

Paddy's Progress

January 2018



Dear Sepulveda Building Materials ,

Hi! It's me, Paddy! We haven't met yet, but I wanted to introduce myself and thank you for being so generous and helping me become a guide dog...whatever that is.

Life was really good when I was a little puppy up at the Guide Dog School. I had lots of brothers and sisters, and I loved nursery school. But before I knew it, they said it was time to go "home". I wasn't sure what that meant, but it didn't seem like anyone wanted my opinion, so I just waited further instructions.

Lucky me—my new home came with instructions! When My Humans came to pick me up, they gave me this from their two retired GDA breeders:

Memo

To: New Dog
From: Mika and Ellie
cc: The Humans
Date: December 8, 2017
Re: Homecoming

Dear New Dog,

Before you come home, we'd like to make a few things clear.

1. You're cute. We get it. We're not impressed.
2. Between the two of us, we produced 65 puppies. Top that.
3. At mealtime, we ALL have to sit and wait before they say, "Okay". The rules on this are clear—Sit your butt down and wait, because We Are Hungry. Don't make us tell you this twice.
4. The Humans call themselves "the Puppy Raisers", which is adorable. Play along with that (it keeps them happy), but trust us—we do most of the raising around here. We'll teach you everything you need to know. We've raised plenty of guide dogs around here (no pressure, ha ha ha).
5. Our humans are what are called "GDA Area Leaders", and the tall one teaches the obedience class. When that happens, you *literally* become the Teacher's Pet. Let us know if you need extra help in between classes. We might even give you a discount on lessons. Maybe.
6. If you have any questions, just ask. But ask Ellie, not Mika.

Thank you, and we hope you enjoy your stay at Camp Matthews.



Hmm. That's when I first realized that I might have a little bit of work to do to win over my new family. But heck, who wouldn't love me?

All my worries went away as soon as I got home and saw they couldn't wait to help me. They even left notes explaining how things work! I bet they had just been counting the days until I got there! I mean seriously, who **doesn't** love a puppy with endless energy and razor-sharp teeth?!

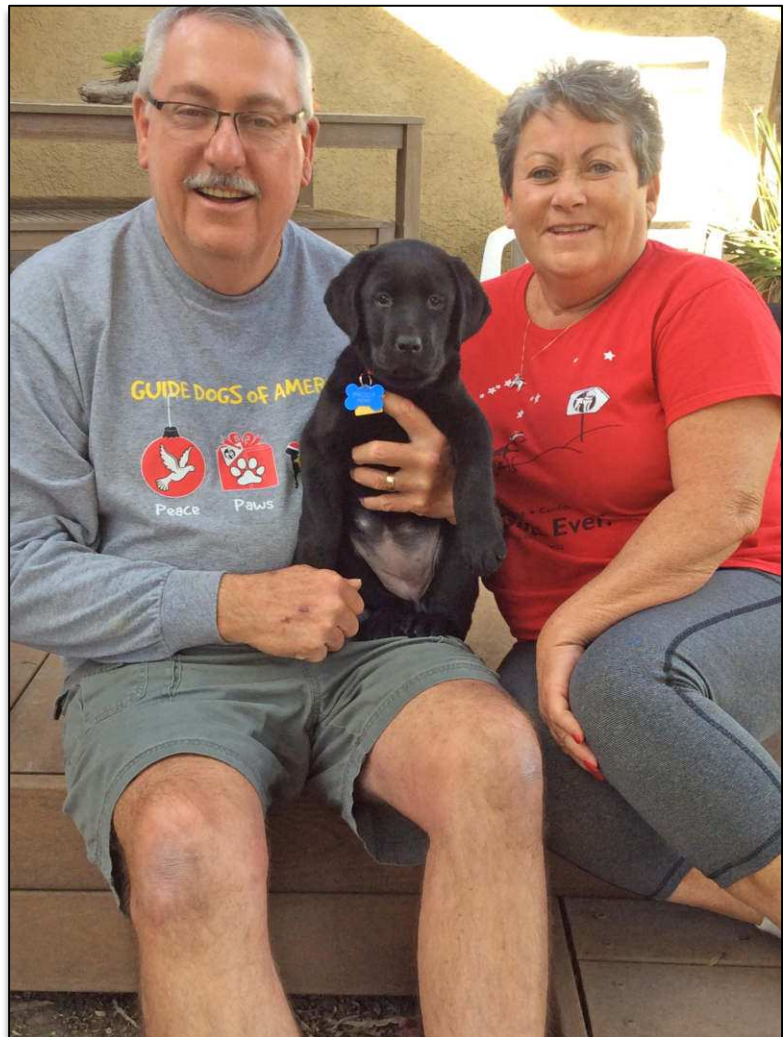


This was my first meeting with my Big Sister Mika (she's 14 years old in human years, but she still acts a lot like a puppy herself). Can't you just feel the love?

Ellie was a little easier...



And Mom and Dad
were total pushovers!



To be honest, it's been pretty crazy since I came home in December. I've been really busy learning to sit and wait before I start eating my food (check!), learning basic obedience (kinda check), learning to "get busy" outside (umm...sorta kinda check), and getting the family to fall in love with me (dogs,



tentative check, humans, big check). One command I am REALLY good at is Coming with Great Enthusiasm when I am called, as seen here in puppy class.

Guess what? Two of my sisters are in the same obedience class! It was so nice to see them again. It's fun to be in the same class—here's a picture of us together when we were behaving because it was impossible to get a picture of the three of us in focus during recess.



Now that I've gotten a little older (I'm thirteen weeks old now), I'm supposed to wear this yellow piece of fabric on my back when I go out to "work". I don't completely understand what it's for, but people seem to get really excited when I put it on, and they treat me differently. It makes me feel really special, so I'm trying my best not to eat it. The Humans say I have to be on my best behavior when I'm wearing it—as long as they keep doing this thing called "Treat Training", I'll do whatever they want!



Finally, I'm happy to report I've pretty much won over my new, er, "senior" canine friends.

Stay tuned for my next report when I'll be out and about and making lots of new friends and learning all kinds of new things. I hope I get to meet you soon!

Much love and many wags,

Paddy 

GDA

Puppy in Training
(for exactly what,

I'm still not sure. I'll get back to you on that.)

