

I received a call from Guide Dogs of America. They have a female, black cross available - How could I say no. What a privilege to be able to help raise a puppy to become a much needed partner to a visually impaired individual.

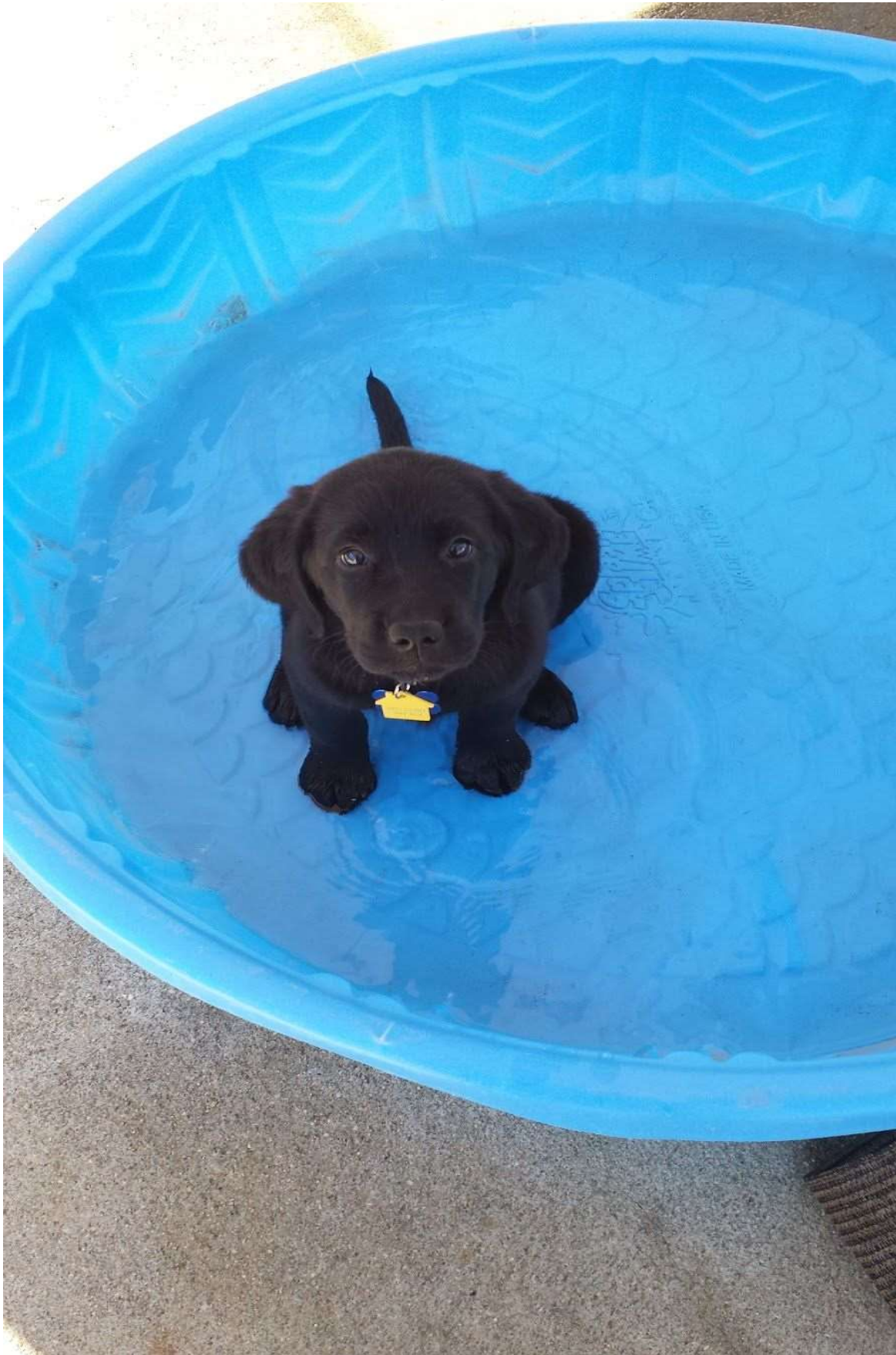
Thank you Sepulveda Building Materials for being such a generous sponsor of puppies in training so that someone else could have a chance at a life they couldn't have without the help of "extra" eyes and companionship that a guide dog would provide. Guide Dogs of America is such a great organization. Through your sponsorship, you are helping GDA give a blind person the ability to do so much more with their lives. Without generous sponsors such as yourself, GDA could not be able to help as many people as they do today. I am very proud to be able to be a volunteer for Guide Dogs of America.

