

Kenai, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



My name is Kenai, and I am a Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training for Guide Dogs of America. I was born on September 10, 2012. My name is pronounced like "Keen + Eye" and I was named after the peninsula in Alaska. I am a Lab/Golden Cross. This means that I am 1/4 Golden Retriever and 3/4 Labrador Retriever. I am being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament.



Puppy Pick-up Day is always a very exciting day! I met my new family (David, Janice, Collin, and Trevor) on November 2, 2012 and said goodbye to my littermates. There are eight of us in the "K" litter – 6 of us will be raised as Guide Dogs, and 2 of us will be raised as Canine Companions for Independence. Can you find me?
(I'm the puppy on the right.)



I was the smallest puppy in my litter. I am very calm and very smart. I am learning new things each day. I already know my name, and I've only been home for two days!



Janice is a high school counselor, and Collin is a senior at her high school. Each day I get to go to school. I have my own special place in Janice's office. I have lots of toys to play with. When I am a little bit older, some of Collin's teachers have said I can go to class with him. That will be fun!





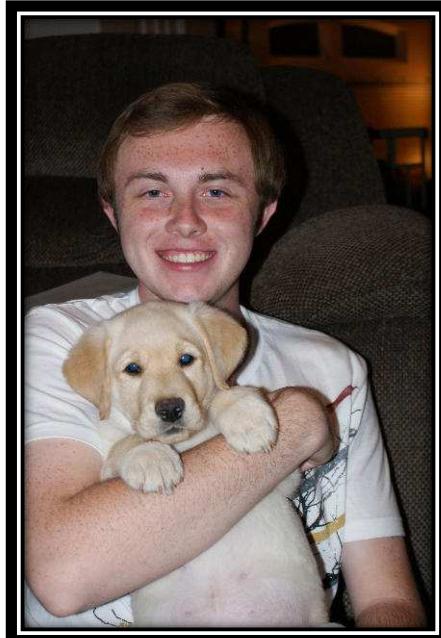
I am getting bigger each day. I love to play, and I am getting very good at sitting for me food. Guide dog puppies in training have to sit and wait until we are released with "OK" before we can eat our food. This is so that when we are guide dogs, our partners won't get knocked over by a rambunctious, hungry dog that they can't see.

I love to cock my head when I hear my name. I also love to sleep. One of my favorite positions to sleep in is on my back. The picture on the right was taken right when the fire alarm started going off. I didn't even notice, but Janice picked me up and carried me outside for the drill. I got lots of attention for my good behavior.



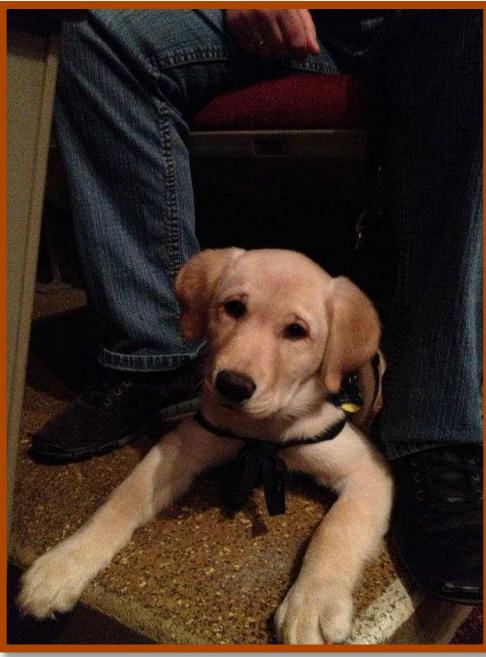


I'm getting bigger! I love to play with squeaky toys – especially the blue snake. Here I am in Collin's arms. Today was his 18th birthday. No cake for me, though... I only get to have my dog food.



Being a good Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training takes a lot of work, but it's lots of fun too! Wearing my special yellow jacket means that I get to go where regular pet dogs don't normally get to go. This picture is of me asleep on the floor of Red Robin restaurant. I was a good puppy and slept while my family had dinner.





In December, when I was 3 months old, I got to go on a special outing. Trevor was in a musical at the Morgan-Wixson Theater in Santa Monica and I got to go and see him! My family wasn't sure I would be able to stay for the whole performance, but I am so well behaved that I made it through all the way to the end! I was awake at first, but then I decided to go to sleep. The people in the row in front of me didn't even know there was a puppy behind them! After the performance was over, I got to go up on stage and take a picture with Trevor.



Today my family received FANTASTIC news! Denali, the first guide dog in training that they raised, is going to graduate! Everyone is so excited! It's a very, very special thing when a guide dog graduates! My family is very excited, and I am too. I get to go to the graduation and meet my "sister," Denali. I'm going to make sure to ask her for all of the 'insider secrets' so that I can grow up to be a real guide dog too. We can't wait to see her on stage at Guide Dogs of America!

One of my favorite places to go is the monthly GDA meeting. I love all of my friends in the South Bay group. I learn lots of important things there. I know I have a lot to learn if I'm going to grow up to be a guide dog, so I always pay attention in class. Tonight was a special Christmas meeting. Santa Claus even came to our meeting! I hope he knows that I've been a good girl and brings me a special toy for Christmas. I'll write again soon to update you on my progress. Thanks for reading!

Wags and Licks!

Kenai

