



**GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

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* SAVE THE DATE! *

3RD ANNUAL "PARTNER'S" AWARDS DINNER

The "Partner's" Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For sponsorship information and reservations, contact Debbie Sands at (818) 833-6433.



GDA puppies-in-training ready for summer fun.

"Our biggest adventure was when we went to Disneyland to celebrate my 50th birthday in January. Pontero held his head high and forged his way through the sea of strollers. His favorite rides were Peter Pan (he loved flying), Pirates of the Caribbean (the waterfalls were a thrill), and It's a Small World (completely relaxing). I have to say he thrived with the knowledge that I really needed him to be attentive in the park and he took such good care of my husband and me." **TERRI KRUGER, GRADUATE**

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDER

Summertime is a great time to enjoy a more relaxed pace whether at home or away, but it is important that the lazy days of summer don't also mean relaxation of year-round safety routines.

Chain collars are an effective and humane training tool when used properly and responsibly. However, they should always be removed when a dog is not working, training, or attached to a leash and replaced with a flat collar with the dog's ID tags. There is a danger that the chain collar can become caught on trees, fences, or furniture, making it impossible for the dog to free itself. Even dogs playing together can become entangled, with tragic results. These rare accidents can cause serious injury or death and can be prevented by remembering to always switch collars.



Partners

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

GDA GUIDE DOG TEAMS TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Don't be surprised if you see a GDA guide dog team posing for a photo in front of the Louvre in Paris, walking the decks of a cruise ship, boarding a plane for Spain, or riding a cable car in the Alps. Our grads and guides have been there, done that...and so much more.

At GDA we often refer to the greater independence and mobility that our graduates experience with their guide dogs. *Travel* is the theme of this newsletter, which presents the ideal opportunity to tell you – in our graduates' words – just how far that independence and mobility has taken them. We asked our grads to share their travel itineraries and most memorable experiences; many of which are included throughout this newsletter as "graduate quotes." Four are spotlighted here.

Almost Around the World in 90 Days

It wasn't 80 days – it was 90. And it wasn't around the world, but Jim Frederick and his guide dog Gordy visited many of the world's most beautiful and historic places during their first trip together.

Upon receiving his guide dog in October 2005, Jim, who lost vision in his left eye as the result of a stroke in 2002 and has a 60 percent loss of vision in his right eye caused by diabetes, told the GDA trainers, "I hope he likes to travel." As it turns out Gordy loves to travel as much as Jim, who says, "His tail goes 500 miles an hour when he sees the suitcase."

The pair's first trip was 90 days. Egypt was the first stop and for 30 days Jim and Gordy explored much of the country. They visited the Pyramids, took a four day cruise down the Nile, and spent four hours exploring Seti's Tomb (the largest tomb in Egypt). From Egypt, Jim and Gordy traveled to Greece, then Rome, on to Germany, off to Paris, and then Syria, before returning home...but not for long.

Jim estimates that he and Gordy travel eight months out of the year. In addition to the countries visited during their first trip, Jim and Gordy have been to Australia, Moscow, Canada, and South America. Gordy's tail will begin wagging wildly again soon, as the countdown begins for their trip to the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

"Where in the World?" continued on page 4 >

V E T ' S C O R N E R



Before Checking-In, Check Out This List of Travel Tips

Whether your dog is traveling with you, remaining at home, or being cared for elsewhere, thoughtful preparation before you leave can ease the potential for travel-related stress for you and your dog. These tips will help to ensure your vacation memories are happy ones.

- **Home Away From Home** – If you decide to board your dog, tour the facility. Observe the other pets, the staff, and where the dogs sleep and play; ask questions regarding their procedures. Some "musts" to prepare your pet for boarding include leaving familiar toys and blankets, leaving your pet at the facility prior to an extended vacation for a trial run, and ensuring that your dog's vaccinations are up to date.