Ezri will be the second puppy that I have raised and she will be living with two other dogs - a large German shepherd and a little spaniel/weiner mix, both rescues - as well as with me, my adult daughter and adult son and part-time 5-year-old grandson. I am so looking forward to introducing her to my bible study group and the seniors at the senior center where I take exercise classes regularly. Along with my own activities and errands, I participate in many of the field trips and events offered by GDA so I am anticipating that Ezri will become well socialized during her stay with us.

I have high hopes for Ezri and I am looking forward sharing her journey as a GDA puppy in training with you. Enjoy!

Ezri  
10/16  
2-4 mos old

Introducing.....Ezri!!!



The name Ezri means "my help" in Hebrew. The name is a variant of Ezra, meaning to help or support. The name Ezri is mentioned only once in the Bible, in 1 Chronicles 27:26. He is a son of Chelub and one of King David's overseers.

Ezri comes from a litter of 7 pups, three of whom are black. GDA sends us home with a bag full of goodies, which includes a blanket, food bowl, toy, brush, leash, collar, a bag of food, and plenty of literature as to what to do now that we have our new pup. They are very organized and thorough.

Ezri is part of a new program called "Puppy Head Start" which has introduced her to many obstacles and new environments while in the nursery so she already has a head start on her training when she comes home.





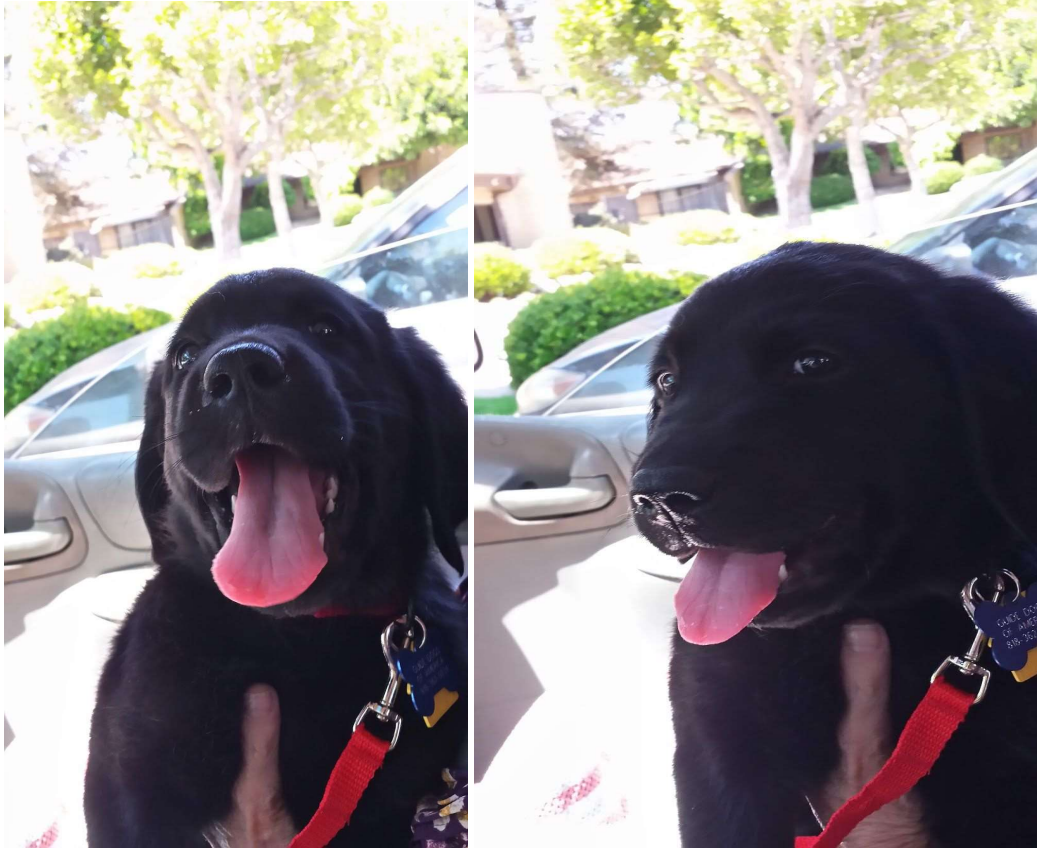


Isn't she beautiful? Big too. She is just 7 weeks old here.



Here is a picture of the entire "E" litter.

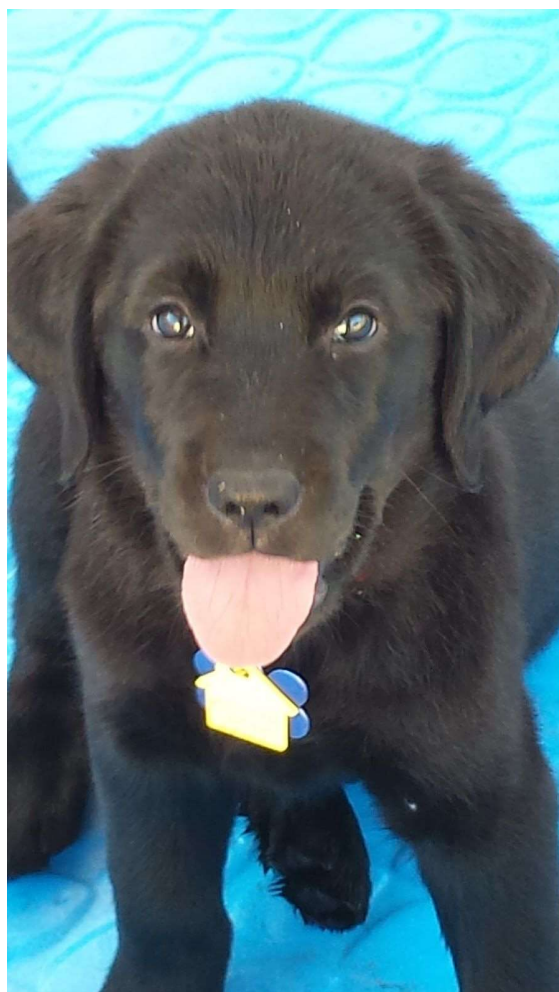
Ezri adapted well to the hour long car ride home, mostly smiling all the way home.



