



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Raiser of the Month

January-February 2012

Sharon, my female black Labrador, is about to leave to enter the final steps of her training.

She is a remarkable dog, and a true testament to the resilience of dogs. She is different from most dogs in the fact that she has had three different raisers, yet she has remained as sweet as the first day I meet her.

One of the more interesting folds of her character is how she insists on laying in a sphinx like stance every chance she gets. Sharon is the sweetest dog I have ever met.

The thing that I will miss most about Sharon is the fact that she greets me with kisses every time I see her in the morning. I will miss her terribly, and I do not want her to leave.



Eric Silverman



We wish Sharon the best as she heads back for her IFT, and we will miss her

CLASS DATES - Refer to Montgomery Region Website

www.guidingeyes-md.org

Raiser of the Month

Domino came to our house on Dec. 12th in 2010. When I first saw her, my impression was, “Am I really able to raise her?” I took pre puppy classes with Roberta’s dog, Marnie, who was so gentle and smart, and easy to touch because of her softness. From the beginning, Domino was, barking and barking when I first saw her. I kept saying to my son, “I will be O.K. right?” In my car, bitter memories of my childhood about dogs came back to me.

I was severely bitten by a neighbor’s dog when I was 10 years old. After the incident, I wasn’t able to touch or be near to dogs for a long time. In 2000, I came to the U.S. for the second time. When I was here the first time, I lived in Potomac; my children were 3 and 5 years old at the time and there was another Japanese family living in Potomac. That was Tamaki’s family who was raising a GEB dog, Oxana. That was when I saw Oxana. Whenever I visited, I always saw how sweet and gentle Oxana was. I got used to her and was able to touch her but two years later returned to Japan and had no other interactions with dogs. .

In 2009 our family returned to DC again; almost 10 years had passed and my children were grown up and able to take care of themselves. That was when I decided to raise a GEB dog. I talked with Tamaki and decided to give Liz Neubaum as well.



When Domino arrived, it was not easy at all for me. Domino’s baby teeth were very sharp. Even though she was very tiny, I was afraid of her. I really do not remember how I was taking care of her for the first few days. I guess I was confused and wanted to do the best for her at the same time.

And then, I had the first emergency situation on Christmas Eve. Domino had a habit of picking acorns and sticks on the ground. She threw up and got diarrhea. I had no idea what to do and panicked. I called GEB, but it was in the middle of the holiday season and I could not talk to the right person. Also, my English skills were very poor.



I misunderstood the directions and took her to the emergency room. I was so afraid of losing her. That was my first big mistake. Now I learned how dogs are strong. I am able to observe in confidence.

For this incident, Sue Anne Slonin helped me so much. I knew it was the holiday season for her family, too, and she must have been busy; but, she still gave me advice every time I called her. After this, I started to learn little by little to raise her through class.

However, things didn’t get better so quickly. Domino started barking in class because she wanted to play with Paxton, Bismark and Sharon. She couldn’t calm herself down in class for a long time...*I got exhausted.*

Early in March of 2011, Sue Anne gave me and Domino an opportunity to visit her and Bismark at the kennel every week where she works. Domino played with Bismark for an hour, and I got a chance to ask Sue Anne questions. After a while Paxton and Sharon joined us. I was able to take Domino for a walk with them, and went to coffee shops and burger shops for socializing. Those outings helped both of us because I had no idea how to handle Domino in public. Every time we went out with them, we learned many things.



I deeply appreciate the efforts Jean, Sue Anne and Keara for the effort made for both Domino and me. My English skills were still not good enough, and didn’t make sense sometimes; but, they tried to understand me. I cannot imagine raising Domino without their help. I also thank Azumo and Ayumu for always accompanying me to class, listening to directions that I missed, and later going over it with me.

I am also grateful to Domino. She let me raise her and gave me the precious time that I will enjoy the rest of my life.

Arlo Graduates December 2011

Harry D Titus and Arlo

Canadian Harry Titus returns to Guiding Eyes for his fifth dog, black Lab Arlo.

Harry was only seven years old when he lost his sight due to Type 1 Diabetes. He received his computer science degree from the University of Manitoba and worked with mainframe computers for 27 years. Nowadays, he enjoys an active retirement. Harry competed in Okinawa, Japan in 1997 in martial arts, and he is a member of the Ontario Blind Golf Association, regularly competing in their golf tournaments.

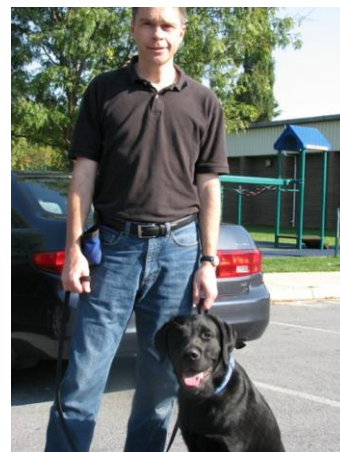
Harry's sisters, niece, nephew, and mother live close to Harry and his wife; all are looking forward to meeting Arlo. For Harry, Arlo will bring flexibility, mobility, and freedom back into his life.



At 8 weeks of age, Arlo arrives in Maryland to begin his training with Ted Mueller and family

From a young pup to a mature black male lab, Arlo was successful in learning the skills necessary to be a guide dog

*Thank you Mueller family for your dedication
To Arlo's success!*



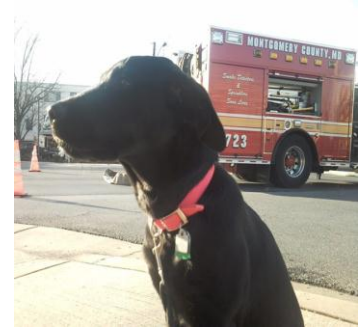


*Let us know where you like
to take your pup for outings*

Fun Places to Go

On January 8, John Kennedy, Claire and Fauna did a presentation for a local Daisy troop in Rockville. The goal of the troop was to learn about caring for animals with special attention to dogs used in support of others with disabilities.

Thank you to John and Claire for doing this activity.



On January 27 The Kentland's Daisy troop came to Potomac Kennels on Friday, January 27 for an introduction to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

There were 14 girls that are 5 years old. Sue-Anne explained about the dogs, what we teach them and the places we take them. Keara demonstrated with Bismark how the dogs respond to hand signals or voice commands. We were then able to introduce Favor and continue the demonstration. Samantha's sister, Gina, was helpful by giving all the Daisy troop girls GEB stickers and helpful with the dogs.



The Daisy troop girls have been doing various chores around their homes to raise money to donate. They made a donation to GEB of \$105.00!

Thank you to Sue-Anne, Samantha, Gina, Keara and our pups in training for doing this presentation...***AND THANKS TO THE DAISY TROOP FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT***



*Deadline for submission
of newsletter articles is the
20th of each month*



This newsletter is for everyone. Please contact me with your suggestions, ideas, and stories...***and send pictures***

Your articles will be included in future n

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