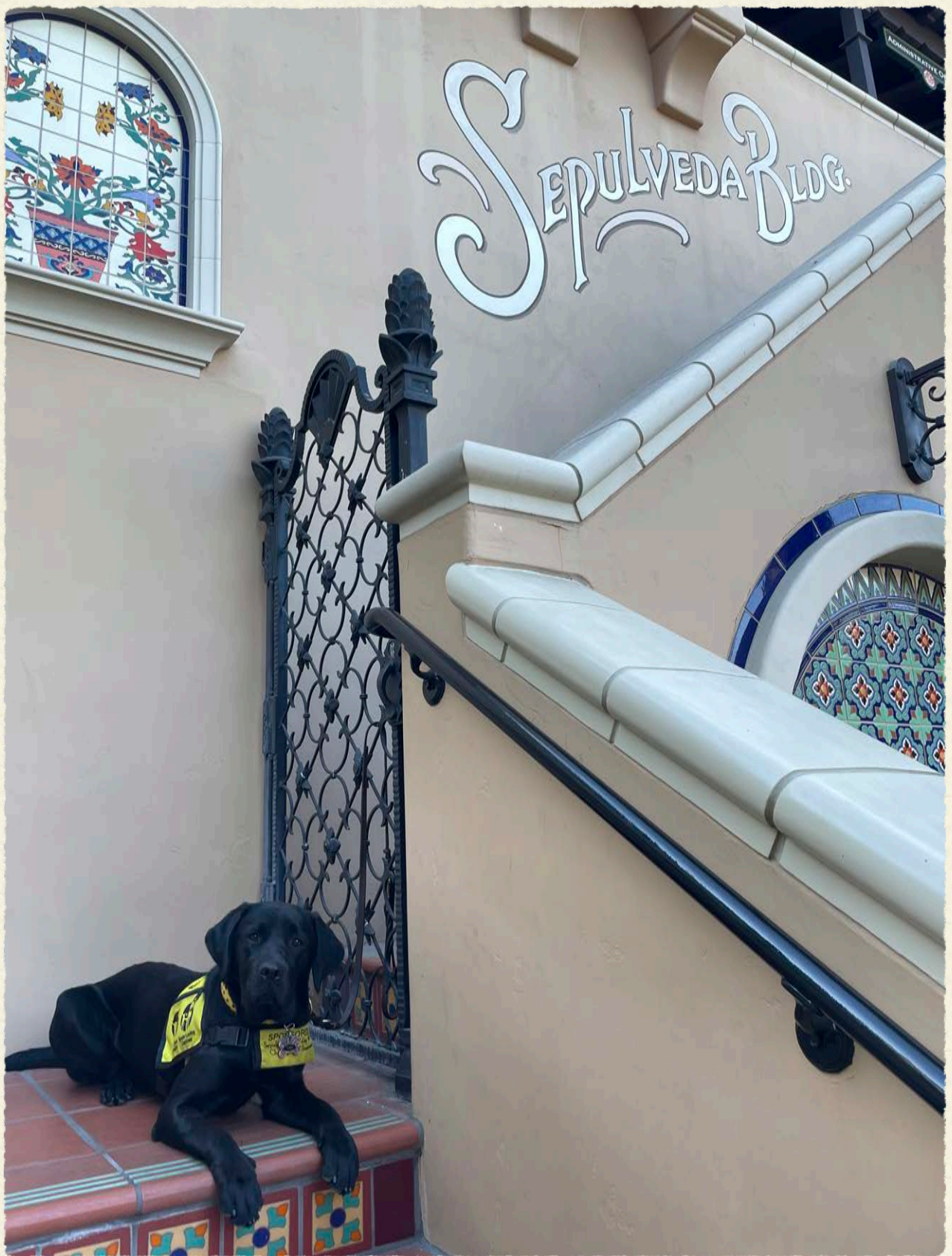
HOLIDAY SEASON:



THE ADVENTURES OF *CALI*

A GDA | TLC
PUPPY IN TRAINING

As told to her Puppy Raisers
Bob and Kathie Stegemann
October - December 2024





Hello once again to my wonderful Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament sponsors! I have had a really grand Fall season growing up, working on my social and obedience skills, and having such fun. And every few weeks there has been a holiday or some other interesting event punctuating our activities. Lots of fun adventures and

wonderful pictures to share with all of you!

