

Kenai, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



Hi! Kenai, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training, checking in!

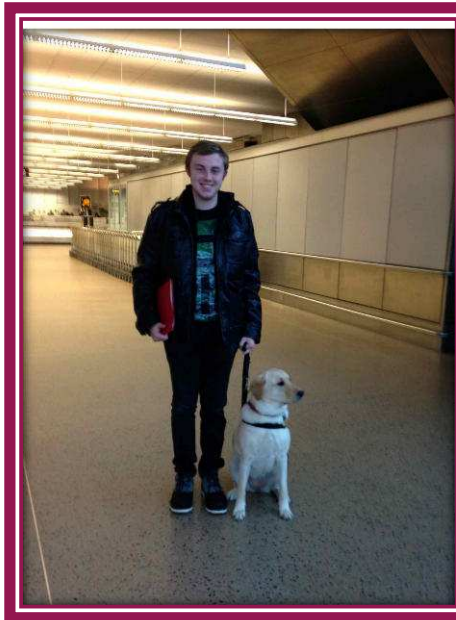
At the end of August, Collin and I moved up to Tacoma, Washington where we started college at the University of Puget Sound! We are both very excited to be going to such a great university, and one that is so supportive of Guide Dogs of America! I will get to go the Seattle-Tacoma GDA meetings now.



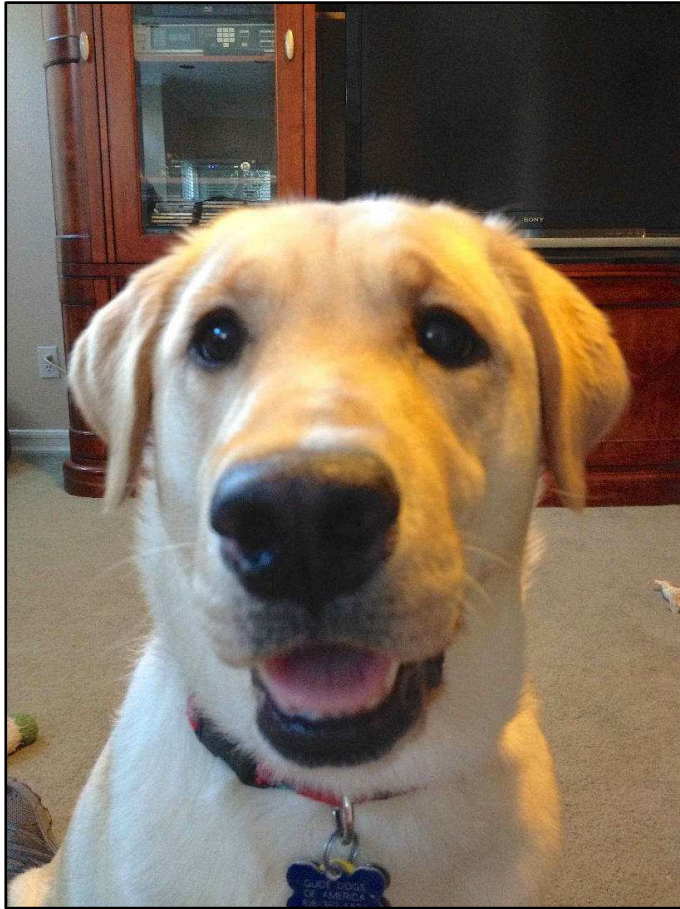
In fact, UPS was so happy to have me continue my training on campus, that Collin and I have our own dorm room! He thinks I make a great roommate (even when I snore in my crate at night)!



