

Tagg's Waggs

Guide Dogs of America Puppy-In Training Sponsorship Newsletter – Final Edition Jan. 2015

Hello Everyone,

This will be my final newsletter as I went in for training to be a Guide Dog with Guide Dogs of America on January 31. My puppy raiser thinks I am the best puppy she has ever had in her home and says I have a very bright future.

We took a trip to Universal City Walk with a group in early November. It was a lot of fun, we took the Metro so I could develop my public transportation skills. I will be taking a lot of public transportation when I am with my future visually impaired partner.

My puppy raiser and I also took a nice trip to the Bowers Museum in November so I could get some culture. I don't know what culture is, but, I was a good boy.

I spent a week at Camp GDA for a kennel stay over Thanksgiving and had a lot of fun with my kennel mate. This gets me used to the kennels for when I am "in for training."

Mid-November we pretty much lived at the Anaheim Convention Center for something called Automation Fair for my puppy raiser's work. I was the hit of the convention. I met people from all over the world, got lots of pets, oohs and awes. I spent time around a lot of noises as they set up the equipment for the fair then had a great time watching all the machines working.

December was a crazy month. Parties, parties, and more parties. My puppy raiser had such fun taking pictures of me in a Santa suit and in front of so many fun decorations. We also made a special trip to ARTIC in Anaheim to see the new facility.

January proved to be a busy month as well. We went to a graduation at Canine Support Teams where I learned to be well behaved around a LOT of dogs and get used to being around people in wheelchairs, canes and walkers. We had our last obedience class at GDA where we got some tips on things we need to work on. We went to the California Science Center where we saw the Endeavor, visited the LA Coliseum, and went to the Natural History Museum. I was able to get a lot of practice in crowds and around children. I went on my

first trip to Disneyland and California Adventure where I refined my social skills with children and crowds. My puppy raiser's friends threw several going away parties for me. I got hugs and kisses from them and a special cake all the dogs could enjoy.

I went to a GDA graduation in January to get a preview of my destiny. I really want to make a difference in someone's life and give them independence.

Turn in was a special day. My puppy raiser received a nice certificate, had a nice lunch, and, heard from both the puppy department and the trainers. We met up with littermates and took final pictures. We were matched up with our roommates and then headed down to the big boy kennels. This is where I said goodbye to my puppy raiser to start the next part of my journey to be a guide dog.

A friend celebrated my journey by doing a water color painting in my honor.





Entrance to the Bowers Museum in Anaheim.



Life is about Ying and Yang and beautiful things.



Beautiful and relaxing fountains!



Taking a break overlooking some Western American Heritage.



Foo dog sculpture. Wow, that is a crazy looking canine!



On our way to Universal City Walk on the Metro!



Chilling during lunch at Universal City Walk.



Finally the weather has cooled down and we can enjoy the fireplace!



These fountains were no match for me at Universal City walk outside the restaurant. The waters would shoot up then stop then shoot up again. No distraction at all. I just stood there and looked at them with my fellow puppies in training.





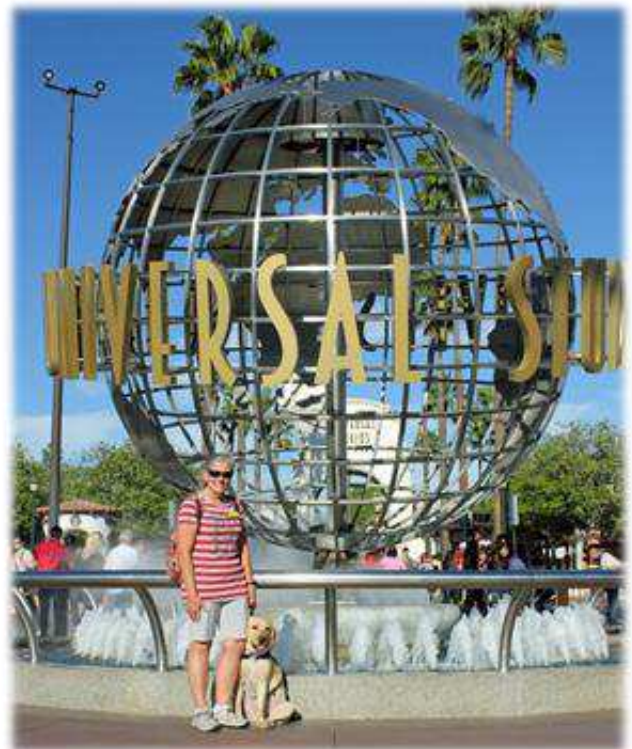
Here I am waiting for the group. My puppy raiser (and many others) think I am so handsome.



