

Thursday August 15, 2024

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Dear Diary,

I am just bursting with pride right now for all of my pack. Some days when we do something paw-fectly, I wish our dear sponsors could see firsthand how much we are learning and improving every day!

Let's start with me... golly, where to begin?

Woof! I have so much exciting news to share!

My puppy carer says I like to show off what I've learned – I have all those basic skills sorted! Just the other day we did a group training session on yoga mats (I felt very chilled out afterwards!) We practiced 'down' and 'roll over'.

Exploring new places is my favourite – there's so much to see! I love tagging along for breakfast, lunch or dinner, hopping in the car for long drives, or even going shopping. On public transport like trains, trams or buses, I tuck myself in under a seat and settle nicely, showing everyone how focused I am with my coat on!

During a recent trip to Nagambie, a little country town, something exciting happened. We went out for dinner and sat next to a lady from Vision Australia who recognised me! I felt like a star! I did a good job of impressing her with my good behaviour and charm hehe!

> Now, let me tell you about my brother, Scott – he's super smart! He ventures into the great outdoors every week in walking groups and exercise classes with his puppy carer. He even took a ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliff for a training session with other puppies in training. The boat didn't faze him at all – what a brave pup!

Scott likes car rides too; now he is tall enough, he enjoys gazing out the window as the world goes by! His puppy carer says he is very willing to gently lead the way on walks. Plus, he has no problem stopping at stairs before being given the cue to move forward. Wow – Scott is already learning so much!

Scott has been exploring the great outdoors.



Truffles recently enjoyed a visit to an art gallery! And then there's my sister, Truffles. I think her adventures are just fantastic. She's visited the city, countryside, museum, theatres, parks, and restaurants. Whew!

At the ballet, watching Alice in Wonderland, she handled the unusual noises remarkably well. Her puppy carers provide her with lots of encouragement to handle different situations and places calmly.

She has also travelled to the city on the train and taken part in group training sessions with other puppies-in-training! What a busy girl. Her carer says she settles well and does a great job in crowded places, and she easily switches between being focused with 'coat on' and relaxing with 'coat off'. Nice work Truffles!

Oh, and I have to tell you about our very first assessment – the 16-week walk-and-talk. We were taken to busy areas where our trainers tested our reactions to different situations like the supermarket, road crossings and train platforms, and we aced it. Our trainers said Scott is a quick learner, he's picking up all the skills he needs to know easily, and Truffles walks beautifully and settles nicely. As for me, I'm pretty solid all-around! Woo-hoo go team!

We really do try our best to make our puppy carers proud, and of course our wonderful, generous sponsors who so kindly support us! Without them, none of this would be possible.

Our journey has just begun, but I hope one day we will all guide a special friend. If we just keep doing our best, my pack will be the best Seeing Eye Dogs ever!

Feeling super sleepy now - it must be time for a puppy nap!

Until next time, Tommy XOX







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