

# Adler's Adventures

VOL. 1

JULY 2016



Adler at 8 weeks old

## Hello, world! It's me, Adler!

I am a male black Labrador Retriever and one of Guide Dogs of America's newest puppies-in-training. I was born on April 5th, 2016.

I want to say a **HUGE** "Thank you!" to Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament for sponsoring me on my journey to becoming a guide dog. I couldn't do it without you!

## Meet my Puppy Raisers!



Here I am with my puppy raisers Karen (left) and her mom, Dianne (right).

I am their 6th puppy that they have raised for GDA. I love my family already and one day I hope to make them very proud!

## Follow Me!

For more frequent updates, you can follow me on



Instagram  
@adler\_thegdapup

OR

Online:

[www.instagram.com/adler\\_thegdapup](http://www.instagram.com/adler_thegdapup)

# Puppy Pickup Day

May 27, 2016



## “Awesome A-Litter” Family Photo!

I come from a litter of 9 puppies (4 boys, 5 girls).  
Here we are pictured with all of our puppy raisers!  
L to R: Arlo, Aqua, Ava, Harold, Arrow, Ace, and me, Adler!  
*Not pictured: Ash, Amare*



Meeting my puppy raiser for the first time!



Here I am with my brother  
Ace. Our puppy raisers  
live nearby, so we will be  
seeing a lot of each other  
as we grow up!



Adler and puppy raiser, Karen



Adler and puppy raiser, Dianne



Adler and Karen pictured in front of the GDA campus

# There's no place like home!

Here are a few photos of my first week at home! I am so smart and easy-going that I quickly adapted to life outside of the GDA puppy nursery. I love my new family and my new home!

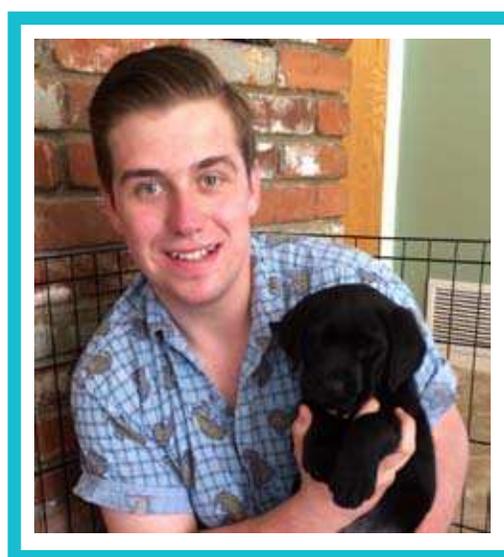


Learning to "sit" for my food.

## Meet Kiara!



This is my "sister," Kiara! She's a 19 month old Golden Retriever. She was my puppy raisers' 5th GDA puppy that they raised (I'm number 6!). Kiara told me that being a guide dog wasn't the right line of work for her, but her new job as our family's "forever dog" is to help me learn good house manners and teach me all about having fun. She's such a fun playmate and is super patient with me, even when I chomp on her fluffy tail! We've become great friends!



This is my puppy-raiser-brother, Jon! He's the "King of Playtime!" I'm so glad he's home from college for the summer!

# Watch me grow!

## 8 weeks



I am playful, sweet, and cuddly.

**Highlights of the week:** I met my puppy raisers!  
I'm learning my name and to "sit" for my food.

## 9 weeks



I am smart, adventurous, and a good playmate.

**Highlights of the week:** I got my official GDA jacket  
and went to my first Puppy Kindergarten class.

## 10 weeks



I am good natured, observant, and quick to learn.

**Highlight of the week:** I went on my first few  
outings in my new jacket!

## 11 weeks



I am loving, confident, and eager to please.

**Highlight of the week:** I had my first over-night stay  
with a puppy sitter. I was a great house guest!

# So much to learn!

## Puppy Kindergarten

After being home for only a week, I started a Puppy Kindergarten class with a few of my fellow GDA puppies in training around my age. Over the course of the class, we are being introduced to the basic obedience commands and behaviors that will later become the foundation for all of our future training. But it's not all hard work! We also play games with our toys and get food rewards for doing a good job! I'm a very fast learner and I'm doing a great job so far! My puppy raiser says that as long as we keep doing our homework that I'm going to pass with flying colors!



The first week our instructor used me as the example in front of the class.



Adler and some of his classmates



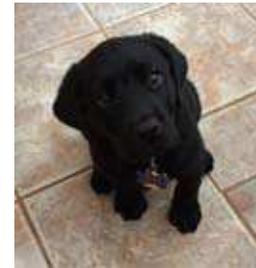
Learning to be brushed

### What I'm learning at Puppy K:

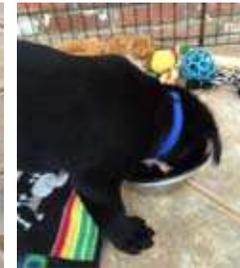
- ✓ "Sit"
- ✓ "Down"
- ✓ "Stay"
- ✓ "Come"
- ✓ "Leave it"
- ✓ To walk on a loose leash on my handler's left side

## Meal Time

One of the first things I learned when I came home with my family was to "sit" for my food and wait until my puppy raiser said "okay" before I could eat. This was a little tough at first because I LOVE my food! But I got the hang of it pretty quick.



Waiting patiently...



YUM!!



Done already?

8 weeks old

## Exploring New Obstacles

Everyday I practice my homework for Puppy Kindergarten. Sometimes, my puppy raiser uses our training sessions to introduce me to new experiences. This helps me to build my confidence at home before going out in the big world!