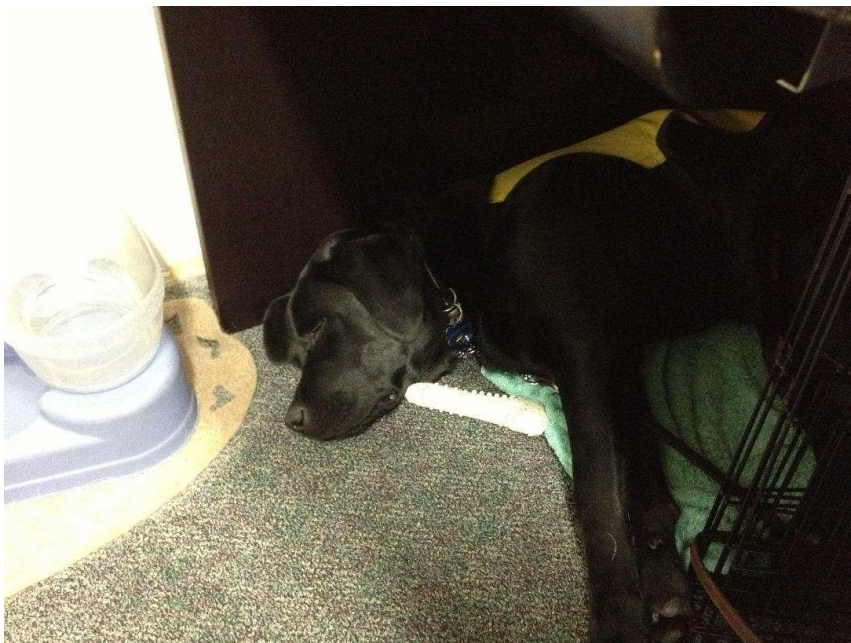
I have been exposed to different distractions while going to college. I'm learning not to chase squirrels and skateboarders. I'm also trying to learn not to snore during Collin's classes – although his professors do think it's pretty funny when I do. They even make jokes about their lectures being boring! Lots of people have asked about Sepulveda Building Materials up here, and Collin has told them all about the Charity Golf Tournament and how the money is donated to GDA to help sponsor puppies in training like me!



On October 1st, I flew home with a fellow GDA puppy raiser so that I could have some more kennel time at GDA. Sometimes it is stressful for GDA dogs to be separated from our families, so staying at the kennel helps introduce us to what life will be like in formal training. I was terrific in the airport and handled security and traveling on the Skytrain without any problems. This time, I even got bumped up to first class! The Delta Airlines flight crew thought I was terrific!



It was good to be home again to see my puppy raising family! And it was fun to go see my friends at the kennels at GDA. I was still a little bit stressed while I was there, so they want me to come back and spend some more time there.



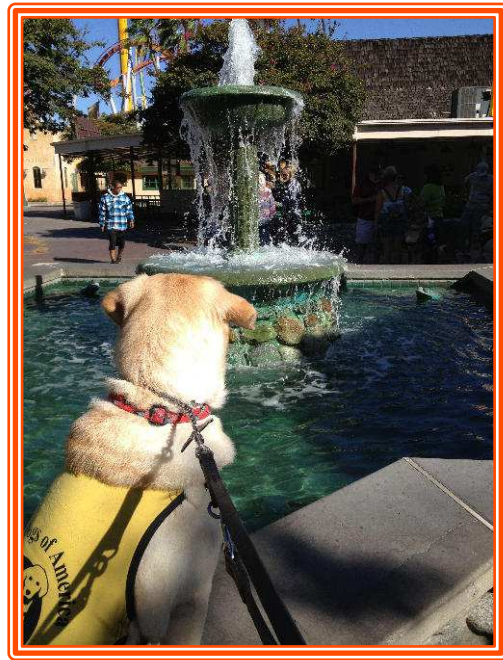
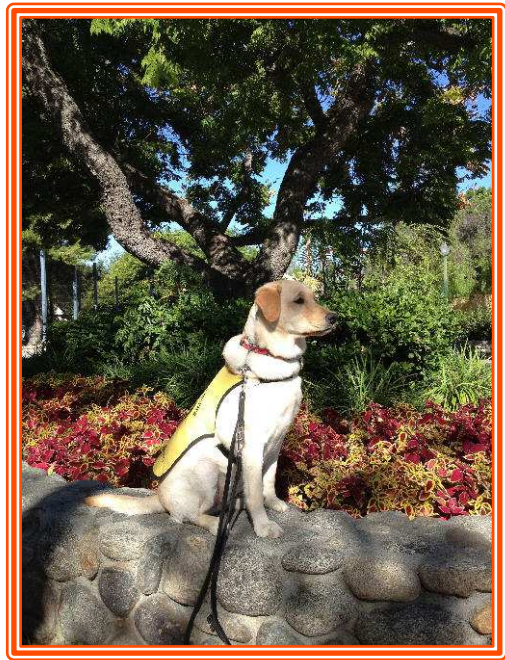
While I was flying home, my friend Anchor got to go to work with Janice. Even though Anchor goes to school everyday with his puppy raiser, it is still good training for us to go with different puppy raisers so that we have new experiences. Anchor did a great job at BHHS, and the staff loved him.



