

PADDY'S PROGRESS

APRIL 2018



Dear Super Nice People at Sepulveda Building Materials,

It's me! Paddy! Sorry I haven't written for a few months, but it turns out this whole guide dog in training thing really keeps a puppy super busy. My humans say keeping busy and learning new things keeps me out of trouble...but ahem...enough of that. I just wanted to thank you for everything you do with the golf tournament for Guide Dogs of America—it's people like you that keep my tail wagging!!

The last couple of months have been a whirlwind of new experiences (hooray!), new outfits (bye-bye puppy bib, hello big girl jacket!) and new accomplishments (graduated from puppy class summa cum laude cookies!). I just wanted to share a few adventure with you—I hope you enjoy them!

Love and endless wags,

Paddy 

Guide Dogs of America Puppy in Training



JANUARY

Seems like only yesterday I was just a little puppy learning basic commands. Sit, stay, come, down, wait, eat cookies—you name it, I've got this obedience stuff in the bag! The hardest part of class is not playing with my buddies during class...turns out that's particularly important when Your Human teaches the class.

Once you get all well-behaved and stuff—and also have someone poke you with a needle (what's up with that?)—you get to start going a lot more places. I LOVE this part! Here's a picture of me on my first lunch out with The Human. I got really excited when they said something about a doggy bag, but turns out that's not what you think it is. There are a lot of things about humans I don't really understand, but they have cookies, so it's all good. I also went to The Other Human's haircut with him—they LOVE me there! The Nice Lady With Scissors has been cutting the Human's hair for a really long time and seems to know all the guide dogs that have been raised before me—good thing I don't know what pressure is or I'd feel a lot of it to live up to all these amazing dogs that have come before me!

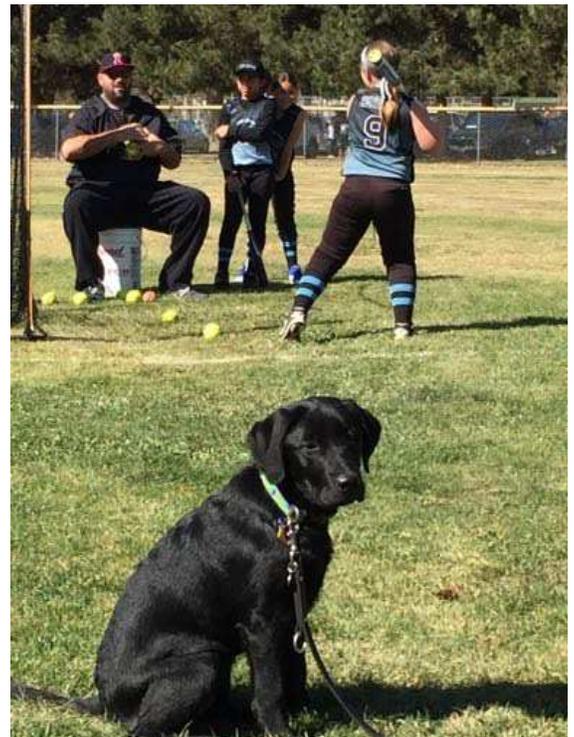


When I got to thinking, I realized it was never too soon to put my new skills to use and start trying my hand & paws at this whole service dog thing. Thankfully, my timing was just perfect! I ran into The Human as she was trying to work on something they call "Taxes". How lucky is she I was there to help?!



FEBRUARY

Okay, just between us, if the whole idea of being a puppy in training is to get new experiences, my Humans must be going for extra credit. That's fine with me—I love to be out and about and I have yet to meet a new friend I don't love! Turns out the Apple Store and the Softball field are both great places to provide support! Funny, iPhones are much less tempting to want to chase...just sayin'. (Hello, I'm a **RETRIEVER!**).



MARCH

March was a big milestone for me as I got (drum roll, please...) my BIG GIRL JACKET! No more of this silly little bib stuff—I'm a big girl now! I go to sewing class, fly fishing board meetings, work, all kinds of thing. Can you keep a secret? I sleep through a lot of it. I just hope there won't be a quiz.



APRIL

So...turns out there is this thing Humans do they call "Jury Duty". There are a lot of things Humans do that I find perplexing, but this one tops the list! For two days, the Obedience Trainer Human and I drove a long way and sat in a room. ALL DAY. I think maybe The Human was being punished or something but no one seemed to give him a correction or anything, or call him, "BrianNo" (they sometimes call me "PaddyNo" when they think I'm doing something wrong...).



Maybe I'll understand this whole thing when I get a little older. Maybe not.

April has been a very busy month—I practiced riding the bus with some of my fellow puppies in training. The Nice Humans at the Orange County Transit Authority have a special day for service dogs like us in training to learn. Here I am with my buddy Payden at the Arctic Transit Building.



Well, THIS was something fun! One of The Humans rides a boat to work over on Catalina Island! It's very different from the bus...and the car...and pretty much everything else! Anyone know if swim lessons are part of this whole training thing?



A FINAL NOTE:

Remember last report when I told you how excited I am to come when my name is called?



Turns out that is going to stick.