Cool Dude.



I am also a kid magnet, they all want to pet me.



Obligatory picture in front of the Universal Globe. It sure takes a while to get the globe in just the right position to shoot the picture.



This is the group who went and the local firefighters let us pose with the truck at Universal City Walk.



This simulated parachute adventure was fascinating to me. I watched them for fifteen minutes. The teams would float up and down, and up and down went my head. I had a crowd just watching me as I was so interested.



Waiting for the train to take us back home.





Waiting for thousands of attendees to come to Automation Fair for Rockwell Automation.



Others greeted me on the show floor. It took us an hour to get anywhere!



It was important to stay sitting, no one wants yellow dog hair on their black pants!



We greeted every attendee on the first day. Some of them wanted to stay with me instead of going to the convention!



Sometimes I stood in booths to help entice customers in to see the products!



There were a lot of things that moved and made funny noises I had to check out.



The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics were really fun to watch. Things crashing and dropping and flying around. It was awesome!



The kids from the Robotics demonstrations and competitions all wanted to pet me.



We met people from all over the world.



My puppy raiser and her team had a lot of work to do to support the event. Here we are working and/or resting in our “war room” behind all the activity. It was nice to get away and get some rest.



Always a photo opportunity.



This was at our final wrap up event at the convention center. We were all tired from a week of work from morning until night.



In front of the lovely white Christmas tree at the Knott's Marketplace.



Now the red and green tree.

My puppy raiser likes to Christmas shop at Knott's Berry Farm Marketplace. There were many Christmas displays!



As always, I want to thank Sepulveda Building Materials for their generous sponsorship. I am so proud to wear their business name on my jacket when I am out and about being an awesome guide dog puppy-in-training for Guide Dogs of America.

I BELIEVE I will be a Guide Dog. I wish to bring independence to someone very soon and be their partner.



GDA always has a Christmas party for all the puppies and puppy raisers. This is me waiting in line nicely to see Santa.



I hope Santa brings me all I want for Christmas! I told him I wanted a large bone, cookies, and squeaky toys.



We were in line behind my sister Tippy who was really decked out for the occasion!



The Sylmar group had a float in the Granada Hills parade and it was at the party for photos.



There were lots and lots of Christmas parties to attend with other puppy raisers.



My brother Tetley; Irish; Me (Tagg), and my other brother, Travis!



This one was later in the evening.



Our car is loaded up with toys from work for the KTLA / Spark of Love / Stuff-A-Bus toy drive.



A record was set at the Honda center, 28 busses filled with donated toys.



The Grand Californian at Disneyland, Christmas tree.



My puppy raiser got the idea that I needed a Christmas aviator hat and was proud that I kept it on!



Showing off my sponsor jacket!



Lunch at the Brea Lazy Dog Café with my friends, Banner, retired service dog and ambassador for Canine Support Teams, and Virtue, Service Dog, Canine Support Teams. I am the one in the middle in case you couldn't tell.



We took a walk from work to visit ARTIC, the new transportation center in Anaheim. This is the view from the outside.



And again from the inside, top floor.



My puppy raiser bought me this little bed when I was just 8 weeks old. I have always loved it and still do.



I love my Paisley, she is almost 12 and she tolerates me very well.



Waiting for the U-Verse guy on New Year's Day



Fire station outing.



I found a Higbee! Higbee is a new puppy sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials and he is named after the special notching on the fire hose to indicate where the threading starts.



This is the equipment room, a lot to grab in a hurry!



The firemen put their suits on in stages so we would not be overwhelmed with the full gear.



These were open grated stairs with no hand rails. Such good practice!



Wow, this fire truck is awesome and I look good in the front seat!



Tagg, ready for duty!



We attended a Canine Support Team graduation where my buddy, Atlas, graduated as a PTSD dog and my buddy, Banner, became an ambassador dog. It was at Monteleone Meadows, a beautiful winery.