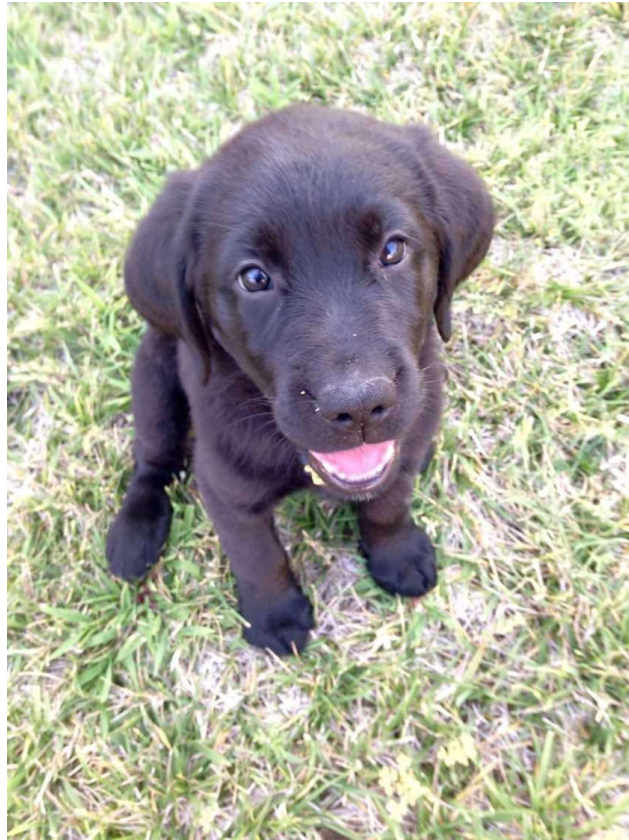




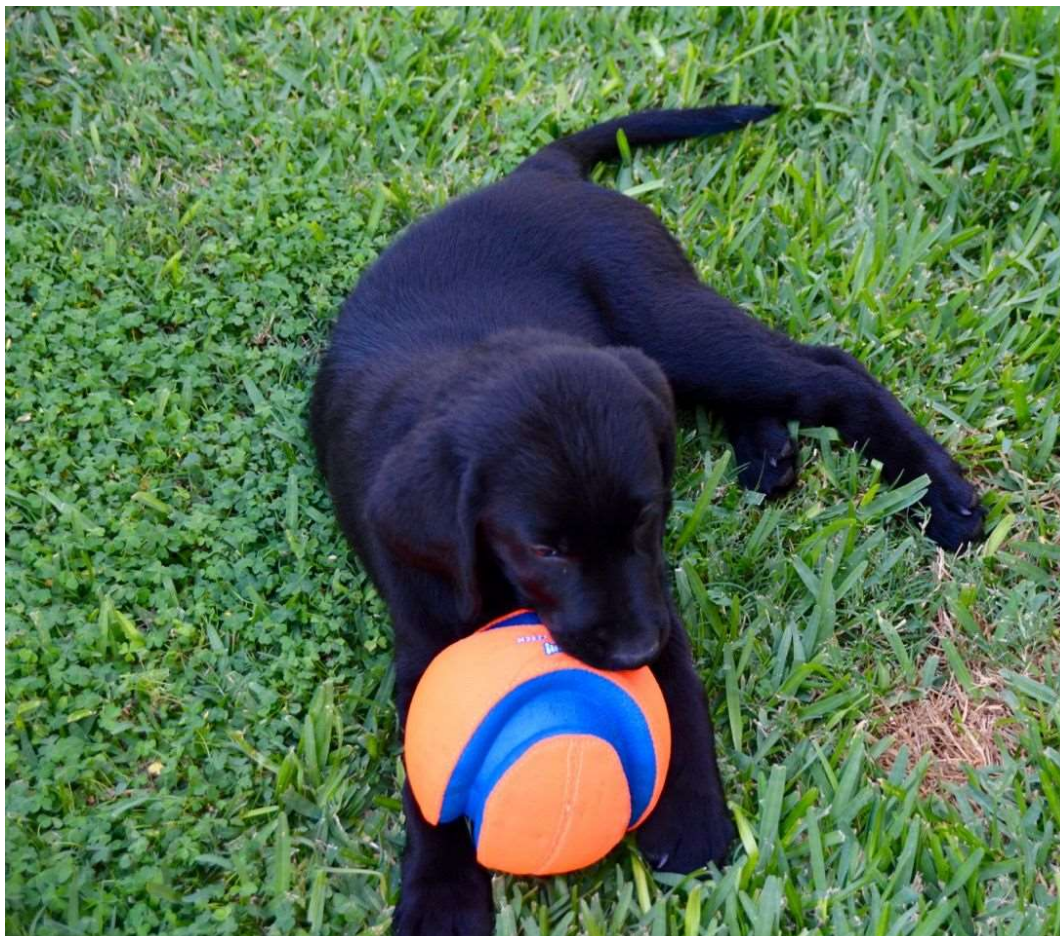
And just kept on smiling when she got home too.



Ezri's first few days were spent exploring the inside and outside of her new home. She adapted well to her crate, collar, leash and I am happy to say she has learned very quickly to "get busy" outside and not inside the house.