October started off with a just-me-and-dad couple of days in Big Bear, my first only-dog adventure. We hit a couple of fast-foods and had a few nice walks at the park, and I had a lot of fun making sure I was the center of attention at his monthly volunteer meeting. Lots more restaurant outings when we came back





down to Simi, several mall walks, and a walkabout with lots of fellow pups in training. We spent an evening walking around the Natural History Museum's Halloween "Boney Island" and I did great with all the funny skeletons and pumpkins and kids in costumes and stuff! And I had a couple of outings with my puppy-in-training

friend Frankie to Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks, and to the annual Ponies By The Sea car show fundraiser: Frankie is younger than me, and I am doing a good job showing her the ropes.

And then things got REALLY FUN!

A couple years ago my folks raised puppy Zophia, and she graduated with her partner Priscilla in the April 2023 class. As you may have seen in one of the GDA|TLC 2024 Partners newsletters, Priscilla is a



world-class competitor on the Canadian Paralympics Judo team, and lives in Montreal. Well, we hosted them for a two-week California



vacation the last half of October -- what a blast! Zophia had so much fun living and playing with her old friends Akira and Abby and Riley, and of course with her best new friend—ME. And Priscilla wanted to do ALL the Southern California touristy stuff, so the challenge was on!



First we went with another GDA guide dog team to the Los Angeles Farmers Market, it was really crowded, but both Zophia and I did great (of course) and we had a grand time. I spent the next couple nights/days with that guide team family, so that my raiser could take Priscilla and Zophia to Disneyland (hey whaddabout me?!?!?).



Then we spent a day at the Hollywood Walk of Fame, attended the annual Pizza Pinot & Puppies wine-tasting fundraiser (they were thrilled to see me AND a working guide team!), and spent a beautiful day strolling the beach at the weekend Santa Barbara Art Walk. We had a relaxing afternoon



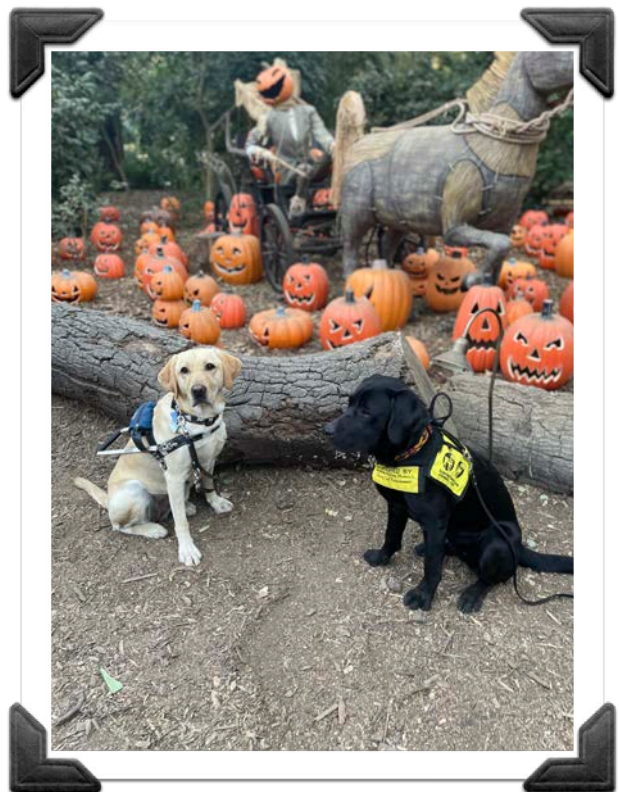
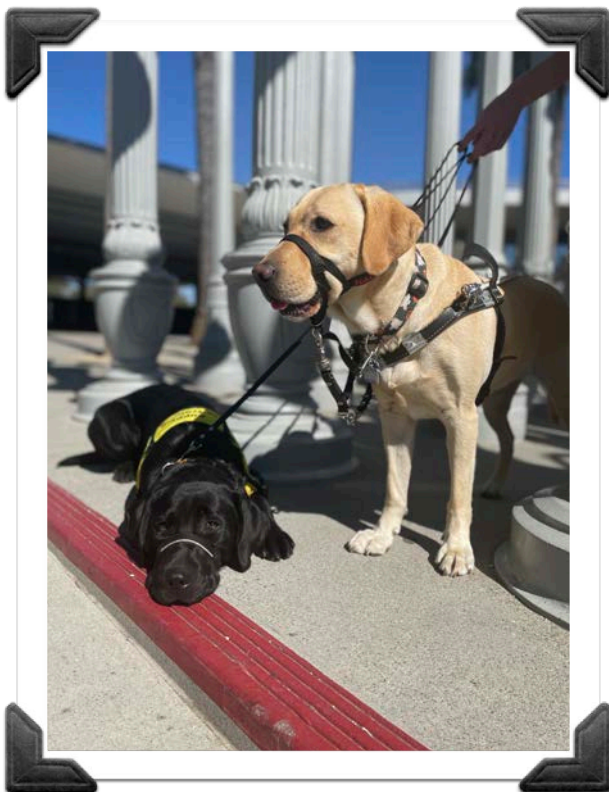
walk at lovely Descanso Gardens, an afternoon at La Brea Tar Pits, and a day at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. Best of all, we had a three dog free-play afternoon on Ventura's Seacliff Beach, me and Zophia and Topanga had sooooo much fun! I enjoyed being a real "Cali Girl", having a blast and sunning myself on the beach.