"Vet's Corner" continued on page 3 >

Summer marks the start of travel season for many of us...including our graduates and their guides. We wanted to hear from the graduates where they have traveled with their guides and so we asked them, "Where is the most interesting place you and your guide dog have traveled?" Several of their responses appear throughout the newsletter.

IN MEMORY

With sadness we note the passing of GDA family members:

Heidi Beaver – Graduate
Sondra Brook – Graduate
Steve Rainard – Graduate
Mary Yoshisato – Graduate

*We also note with sadness the passing of a guide dog,
who ensured the safety and independence of his partner:*

Casper – Class 315

We also grieve the loss of:

Sandra “Sandy” Jean Stuart

Tireless in her support of GDA, Sandy served as the treasurer/fundraising coordinator of the Run for the Dogs Association, a chartered Guide Dogs of America, Washington chapter that is committed to fundraising for GDA. The association is comprised of individuals primarily from the IAM&AW District 160. Sandy organized a variety of events to benefit GDA, including the organization’s namesake event — the annual “Run for the Dogs,” a fun-filled fundraising day that features multiple events: Poker Run, Classic Car Cruise-In, and Motorcycle Show-N-Shine. Sandy will be greatly missed.



Puppy-in-training, Virtue, poses with a fan.

5TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR GUIDES BREAKS RECORDS

It was a record breaking day on Sunday, May 18 for Guide Dogs of America. Under record breaking heat, a record number of riders (nearly 650!) on more than 400 motorcycles at the 5th Annual Ride for Guides broke all records for this event. Along the 100-mile round-trip route puppies-in-training and GDA volunteers, as well as several GDA graduates greeted the riders. At ride’s end,

a delicious BBQ lunch was served at GDA and several lucky winners took home raffle prizes that had been generously donated by companies and individuals. No one was counting, but we are fairly certain there was a record breaking number of smiles from all those who participated in making this event incredibly successful.



Partners newsletter

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NEW EMPLOYEES

Please join us in welcoming our newest GDA staff members:

Sandy Meyer – Receptionist
Matthew Winchester – Part-time Kennel Tech

A GOOD-BYE WAG OF THE TAIL

We are sorry to say goodbye to **Kellee Matthews**, who is leaving GDA to spend more time with her family and two young boys. Kellee has been a member of the GDA family for 18 years. She has looked after hundreds of GDA puppies and dogs and ensured their good health by providing her patients with professional and compassionate care. We will miss her presence at GDA, and wish her and her family all the best.



GDA APPRENTICES MAKE THE GRADE

Join us in congratulating GDA’s newest certified trainers, **David Ponce** and **Linda Hawes**. These dedicated GDA staff members recently passed the State Guide Dog Board tests and received their Guide Dog Instructor’s license!

Linda Hawes has been with GDA for almost 20 years and has worked in several different departments and capacities within each. She decided to obtain her license now that her children are grown and she can devote even more time to GDA.

David Ponce put in a lot of hard work during his three-year apprenticeship training, which is a pre-requisite to obtaining this very important license.

In addition to the written test, David and Linda took oral and practical tests as part of the certification process leading up to earning their licenses. In the practical test, each of these individuals worked one of the dogs they had trained to demonstrate their skills as a trainer. David and Linda also were continually acquiring and assimilating knowledge about dog handling and training. They learned about various diseases that contribute to blindness as well as about orientation and mobility for the visually impaired. Additionally, they spoke to community groups and visited organizations, including the Braille Institute.



GDA HOLIDAY CARDS (Inside message: Happy Holidays)



DAY PACK (left) and **INSULATED ON-THE-GO TOTE** (right).



GDA 60TH ANNIVERSARY TEE



CANVAS HANDLE TOTE



2008 GDA 60TH ANNIVERSARY LAPEL PIN

Your purchase of the items listed here and at www.guidedogsofamerica.org/shop help to support our program. Shipping and handling is included in the price of all items featured here, excluding the "Canvas Handle Tote." See "Order Form" below for additional information.