The geese here at Monteleone have a strange attraction to me, a dog.



It was a rainy day, but, we got some handsome shots.



My last GDA obedience class, practicing calm greetings. Kandi handled me today so my puppy raisers could take photos.



Myself and Banner are marveling an the longhorn steers in the meadow. Large beasts for sure.



Got to meet Judi today where we were doing cradling, thought I'd be goofy instead.



Okay, if I must cradle and relax, I will. Ahhhh



We visited the California Science Center in Los Angeles so that I could stay calm around crowds and kids.



Here we are practicing passing other dogs with the dogs on the inside, SO HARD, but, I rocked it!



And, my puppy raiser wanted to see the Endeavor.



Meeting some of the staff. More calm greetings.



Yikes, that was one big dog!



Next we went to the Natural History Museum to practice some more.



And, this one was an even bigger dog!



We were watching children play in the grass outside The Grill after lunch.



It felt good to rest on the cool marble.



Such a handsome boy I am!



We took a walk over the the Coliseum after the RAMS rally.



First trip to Disneyland, we opened and closed the parks!



Everyone gets their picture here!



First Time Visitor button to the Magic Kingdom!



Cinderella's Castle, Spectacular! Disneyland has service dog relieving areas which makes it nice for me and my puppy raiser.



Heading to Radiator Springs in California Adventure. They have special kennels available at the rides so that I stay safe while the humans ride the rides.



The kids all wanted to pet me but I had to stay sitting. My puppy raiser asks them to participate in the training by backing up if I don't stay sitting.



Some are just babies. They love me too.



And some parents like to have their pictures taken with me.



Some kids are younger and don't quite know what to do. We teach them how to approach and pet a dog.



Then there are these strange creatures. They act like people, but, they don't talk, and their clothes smell like chew toys.



Toy Story Mania here I come.



Tractor at Cars Land.



Radiator Springs in Cars Land.



Grizzly River Waterfalls by It's Tough to be a Bug.



Smiling like Mickey Mouse!



My puppy raiser, Laurel, and I in front of the falls.



Here I am with the doggie Farewell cake from all my pals.



And a close up of the cake. It was delicious!



These are all my doggie friends. I am the youngest at 17 months and we are unsure how old the oldest one is. Some are rescues, some are retired service dog breeders, some are retired search dogs, some are nosework champions and some are dock diving champions. I love them all. I am in the back with a blue collar.



Going to get toys in the pool is fun ...



... even when someone else gets it first. ☺



These are the puppy raisers and T-dogs going in for training together on January 31 who grew up together. Chuck and Pat have Tetley, Laurel and me [Tagg], Barbara and Tetley.

I was so happy to meet up with my sponsor, Janie, from Sepulveda Building Materials, and her family, at the January 2015 GDA graduation!



There were 12 of us in the litter so we look forward to re-uniting with our brothers and sisters.

Sitting with the bricks at GDA, many in memory of loved ones human and canine.



Weight Watchers welcomed me with open arms at every meeting. I even received my lifetime award on my last day. These are some of the friends I have gotten to know.



Ralph's grocery store was always so happy to see me. This was my favorite person, Denise, who always gave me lots of pets.



Turn in day came on January 31, 2015, through the gate we came. I am ready to learn how to guide!



Group photo of the T-litter. I am the middle yellow pup.



Nine T-pups on a sit – stay, pretty impressive.



My best buddies, left, Tetley, right, Travis ~ all ready to be guide dogs.



Meeting my "In-For-Training" roommate, my sister, T-Anita!



Here I am in front of one of the private dorms I dream to be in when I meet my partner.



Making the walk to the kennels.



Giving kisses to my puppy raiser to tell her I will be okay and will make her proud.



Our name tags and new training collars.



My puppy raiser whispered special words in my ear.



'til we meet again.



Empty leash, a moment that breaks your heart but at the same time means "mission accomplished". My puppy raiser gave me all the tools to succeed. It is up to me now to fulfill my destiny.

I have very much enjoyed being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials and hope to see everyone at my graduation.

The following pages are BEFORE and AFTER pictures of me. I think we can all agree that I have matured into a very handsome labrador.

Love,

Tagg