Fortunately there was a GDA|TLC graduation while Priscilla and Zophia were here, so we took them to visit. Priscilla arranged meeting up with several other teams from her April 2023 class, so we took four working teams to lunch after graduation -- yep, a five dog lunch, and I settled





like a seasoned pro! And the restaurant was really nice, even setting yellow "caution" cones around our table so other patrons wouldn't step on doggy tails when heading up to the buffet.



I had a lazy day off while Priscilla and Zophia were taken to Universal Studios, so I got caught up on my naps. The next two days we had lunch and dinner gatherings with Priscilla and Zophia and all our raisers and guide-team friends who had played for the last two weeks, and then it was time to put them on their plane back to Montreal. We all had such a wonderful time!



With house-guests gone, my raisers were telling me to expect more normal activities in November and December. Looking forward to lots of dining and shopping and sights to see for Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Years, my first day and overnight stays at Camp-GDA, helping my raisers with a crazy level of Christmas decorating, and driving around in the evenings to enjoy the Christmas lights. It sure did sound like fun!

November indeed saw lots of lunches and play dates with friends and family, a puppy-in-training walkabout, lots of mall walks, two half days and an overnight at Camp-GDA, and a day trip up to Big Bear. My housemate Akira turned 11 years old, I had walks at Descanso Gardens and the Ventura

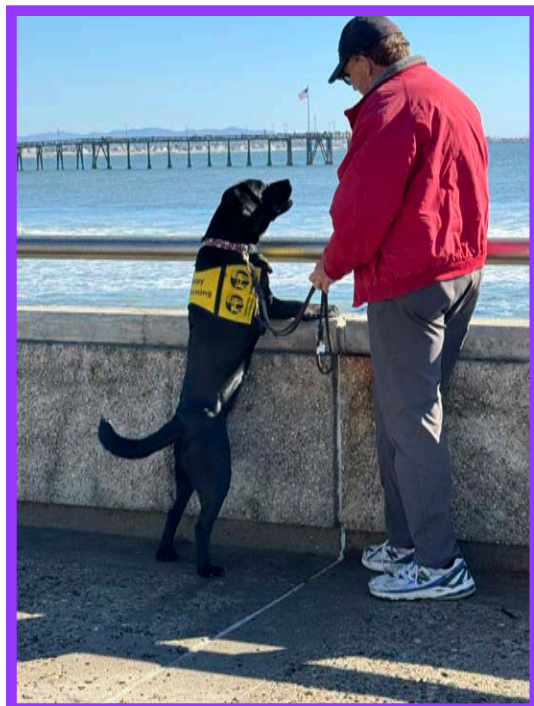
Promenade, and Frankie spent a weekend with us. But then.....

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the day I turned 11 months old, I started my first heat. Off I go to GDA for three to four weeks. Luckily I had just done several short stays at Camp-GDA so I was comfortable there, and my raiser visited me. They told me they would keep busy doing some puppy sitting while I was gone, and that I should be home by mid-December, so I would still get to do some of the fun Christmas and New Years stuff.



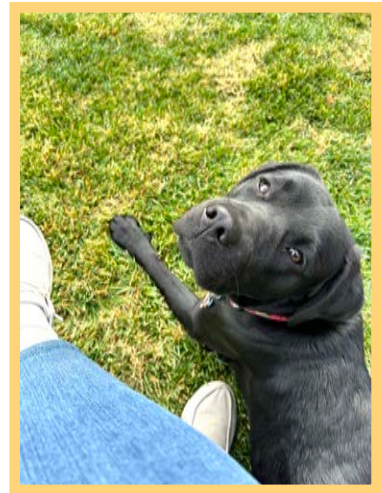
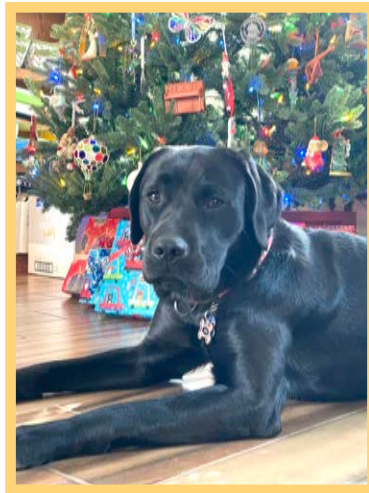
I had a fine three weeks at Camp-GDA, and tested as being done with heat 12/16 and ready to go. However, GDA had several cases of respiratory issues in the kennels while I was there, and though I have not shown any symptoms they strongly recommended I do a 30-day isolation from other GDA dogs in a dog-free home so as not to expose other dogs. So I am now with puppy sitters

