

Thursday August 15, 2024

Dear Diary,

Wowweee, it has been a very busy time for my pack – we have been super focused on training, exploring and learning. I hope our lovely sponsors are proud of how hard we are working!

We recently turned six months old! Ah, it only seems like yesterday we were tiny little puppies learning basic cues. Now we have all those skills sorted! Yay! I have an action-packed update to share!

We know cues like 'down', 'up', 'sit', 'touch', and 'on your bed'. We've even learned to wait to hear a whistle blow three times before we eat our dinner – and that one can be tricky when we love our food!!

Speaking of dinner – that reminds me of my brother, Gator. His puppy carer says he is very much food motivated, so he is a really fast learner! Hehe!

Gator is always looking to go outside and explore the world, which is the paw-fect personality for a career as a Seeing Eye Dog. Walking on various surfaces such as grates, and different types of stairs is next on the list for training!

His home was very quiet before he arrived, but now Gator keeps everyone on their toes! After breakfast, it's off to the park for a morning walk. Gator is learning not to get distracted while out for walks and is working hard to master 'down' and 'wait'. But playtime is the highlight of his day, Gator loves a game of tug-of-war and some belly rubs too!

> He goes to work with his puppy carer in the afternoon, where he is learning to be settled and quiet.

Gator told me he's also doing really well with learning how to wear his halter. And he's so smart, when it accidentally came off, he stood still and looked at his puppy carer as if to say, 'this needs to be fixed!' What a good boy!

My brother Gus has earned lots of nicknames. He's 'Master of the Crosswalk' (because he is not at all distracted by passing cars, trucks or loud noises) and 'King of the Schoolyard' because he is an absolute star at school pick up!

Gator loves exploring the outside world!



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Gus is learning to settle in busy environments. Gus just loves the children in his carer family and goes to tonnes of activities with them... gymnastics, swimming lessons and AFL! These all present pawsome opportunities for Gus to learn how to be settled in different environments and ignore many different distractions – like bouncing balls and swimming pools!

As for me, I've been doing lots of exploring – city, country, cafes and restaurants, in the car and on public transport. I love wearing my puppy training coat out and I'm so proud when I get to show it off!

My carer works from home, so every day after a morning walk, I settle calmly under the desk until it's time to take a break. But what I love best is going into the office - there are so many exciting sounds and smells! Once or twice a

week, we take the train to work – I'm becoming more and more confident when getting on and off the train.

On weekends, we are out the door for big walks, and even hikes. I saw a bunch of kangaroos on a walk (they are so funny-looking with their big tails!) and I was very curious, but I remained calm and didn't even bark! Wasn't I good?!

I do love catching up with my puppy friends too. We did a group walk with other pups-in-training the other day. These training sessions teach us how to behave and ignore distractions. It can be really hard, but I know we will ace it!

Well, I'm off to work now! Time to put on my training coat and brush up on my skills.

I am so grateful for the support of our sponsors who help make this all possible. I dream that one day my pack and I will grow up to be a fully qualified Seeing Eye Dogs and make them proud!



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