Playing in a tunnel



Learning to climb stairs

# Adventures of a GDA Pup

## Riding in the Car



When I was very little and not quite old enough to go out on any big adventures, there were still plenty of things I did at home to practice what it would be like to go on an outing. All guide dog puppies in training ride in the car on the floor by the front seat on the passenger side. The first time I rode in a car, my puppy raiser got to hold me on the way home from GDA (that's the only exception to the

rule). So then I had to practice lying down in my regular spot. At first, my puppy raiser and I hung out for a little bit while the car was running and parked in the driveway. It was no big deal; it actually turned out to be a pretty good place to take a nap. Next we started going on short rides around the block. I handled it like a pro!

## On the Job

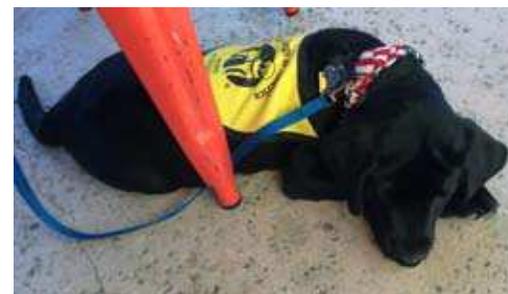


Every week I go to church with my family. The last time I was there I met a young girl who is battling cancer. She really liked me a lot and I loved her too! I was glad that I could give her a few puppy kisses and a little reason to smile.

## New GDA Jacket



At 9 weeks old I got a really awesome gift from the GDA Puppy Department! This is my official jacket that identifies me as a puppy in training for Guide Dogs of America. When I wear it out in public, it allows me entrance to places normally prohibited to dogs. I'm starting to out grow it very quickly, but my puppy raiser says that I'll get a new one when I get bigger. Don't I look handsome?



Out for ice cream on 4th of July! But I didn't get any. Do you like my collar?



At the local library.

# My First Overnight Stay with a Puppy Sitter



Look! At my puppy sitter's house I matched the GDA lawn ornaments. Can you guess which one I am?

When us GDA puppies can't be with our own families, we go to stay with other puppy raisers and/or approved GDA puppy sitters.

My family went away for a few days and I was too little to go with them, but that was just fine because I got to have a mini vacation myself! And I fit in really well because my puppy sitters had two other black labs, Emmy and Jenny! Both used to be GDA puppies in training but were "career changed." I had such a fun time with my new playmates that the days just flew by! And I was such a great houseguest that my puppy sitters said that I was welcome back anytime. I can't wait!



All packed and ready to go!



Me and my "Nap Buddy" Emmy.

## Meet My Friends!



These are some of my Puppy Kindergarten classmates: my brother Ace (L), my friend Brownie (center), and me (R)!



This is my new friend, Picsar. He's an 8 month old Golden Retriever and also a puppy in training for GDA. And I found out that he is sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials too! In this picture Picsar is telling me about how we have the best sponsor. I totally agree! We are both working hard to make you proud!

# Watch me grow!

## 12 weeks



I am brave, inquisitive, and a good puzzle solver.

**Highlights of the week:** I'm old enough to start going on walks in the neighborhood! I am learning how to walk on a loose leash on my puppy raiser's left side.

## 13 weeks



I am intelligent, easy-going, and the "King of Naps."

**Highlights of the week:** I'm learning to combine some of my commands, like "sit-stay" and "down-stay." I'm also learning to explore and overcome new obstacles I may encounter when I'm out working.

## 14 weeks



I am attentive, thoughtful, and a loyal companion.

**Highlight of the week:** I went on an out-of-town trip with my puppy raiser. I was a great travel buddy!

**What I'm working on:** I only have a couple weeks left of my Puppy Kindergarten Class. I have been the model student! My puppy raiser and I have been practicing daily and have been working hard on all my commands. I can "sit," "down," "stay," walk on a loose leash, and come when I'm called. Practice makes perfect, so I'll be practicing a whole lot more as I get bigger!

# Expanding My World

The older I get, the more my world grows! Now that I am almost done with all my puppy vaccinations, I am able to go out and explore my surroundings in new ways.

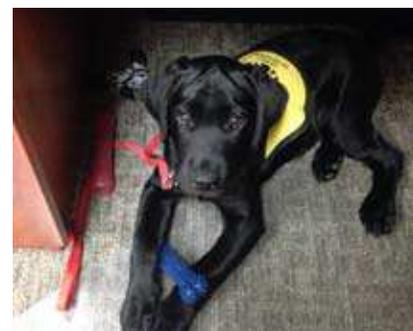
## Neighborhood Walks

My puppy raiser and I have been taking advantage of the cool summer evenings by adventuring out into the neighborhood to walk and practice my obedience. We mostly work on loose leash walking, “sit-stay,” and “down-stay.” I’m getting really good at all the different commands! The neighbors will often stop us to compliment me on my good behavior. I love making a good impression!



## Going to Work

I’m now starting to go to the office with one of my puppy raisers. At first I’m only visiting for a couple hours at a time, but the goal is for me to be able to go with her for the full day. Everyone there loves me already and says I’m adorable! I think I’m going to like being an “office dog!”



That’s my spot! Right under the desk.

## Growing, growing, gone!



I already out grew my puppy crate and graduated to a bigger size! That means that I now have all this space to stretch out or curl up next to my “Cuddles.”

# Thank you!



8 weeks old



11 weeks old

## I couldn't do it without you!

Thank you so much for your support!! Everyday I grow a little bit bigger and I take one more puppy-step closer to becoming a guide dog. I can't wait for my next adventure!



13 weeks old

Tail wags and puppy kisses,