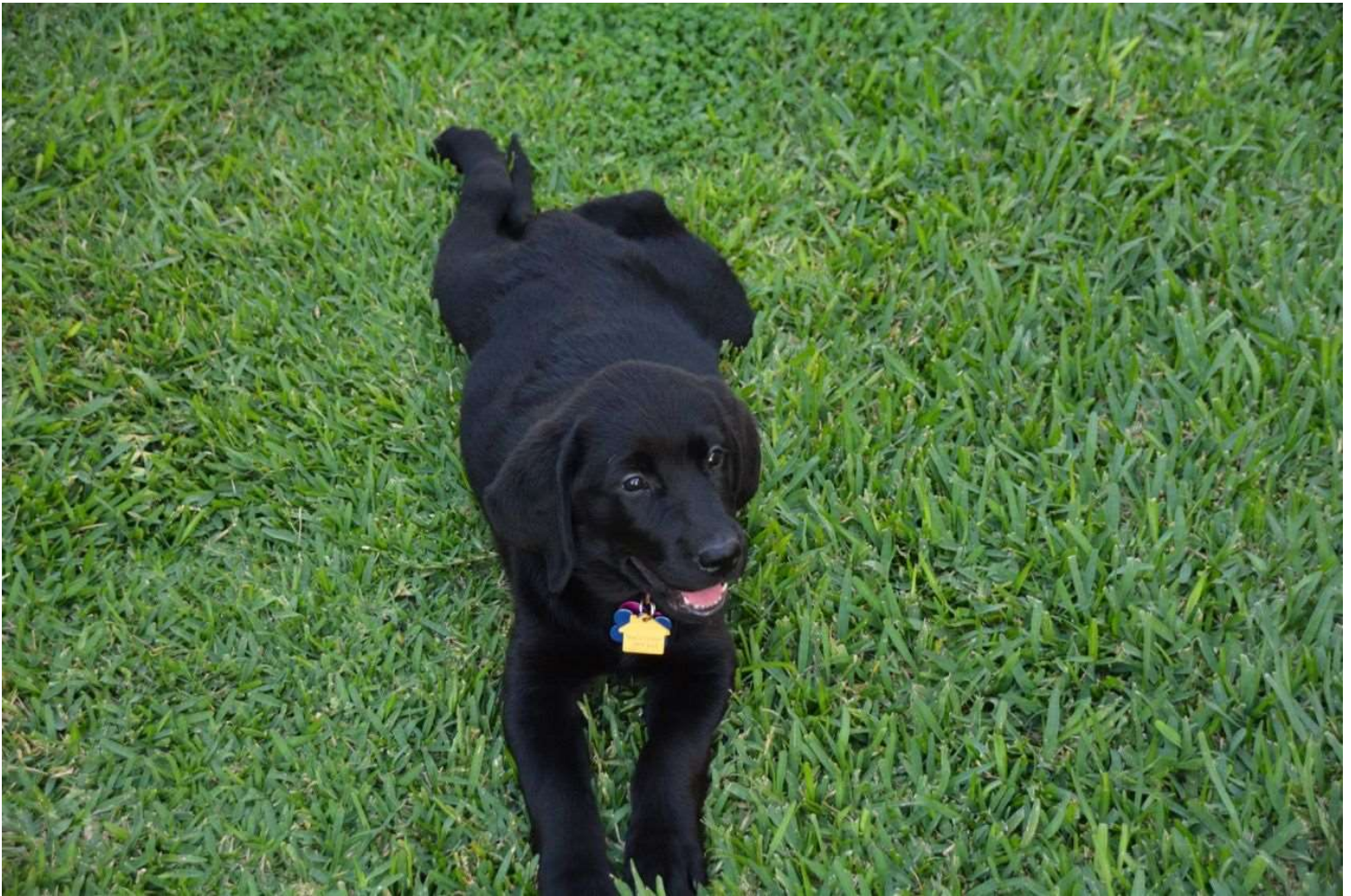




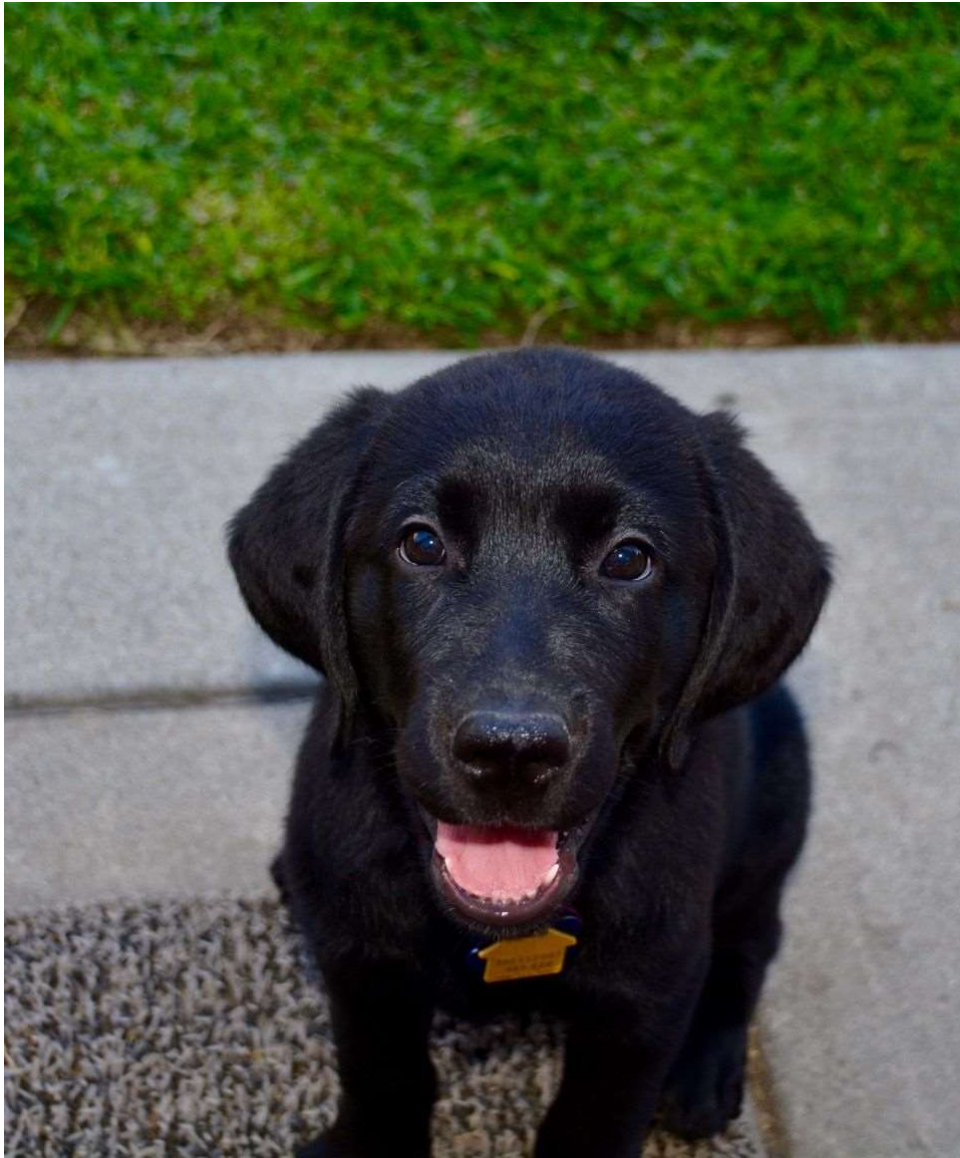


This ball is bigger than her head. Puppies In Training are not allowed to play with regular balls or frisbees. During training we always have to keep in mind how this will affect her job with someone who is visually impaired. An obsession with everyday objects that can be found at a park, could be a risk if the pup decides they want to play with their favorite toy. This is a specially designed pool toy with grooves.





Every morning Ezri wakes up with a lot of energy and does “zoomies” in the front yard. Zoomies are when the pups just zoom, zoom, zoom around until their energy is spent. GDA always stresses a tired pup is a happy pup. She does look happy.



This picture was taken during a sleepover at another puppy raiser's home. It's important for her to get used to new sleeping environments to help make transitioning successful.





Playing Peek-a-Boo with my grandson. Ezri is not big enough to climb up this slide, but she does try.



Ezri needs gets used to wearing her bib. She will be using it every time we go somewhere. When she's about 6 months, she will get a big girl vest to wear with her sponsor's name on it. This is the first time trying it on - what a face!



