

# CARSON CITY - Guide Dogs

Monthly News Letter

No. 2 September 2006



## About Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs are wonderful mobility aids. They allow their partners to travel independently and move gracefully and safely through crowds and across streets. People's reactions to the dogs vary -- from wanting to pet, feed, or interact with them, to believing dogs should not be allowed in public places. Both attitudes need to be addressed as they connote a lack of understanding of the nature and purpose of a Guide Dog. As a Guide Dog Puppy Raiser, you can help educate the public by your actions, words and deeds. Please be educated in the responsibilities you have as a Puppy Raiser, so you can answer questions from the public as you travel with your Guide Dog Puppy.

## Warren Says

Many years ago, Guide Dogs realized that guide dog puppies cannot be raised in a kennel environment. They also learned that training a dog in harness could only begin with a well socialized dog that was willing to work with people. To achieve its mission, Guide Dogs came to the conclusion that their puppies needed to grow-up in a loving human family and experience a wide variety of community experiences. Lately, Guide Dogs has described the relationship between a guide dog and a blind person as "soul mates". This is to say that the bonds between them go to the deepest part of emotional wellbeing. The guide dog partnership is based on tremendous trust and respect. Both person and guide dog must trust each other with their very lives. The dog needs the person for food, shelter and love. The person needs the dog for safe mobility, independence and companionship. In a sense, the guide dog partnership is synergistic - two parts which when combined make for a stronger unit - far greater than each separately. Together a blind person and his/her guide dog

## Carson City - club leaders

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are able to travel the world, live an independent life and help each other feel a deep sense of emotional wellbeing and confidence. Just remember that each day your guide dog puppy is loved and gains confidence in lots of new situations, and that they are growing in their capacity to trust people and show a willingness to become a "soul mate".

## Recent Events

On Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. Becky & Christina attended the Fun Day held on the Oregon campus of Guide Dogs. The campus in Boring (yes, that's really the town's name) is smaller than the one in San Rafael. It is in a beautiful rural & forested area. In attendance were raisers primarily from Oregon & Washington but also from Idaho, northern Calif. & a few from Nevada. The Fun Day sessions were very much like the ones offered in San Rafael, on such topics as international placements, toy policies, a day in the life of a guide dog in training & life in the kennel.

On Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>. we made our annual "pilgrimage" to the Nevada State Train Museum. Puppies & raisers were able to take a ride on the old train. The raisers looked out the windows while the puppies slept! Everyone behaved well. We toured the inside of the Museum & saw the newest exhibits. A good time was had by all!

## Upcoming Events

The annual Sacramento Fun Day is taking place on Sat. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. in Old Town Sacramento.

\* Please don't miss the meeting on Mon. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Legislative Mall. Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Felipe, Meryl, Bove, & Bradshaw. They will be returning to Guide Dogs for their advanced training. We will be watching them closely in their weekly progress reports. \* Stay tuned for news of the newest 4-legged additions to our club!