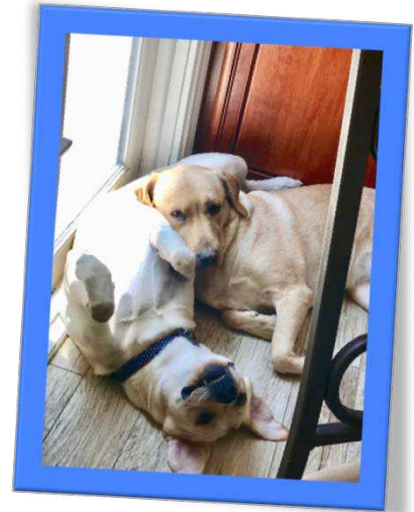


Denver, Guide Dog Puppy-in-Training



My name is Denver, and I am a Guide Dog puppy in training for Guide Dogs of America. I was born on June 23, 2018. I am a yellow Labrador Retriever and I was donated to GDA along with my brother, Doppler, who is also a yellow Lab. I am being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament. This is the fourth installment of my progress on my journey to become a Guide Dog!

I have been practicing being a good guide dog puppy-in-training since my last report! This sponsorship report covers the time period from the end of April 2019 to July 2019. I am now one year old! I weigh about 59 pounds and I am very well behaved. I enjoy going to new places with my puppy raising family. I hope you enjoy watching me grow and learn!



Something that people often ask my puppy raisers about is whether I have to work all of the time. Mom assures them that I get plenty of “down time.” While it’s important for me to learn how to behave in public, it’s also important for me to have play time and time to relax too. Wellesley is my favorite snuggle companion when I’m relaxing. She lets me lay next to her when we chew on Nylabones. Sometimes she even lets me steal hers! She’s very patient with me and we get plenty of time to play.

On April 27th I went to a special outing with some of my GDA friends. We went to the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast in Seal Beach. One of the Lion's Club's global causes is vision. They serve to prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired. It was a great mix-up of two service organizations – Lion's Club and Guide Dogs of America – both dedicated to helping individuals who have visual impairments.



There was a classic car show going on as well as the pancake breakfast.



This gave us a chance to practice our loose-leash walking through the closed off street.



Can you spot me? I'm in front of the word "No."



We walked all the way through the Classic Car show and practiced our different obedience commands along the way. When we got to the Seal Beach Pier, the Lion's Club had set up their pancake breakfast. Even though the pancakes smelled delicious, we dogs assumed our appropriate positions and practiced settling under the table. I am such a pro at settling that I fell asleep! Most of my friends did too! (I am the yellow Labrador sitting up. My brother Doppler is next to my on the right. His puppy raiser couldn't come, so a fellow puppy raiser brought him.) We posed in front of one of the Lion's club cars and I wasn't afraid of the big stuffed lion sitting on the hood. In fact, Mom thinks I didn't even notice it.



My human brother, Trevor, goes to Syracuse University. Mom always tries to find pictures of orange things to have me pose in front of because Syracuse's school color is **Orange**. The owner of this classic car was happy to have me pose in front of it.



Mom zoomed the camera out a bit so that you can see more of the car (if you're a car buff), but I think I'm the best looking in the picture! In the second picture, you can see me looking intently at Mom. I knew I couldn't break my "stay" command, but I was waiting for her to say "Ok" because I knew we had more people to meet and educate about GDA.



At the end of the outing, my brother, Doppler, and I got to spend some time together. While I love most humans that I meet, and most dogs too, Doppler and I share a special bond. You can see it in the second picture. Mom didn't pose us that way (with our paws crossed). We do that because we love each other and love to be together. Also, I think we were crossing our paws (like humans cross their fingers) that we both become official Guide Dogs some day.



Another important part of my training comes when I spend time in the GDA kennel. We guide-dogs-in-training call it "Camp GDA" because we love it so much there. It helps us get acclimatized to kennel time, because when we go to Guide Dog "College" (in for formal training) we will be living in the kennels. I love to go to Camp GDA and Mom tries to get me there for a week each month. While I'm there, I get to interact with the kennel staff and the puppy development staff and I get to play too. The pictures are from when I got picked up at the end of the week and came home. Boy, was I pooped!



It's also important for us guide-dogs-in-training to learn to behave with different humans. This is because we will work with different trainers while we are at Guide Dog College. Some humans walk fast; some walk slowly. Some speak quietly, and others speak in a louder voice. We have to get used to all kinds of different people, so it's important for us to spend time away from our own puppy raisers. I got to spend time with one of Doppler's humans, Amy. She makes the best dried sweet potato treats! Even though Doppler and I wanted to run and play with each other, Amy put us in a sit stay. We listened to her, and when we were released, she gave us each a dried sweet potato treat! Yum!

In June, I got to go on a very special outing with the Orange County GDA Puppy Raisers. In my last report, you saw that I got to go with the Orange County group to the fire station. This time, the Orange County group was going to the John Wayne Airport to practice going through security. Because I had done so well at the fire station, I was chosen again by Brian and Nancy Matthews (leaders of the South Bay GDA group) to go on this special outing. We practiced our obedience in the airport parking lot before we boarded the shuttle bus to ride to the airport terminal. Once we arrived at the terminal, we headed to the statue of John Wayne. Mom told me he was a famous movie star who was in "westerns" and who rode horses. She tried to explain that horses are like big dogs. I'm not sure what those are, but I was very excited to get to go the airport! The second picture is of Mamba and me. Mamba is also being sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials. The third picture is of my brother, Doppler, and me. (I am on the right with the light shining on my chin.)



Don't we make an awesome looking group?
(I promise that I'm in there even though you can't see me.
It looks like I got lost behind someone's head, but I'm
sitting next to my puppy raiser in the red shirt.)



We practiced our loose-leash heeling throughout the airport terminal and got smiles wherever we walked!



The most important part of the airport training came when we got to go through security. Mom walked through first and told me to stay. Once she got all the way through the detector, she told me to come. When I walked through, my Martingale collar set off the detector, but I wasn't scared of the noise. Because I set it off, the TSA agent had to pat me down. I snuck in a few kisses while I got my pat down. This was great training for us guide-dogs-in-training because we may end up being matched with someone who lives far from GDA, or someone who travels often. We all did a great job, and a huge shout out to the staff at the John Wayne Airport for allowing us to come and practice



These last two pictures were taken at Guide Dogs of America's Open House. The South Bay Group (dogs!) the Kissing Booth to help raise money for GDA. They knew they had the right dog for the job when they asked me if I would volunteer for some time in the booth! One of my favorite things to do is give kisses! People definitely got their money's worth for their \$1 donation! The second picture was taken during the puppy trials. This is an activity at Open House where we guide-dogs-in-training get to show off our obedience during a friendly competition. I'm on a down stay while one of the trainers (who you can't see) is dancing and squeaking toys to distract me. It didn't work, and I stayed where I was supposed to. In fact, I did so well in the first phase of the puppy trials that I made it to the finals! I didn't win first place, but that wasn't my fault – it was Mom's. No, it really was! During the finals, the first human to find the rubber duck in the pool of toys (while blind-folded) advanced their dog to the last phase. I don't know what happened, but Mom didn't find the rubber duck. She told me it was ok. I won first prize in her book and proved that my obedience was stellar!



Thank you again to my wonderful sponsor Sepulveda Building Materials. I am so thankful for your sponsorship and will try very hard to continue to make you proud of me. Unfortunately, I won't be able to be at the Charity Golf Tournament and will miss meeting all of you because I just went into heat. I will be spending some time at Camp GDA, but will check back in a few months and will let you know how my training is going. Until then,

Wags and Licks!

Denver