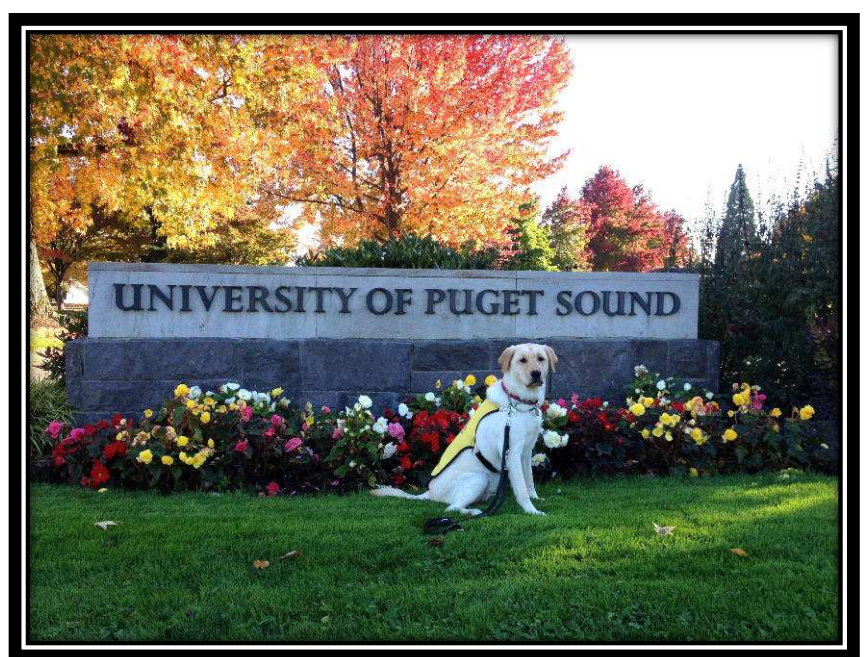
Each year, the Orange County Transit Authority hosts a special Service Dog Training day where service dogs are encouraged to ride their busses. Because I was home, I got to participate! It's a fun day and we are exposed to different noises (alarms, beeps, and bells) on the busses as we learn to board and ride them properly. The special route ends up at Knott's Berry Farm where our puppy raisers are allowed to walk us around the park. There are lots of distractions at an amusement park, and lots of new experiences for us. I handled everything like a pro and had a great time being with my fellow GDA guide dogs in training.



There were 8 GDA dogs that rode the busses and met up at Knott's. Can you find me? (I am the third dog from the left.)



While we were at Knott's Berry Farm, we practiced our obedience. Of course there were lots of distractions and new noises. These two pictures show me practicing my sit-stay.



I got to fly back up to Washington with my puppy raisers to go to Homecoming and Parents' Weekend at the University of Puget Sound. I was very happy to see Collin again! We went to a chemistry magic show (I didn't flinch at the loud noises) and the football game (we lost, but I didn't know because I fell asleep). At the end of the weekend, I flew back home with my family to go to GDA for my re-evaluation.



On November 1st, I was released from the GDA program. I guess I missed my family more than I was supposed to each time I stayed in the kennel, and the stress showed. My family is sad that I won't get to go in for formal training, but they are extremely happy that I get to come home and be their pet! To them, although I am no longer a guide dog in training, I will always be a Super Dog!

Thank you Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament for sponsoring me. My puppy raisers hope to raise another one of your sponsored puppies soon, and Collin looks forward to telling more people from Washington about your generosity when the next puppy goes to college with him.