Sheri and Veronica and their cat up in Canyon Country, and my 30-day isolation will be up in mid-January, assuming no symptoms develop.



Now, isolation fortunately does not mean I am housebound. I can still be taken out in public to do things, I just cannot come into contact with other dogs. So Sheri and Veronica still take me grocery shopping and to church and what-not, and I have a new house and yard to explore, and a kitty to try and make

friends with. Here are some pictures from their house.



And I have seen my raisers several times. They picked me up from GDA and took me to Sheri and Veronica's to get settled in. Several days later they nabbed me for my first birthday (12/22), and we had a pleasant afternoon strolling around Valencia Town Center Mall. Then they came and nabbed me for a fun day viewing the gorgeous Rose Parade floats in Pasadena -- but you will have to wait for my next report to see those pictures!



So, I am now a full year old, a gorgeous girl at about 57 pounds. I have a lot of energy but have matured and settled, am very sweet (Sheri and Veronica adore me!), and absolutely love going out and about, and my folks say I am one of the best dogs they have had the pleasure of raising for GDA. I can't wait



to get home and get back into the swing of things!

As for what is coming up next quarter, obviously January starts off with the Rose Parade Floats. Hopefully I stay symptom free, and will be able to return home mid-January. Late January and February I will have my medical checks (hip and elbow x-rays,

eyes, and heart) so that expert GDA|TLC staff can determine if I will be a breeder or a working guide/service dog. I look forward to playing again with Akira and Abby and Riley, and continuing a busy schedule of varied public outings such as restaurants and stores and malls, gardens and parks and beaches, GDA|TLC events and meetings, museums and other crowded venues, and public transportation. Everything is so much fun, give me MORE!

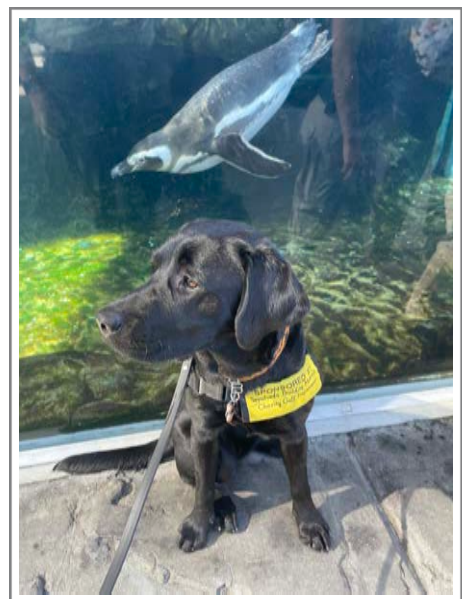
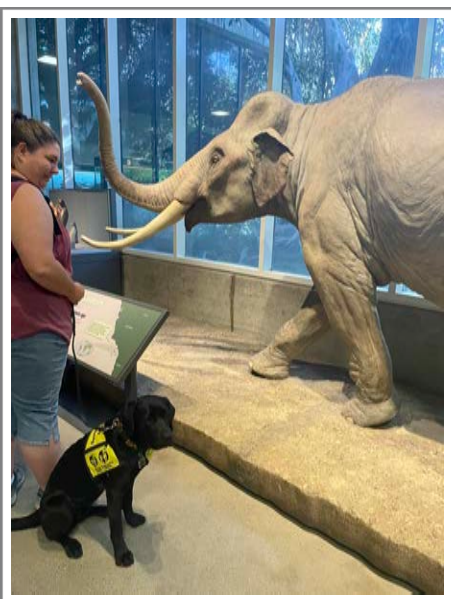
Thank you all again!



Everywhere I go, I proudly wear my yellow GDA| TLC jacket proclaiming Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament as my Sponsors! I look forward to keeping in touch with you all, and you can expect my January/ February/March adventures report in April.

Wiggles and wags and puppy kisses to all!

~~ CALI ~~





THANK YOU!