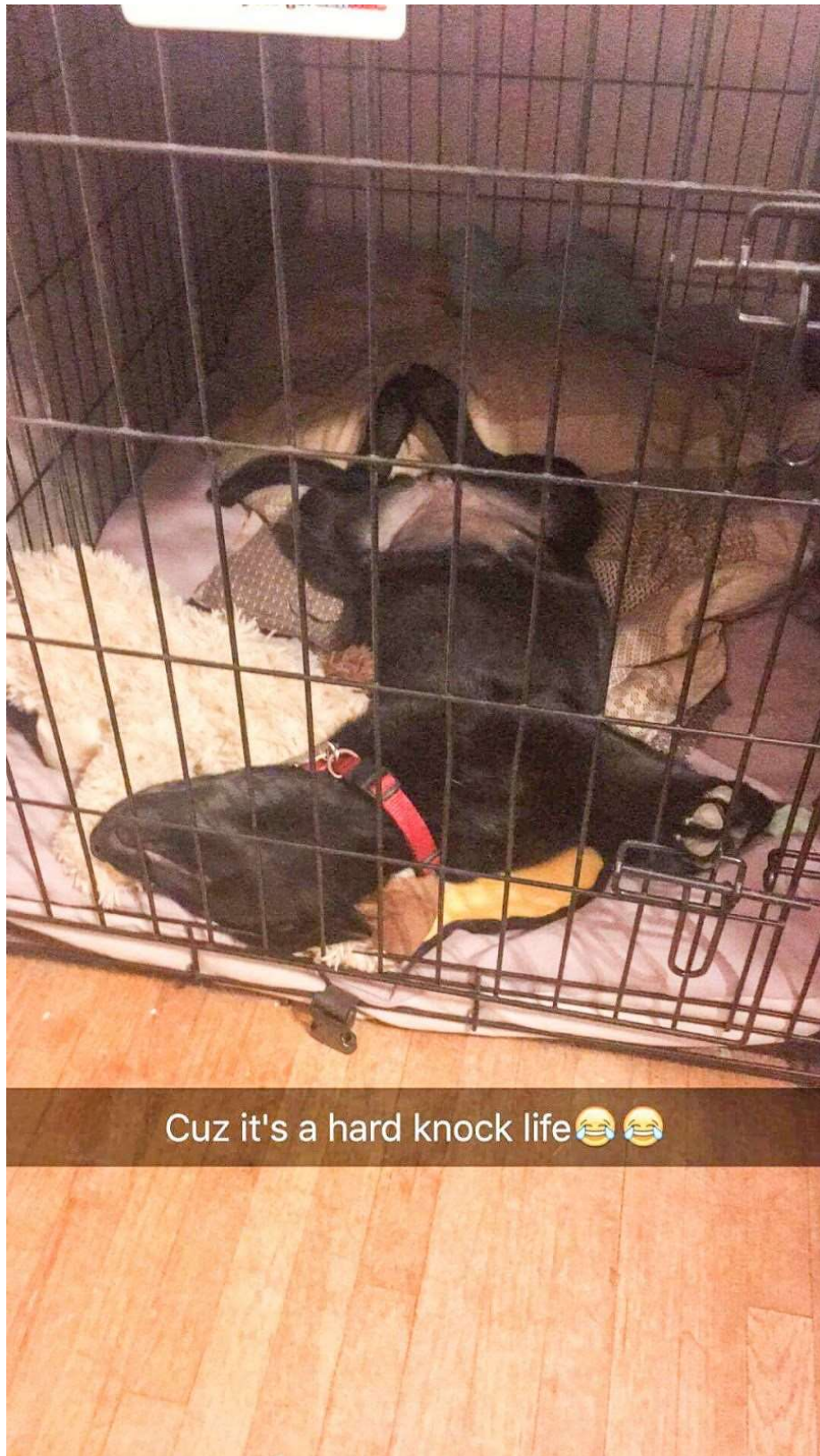


It's important Ezri learns to stop and sit on command even when she's busy playing with toys while visiting a friend's house. She looks like she's striking a pose.



She loves the feel of the cold tile on her belly.





Cuz it's a hard knock life😂😂

She has adapted well to her crate.



And has made it to the top of the slide!! Congratulations, Ezri! You conquered it!