

## Denver, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



My name is Denver, and I am a Guide Dog puppy in training for Guide Dogs of America. I was born on June 23, 2018. I am a yellow Labrador Retriever and I was donated to GDA along with my brother, Doppler, who is also a yellow Lab. 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!

I have grown a lot since my last report! This sponsorship report covers the time period from October 2018 to January 2019. I am now almost 7 months old! I weigh about 45 pounds and I am very well behaved. I eat about 1 3/4 cups of dog food twice a day and Mom says I must have a very fast metabolism! I love going places with my puppy raising family. I hope you enjoy watching me grow and learn!



Mom says puppies grow in interesting ways. First our legs get long, then our bodies get long, and then we grow bigger around. You can see how much my legs have grown!



Doppler, my brother, and I got good news from our South Bay GDA group! We are going to be in the GDA 2019 calendar as the featured photo for the month of October! My wonderful sponsor, Sepulveda Building Materials, also helps with the printing of the calendars. I hope their customers enjoy the calendars – especially in October!



I am continuing to go to work each day with Mom. She works as a High School Counselor at Beverly Hills High School. This is a picture of one of the counseling meetings. I worked on my “get close” command where I have to get close to Mom under her chair. I really wanted to be part of the meeting, but I was good and kept very quiet. Everyone thought I was asleep!



On Thanksgiving, I got to go over to Doppler's house. He is my brother, and is also a GDA puppy-in-training. We got to play outside, but we also worked on our obedience before and during dinner. Here we are practicing our down-stays. Doppler is wearing the green bandana around his neck. We are both looking very intently at mom because she was rewarding us for doing such a good job.



This is me with my sister, Wellesley. We love to play with each other. Wellesley is a former GDA puppy-in-training, but she decided she wanted to come home. She helps remind me of the commands that I need to know to be a guide dog. I love to practice sit-stays with her. Sometimes I forget and actually sit partially on her, but she doesn't seem to mind.



Doppler and I went to puppy kindergarten and advanced puppy kindergarten together. There were also other puppies from the South Bay Group in our class. Hanna, our GDA trainer, said that play time was important for puppies, but that we also need to know when it is time to work. Our moms make sure we get to play together, but we also know when we have to listen. This picture was taken right after we were playing and were told to "come." We both came running to our puppy raisers and sat, just like we are supposed to.



In December, I got to go to the South Bay GDA Christmas Potluck. I got to have my picture taken with Santa and Mom told me I could tell him what I wanted for Christmas. Of course I told him that I wanted some bones and new chew toys. But I also told them that what I want most of all is to become a real guide dog! Santa told me that if I was good, it just might happen! I sure hope so!



Christmas time was a fun time at my house! My puppy raising family had time off from work and they decorated the house. I helped them pick out this new yard decoration because I thought it looked like me. It lights up at night, and it knows the "stay" command really well!

It's very important for guide-dog-in-training puppies to have kennel stays at GDA, or as we like to call it – Camp GDA. This is because when we go into formal training, we will have to live for about 6 months in the kennels. Mom says it will be like going to guide dog college. It's important that we get used to being there so that we don't get too stressed when we are living there. This is a picture of me going for my first kennel stay. I loved it, and the kennel staff said I did a terrific job!



When I wear my special yellow jacket, it lets everyone know that I'm a guide-dog-in-training, and I am allowed to go places where most dogs don't get to go. I am so luck to be sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials. I even got a special jacket that is embroidered with their name! It lets everyone know that I'm a special dog and that they are sponsoring me!



Another very important task that we have to do as guide-dogs-in-training is to take an obedience class that isn't affiliated with GDA. This is so that we can used to be around all kinds of dogs – not just Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers. I just started my first obedience class, and it was a lot of fun! Doppler and I and one other Golden Retriever are the only big dogs. There are several other little dogs. At first I thought I could play with them, but then Mom reminded me that I was there to work. It turned out to be a lot of fun, and Doppler and I showed the other dogs how well we could behave.



Thank you again to my wonderful sponsor Sepulveda Building Materials. I am so thankful for your sponsorship and will try very hard to continue to make you proud of me. I will check back in a few months and will let you know how my training is going. Until then,

Wags and Licks!

Denver