

July 2021

Olivia's Odyssey

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF AN ALMOST GROWN-UP GUIDE DOG PUPPY IN TRAINING



A Very Happy Summer to All My Wonderful Friends at the
Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament!

Happy Summer! What's this? An actual in-person South Bay Puppy Raisers Meeting? Who knew other puppy raisers had bottom halves and didn't just appear once a month on the Human's computer! This is waaaaaaay more fun—I heartily recommend this whole “in person” thing if you haven't tried it.

I hope you and your families are all healthy and happy and seeing other people's bottom halves again too. Well, you know what I mean.

Wag wag wag wag wag,
Olivia

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What's this? I'm out! I'm really out! No photoshop or anything! Free at last, free at last!

Well, there's still that whole leash thing, but you get where I'm coming from.



At first, the lifeguards said, "No dogs on the beach!", but then they met me and learned I was A Very Special Dog. Once they understood and saw how well-behaved I am, I was invited to stay!



Mom was also well-behaved so they let her stay on the beach too. Phew!



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It's not all fun and games
and playing at the beach!
Sometimes I have to, you
know... work!



My hunky buddy Wander and I recently worked at an Optometrist's Office as part of a fundraiser for QDA. Lots of people said we were Very Good Dogs. That really got my tail wagging—but to be fair, it doesn't take much. We also got to go to a place where they do obedience for Small Humans. Mom says it's called Elementary school.

Wonder if they treat train?

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"I'll take Things Humans Do that are Super Confusing for \$500, Alex!"

We had a kitchen that seemed to work just fine. Food went into our bowls, we emptied them. Twice a day, without fail. What could be better? But the Humans are always looking to improve things, I guess, so we have been spending a lot of time going to places that Make Your Kitchen Even More Fabulous.

Maybe we will get fancier bowls?

Here I am helping to pick out Really Big Pieces of Rock to go on the counters.

I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing, but that's okay. The Humans keep saying the same thing.



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We finally got to have everyone in person for our monthly meetings! (This was our first since Feb 2019!). Both the dogs and humans were very excited. We all had a few challenges remembering how to act in person—turns out there is no “mute” button in real life. Someone might want to work on that!

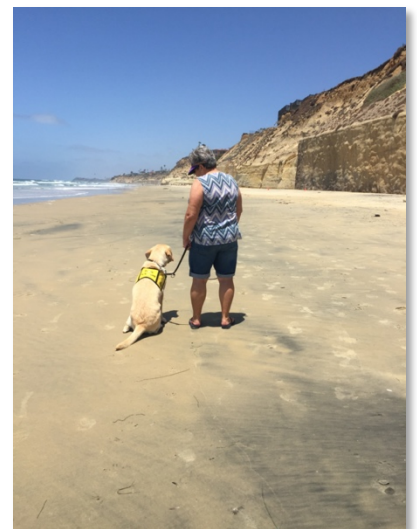


Since this was my first in-person meeting (can you believe it?!), Paddy and Ellie warned me that, being the Group Leader's Puppy, you get loaned out a lot. No problem, I'm an Equal Opportunity Wag-ger!

Here I am, setting a good example. And trying not to chase a squirrel.

I think in that order. Maybe?

And just a thought: This is a Good Place for Obedience too. If anyone wants my opinion.



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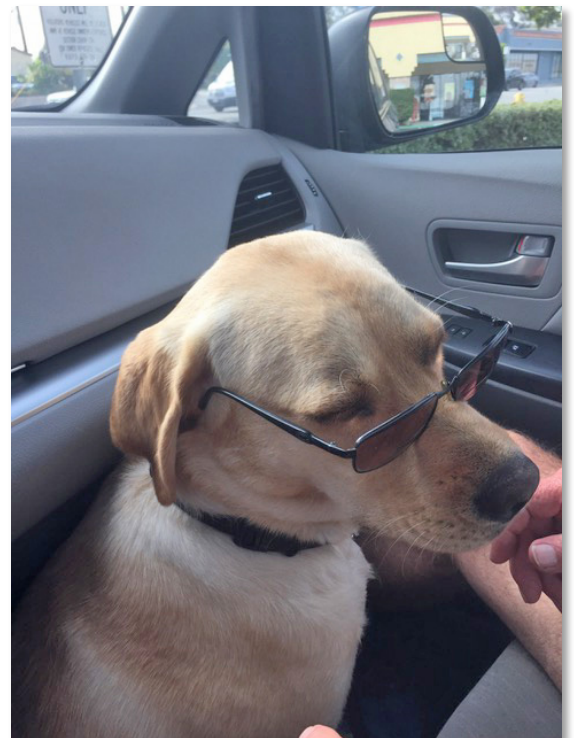
Now that I have graduated from every obedience course within about a 500-mile radius, they bring the little puppies to me for training. Dawn came to stay with us for a few days and I taught her a thing or two.

Not bad for a blonde...

I have lots of things to do before I go off to Guide Dog/Service Dog College in October. I had my eyes checked just to make sure they are perfect (they are!), but to check them, the nice doctor had to do something the humans called, "dilating" my eyes. It sure felt funny!

The Humans thought it might help if I wore sunglasses to help with the glare.

I'm starting to wonder which of us would benefit more from going to College...



Okay, seriously.

IT'S A TRAP!!!

Ha, ha, really funny. Do they not think I've seen what THEY do with a box of Thin Mints? But nooooo, let's put the cookies out and see what the puppy in training can resist.

Really Funny, Humans. How incredibly clever of you.



Do you not know how mature I am now? And how easy it is for me to resist? Particularly if I (la la la) look elsewhere?

I might suggest you try the same, next time you confront a box of Girl Scout Cookies. Just sayin'.





I've learned an awful lot in my short year and a half life. I still have questions, but that's fine. I think I've caught on that no one knows all the answers either, they just get really good at faking it (or at least that's what Paddy and Ellie told me). I found this sign that told me the most important thing—and being a Labrador, this is the Golden Rule!

The trainers at GDA can fill in any of those other pesky details and I just know I'll be able to be of great service to some human someplace, somehow.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament! You'll recognize me—I'll be wearing yellow. 😊

Much love and endless gratitude for all you've done for me and SO many at GDA,

Olivia

Guide Dogs of America, Puppy in Training