Summer 2008 ORDER FORM

****SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE on all items except for the "Canvas Handle Tote"*****

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429.

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America ATTN: Summer Order Form
13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

- Day Pack** **\$12.50/pack** QTY: \$
- Insulated Tote** **\$42/tote** QTY: \$
- Canvas Handle Tote** **\$20 per tote**
**add \$6.00 for shipping for up to 2 canvas totes ordered*
- Bichon Friese puppies \$
- Boston Terrier puppies \$
- Boxer puppies \$
- Chihuahua puppies \$
- Corgi puppies \$
- Dachshund puppies \$
- Golden Retriever puppies \$
- Pug puppies \$
- Shih Tzu puppies \$
- Westie puppies \$
- Yellow Labrador puppies \$
- Yorkie puppies \$
- "Peeping Puppies" (pictured above) \$
- "Peeping Toms" (kittens) \$
- "Heart's Desire" (horses) \$

- GDA Holiday Cards** **\$18.00 per box**
- Box(es) of 15 cards & envelopes \$
- GDA Lapel Pins** **\$8.00 per pin**
- 2008 GDA 60th Anniversary Lapel Pin \$
- 2007 GDA Yellow Lab Lapel Pin \$
- 2006 GDA German Shepherd Lapel Pin \$
- 2005 GDA Chocolate Lab Lapel Pin \$
- 2004 GDA Golden Retriever Lapel Pin \$
- 2003 GDA Black Lab Lapel Pin \$
- 2003 -2007 Collector's Edition Boxed Set - \$35.00 \$

- GDA 60th Anniversary Tee** **\$18 per shirt**
(Unisex sizes) Indicate quantities in box next to chosen size(s).
- SM MED LARGE
- XL XXL XXXL \$
- Customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide Bike Raffle**
To be eligible entry must be postmarked by November 1, 2008.
- 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00 QTY \$

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone (____) _____ E-mail (optional) _____

Credit Card (check one) VISA MasterCard Discover **Check** (make your check payable to **Guide Dogs of America**)

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Card Number: _____
 Signature: _____ (required for credit card purchase)



“The furthest attraction that Sebastian and I have been to was Washington, D.C. The one that still holds the most emotion was the graduation at GDA.” SHARON ELY, GRADUATE

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Class #357

GRADUATES from LEFT to RIGHT
(Puppy Raiser in parenthesis):

Cindy Hackworth & Watcher (*The Pennala Family*),
Debbie Feigum & Nyac (*The Schmid Family*),
Juan Romero & Wissel (*Marylou & John Kozub*),
Michelle Nall & Kaylee (*Cathy & Phil Lichtenberger*),
Bette Hazard & Millie (*The Barger Family*),
Manaya Warkentin & Koffee* (*Ervin & Karen Reyburn*),
Tyrone Tagle & Kira (*Charlene & Lee Cunningham*),
Robert Stigile & Rose (*Judi Gomez & Miguel Ola*)

INSTRUCTORS standing L to R:

Chris Medina, Chuck Jordan, Linda Hawes,
Annmarie Esposito

IN-HOME GRADUATES (NOT PICTURED):

Patty Sarchi & Othello (*Judy Kovaric*), Gerry Leary
& London (*The Puntar Family*), Hayley Edick &
Voight (*Amy and Matthew Toussaint*)

*graduation pending

“The hiking trails at the Grand Canyon were one person wide. I took off Fremont’s harness, put him on the long leash, and headed down the hiking trail with him. He showed me every rock and tree root as well as the many other obstacles I could have tripped on. We hiked about three miles. I had such a good time and it seemed Fremont also enjoyed himself.” DEBBIE PAUL, GRADUATE

“I would have to say the most interesting place I have been with my guide dog Jasmine is on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean, with all of the ports of call.” BILL MLYNARSKI, GRADUATE

GDA PRODUCTS – PERFECT FOR SUMMER

DAY PACK

A convenient and accessible carry-all for day hikes, hitting the beach, or around town, GDA’s 100% nylon day pack measures 17”H x 14”W. The navy blue day pack features a white GDA logo on the flap opening of the pack, which also functions as a zippered pocket. The nylon cord can be used as a shoulder strap for easy carrying or pulled tight for drawstring closure. The day pack is available for \$12.50.

INSULATED ON-THE-GO TOTE

Keep drinks colds and snacks fresh in this insulated, zippered, black tote with white GDA logo. Tote measures 11”H x 14”W x 6”D. Carry the tote by the two handles or detachable shoulder strap. The insulated tote is \$42.

CANVAS HANDLE TOTE

“Tote” summer essentials in a cotton canvas, 12” x 12” tote bag with irresistibly adorable, full-color illustrations printed on front and back. A total of 15 designs, including 13 puppy-inspired designs, one kitten design (Peeping Toms), and one horse design (Heart’s Desire), are available. Totes feature heavy-duty black web straps and reinforced black bottom for extra durability. Tote bags are \$20 each, plus \$6 for shipping for up to two totes.

GDA 60TH ANNIVERSARY TEE

Spend warm summer days in this cool blue tee shirt featuring GDA’s special 60th Anniversary logo silk screened in white. Tee shirts are 100% cotton and made in the U.S.A. The tee shirt is available for \$18.

2008 GDA LAPEL PIN COMMEMORATES 60 YEARS

This 1” x 1” lapel pin celebrates GDA’s 60th Anniversary with its depiction of the GDA logo, as well as its years of service. Also available are previous year’s pins and a special collector’s edition boxed set in limited quantities. The lapel pin is \$8.

GDA HOLIDAY CARDS

Get a head start on your holiday preparations by purchasing GDA’s holiday cards. Guaranteed to spread holiday cheer, these full-color cards (5”x 7”) feature three adorable puppies in holiday attire. A pack of 15 cards with envelopes is \$18.

Inside message: *Happy Holidays*

BUY A TICKET TO RIDE

Customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide

Don’t miss out on the chance to win this “cherry” Donnie Smith customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide. Custom wheels, custom seat, and wide rear tire with features that have been stretched to the max. Stretched fenders. Stretched tank. Stretched saddlebags. Visit the Custom Street Bike photo gallery to see more pictures at www.guidedogsofamerica.org.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. Complete and return the order form on this page (postmarked by Nov. 1, 2008) to purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased at GDA or from our secure web site (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) through Nov. 15, 2008. The winning ticket will be drawn on Nov. 22, 2008 at the Guide Dogs of America Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to claim prize.)



"Vet's Corner" continued from front page...

- **Special Requests** – Before taking a trip with your dog, consult your veterinarian to be sure all required vaccinations are current and to receive a health certificate ten days prior to travel. Additionally, find out in advance if your pet will be welcome at your travel accommodations, specifically how your hotel defines "pet friendly." Keep in mind that pets often are not permitted to remain in the room unattended, even in pet-friendly lodgings, so make plans accordingly.
- **Carry I.D.** – In addition to a current identification tag or microchip, make sure your pet's collar also includes a travel tag with information about your accommodations during your travels so you can be contacted in case your dog gets lost.
- **Up, Up, and Away** – Before flying with your pet, be aware of the airline's policy regarding pets. Book direct flights when possible and consider temperature extremes in summer months. Use a USDA-approved shipping crate large enough for your dog to comfortably stand, sit and turn around in. Be sure and familiarize her/him with the crate in the days prior to departure.
- **On the Road Again** – Never leave your dog in a parked automobile. Even with the windows open, the temperature in a stationary vehicle can rise quickly, creating the possibility for heatstroke.
- **Buckle Up** – Be sure your dog is safely restrained in your vehicle, using either a pet safety harness or travel kennel. These restraint methods will not only protect your pet from injury, but also keep them from distracting you while driving.
- **In Case of Emergency** – When traveling by car, pack a simple first-aid kit, including assorted bandages, antiseptic cream, an antidiarrheal medication (consult your vet for pet-safe products), gauze squares, and your vet's telephone number.
- **On the Menu** – Prior to travel, limit your pet's food intake to a minimum to prevent motion sickness. Make sure to provide your dog with plenty of water throughout the trip. Ice cubes are often easier on your pet's stomach than large amounts of water.
- **Check-Up Before and After Check-in** – Unfamiliar surroundings can cause your pet's appetite, energy and disposition to change. Watch for unusual behavior or appearance. Contact a local veterinarian if you are concerned about any physical or behavioral changes. 🐾



Personalizing a tile on GDA's Dedication Wall will help support new projects and existing programs at the school.

BUILDING GDA'S FUTURE TILE BY TILE

Our students come to GDA not because of what they have lost, but because they know what is to be gained during their time in class and after graduation. Whether our students have been visually-impaired or blind from birth, experienced a gradual deterioration of their sight, or a more sudden loss of vision due to illness or accident, they leave GDA looking forward to a life full of greater possibilities with their guide dog by their side.

In honor of Guide Dogs of America's 60th Anniversary we have set a goal to complete the tiling of both our Dedication Wall and Memorial Wall. By personalizing a space on either one of our existing walls, you will be helping to support new projects, as well as current programs at the school, which include continuing to build our breeding program, funding veterinary treatments, and making school-wide improvements.

Your lasting tribute can be personalized with your name, your pet's name, a special dedication, and/or memorial etched on tile. We encourage you to make your contribution to the future of GDA and help us meet our goal of completing both of these walls during this special anniversary year.

There are three levels of dedication to match your specific area of interest and level of philanthropy:

Puppy Pal - 2" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 1 line) - \$50

Best Buddy - 4" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 1 line) - \$75

Faithful Friend - 6" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 2 lines) - \$100

Please note: Character count includes spaces and punctuation. An optional "paw print" or "heart" can be added to your personalized message. Please allow two spaces for the paw print or heart symbols and add \$25 per symbol to the total price of your order.

For more information or to personalize a tile, go to the GDA web site (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) or call Sandy Meyer at (818) 833-6429.

CORRECTION If you received GDA's appeal letter in the mail, please note the following corrections to the pricing listed on the "Donor Information" side of the reply card: Puppy Pal \$50 and Best Buddy \$75. All other information on the card is correct. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.



Partners in Trust

Just as blind men and women partner with GDA's remarkable dogs for additional independence and mobility, generous friends and supporters partner with GDA to help us carry out and maintain our mission. Become a member of the *Partners in Trust Society* by naming GDA in your will or trust and receive this beautiful, crystal biscuit jar. **Please contact Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.**

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Climbing to New Heights in the Alps

Diagnosed with a slow form of retinitis pigmentosa as a teenager, David Bates' vision loss has been a gradual one. In fact, he was 60 when he received his first guide dog, Stanley. Since then, he has climbed to new heights. How high? While in Switzerland, he and Stanley climbed the stairs that led to the top of a castle and walked along the top wall.

When his vision loss was to the point he felt he could no longer continue his work in audiovisual production, David entered graduate school to pursue a teaching degree. He graduated with a Ph.D. in Sociology on the last day of 2000. Four months later, in April 2001, David and Stanley graduated from GDA.

Last summer, David, who now teaches sociology at the university level, and Stanley made their first international trip together, to Switzerland, accompanied by David's wife Julie and their son Moses.

Stanley performed well in his new surroundings. The only time David thought to himself, "Hey, wait a minute," was on the top of the castle wall in the medieval town of Murten. But he didn't have anything to worry about.

"Stanley kept up his end of things beautifully," said David, adding, "but he seemed really happy when we came down."

David and his family made their trip in May. Walking with Stanley in the high Alpine meadows they were treated to all the beautiful colors of the spring flowers. "The daily beauty is breathtaking and it's true that the lakes are inconceivably gorgeous," said David, who has pinhole vision in his left eye.

In addition to having Stanley, traveling within the country also was made easier by his wife, who made all their travel arrangements, and by what David refers to as "the most magnificent transportation system in the world."

Traveling for "Amusement"

For Steve Ehlers travel is not something he does only for pleasure, he does it for "amusement." Steve's company builds electronic shooting galleries for amusement parks all around the world. For more than 30 years Steve has had a guide dog as his "left hand dog." Over the years, Steve has had three guide dogs and each of them has traveled extensively with him, both domestically and internationally.

Glee was Steve's first dog. Just two weeks after grad-

uation, the team was off on a two-week business trip to Switzerland, with a quick stop in New York. Max, his second dog, went with Steve to Mexico City. Trading sunny Mexico for snowy Banff, Canada, Steve, who is totally blind, enjoyed many seasons of skiing. Max would watch Steve ascend the mountain in the ski lift and wait patiently for him to appear on the ski run. At the bottom of the hill, Max greeted Steve with tremendous enthusiasm.

Steve's third dog, Rugby, has accompanied him to more than 15 states since the team graduated more than 10 years ago. The team was in New Jersey for an installation at an amusement park not long ago, but it was Steve and Rugby that were the main attraction. The park had contacted local media, which came out to interview Steve. A story about the team ran in the local paper.

Even though he has traveled abroad with his guide dogs, including trips to Germany, Spain, and Switzerland, among others, in Steve's opinion the most exotic place he's been is Las Vegas, where he recently completed an installation. "The casinos are so huge so the dog gets exercise," said Steve. "There's so much noise and activity that you would think it would be easy for the dog to become distracted, but he does his job."

"Bone" Voyage

Any guide dog that teams up with Patricia LaFrance-Wolf needs its sea legs. Since losing most of her vision more than 20 years ago as a result of diabetes, Patricia has had three guide dogs. Her current guide dog Shannon and her previous guide Max have accompanied Patricia and her husband Perry on cruises to Mexico.

"Shannon was the star of the ship on our cruise to Mexico," said Patricia. "The crew made her a special bed in our cabin using the sheets and blankets from the ship. And the ship also provided a private space for Shannon to 'do her business'." To make her feel at home, Patricia always brings along Shannon's

favorite squeaky toy.

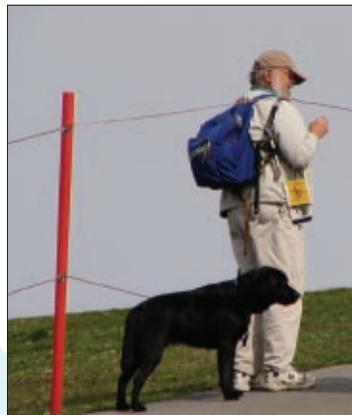
According to Patricia, Shannon adapts well to being on board the ship. "She quickly learned where the room was located and would take us from the elevator to the room better than we could. She's also very good about moving over to let other passengers pass in the narrow hallways of the ship."

This September, Patricia and Shannon will set sail from New York to Nova Scotia on a seven-day cruise sponsored by Guide Dogs International. Patricia predicts the reaction she'll receive from Shannon when she senses they are about to go on a trip.

"She recognizes we're going away and she gets really excited," said Patricia. "She walks a little faster when we're someplace new, anxious to experience everything." 🐾



Patricia LaFrance-Wolf, her husband, Perry, and guide dog, Shannon.



David Bates and Stanley visit Switzerland



Steve Ehlers and Rugby have traveled to more than 15 states together.



Jim Frederick visits a pyramid in Egypt with his guide dog, Gordy.



GDA PUPPIES ON THE GO!

We extend a special thank you to the puppy raisers, who shared these wonderful photos from their travels with their puppies-in-training.

