

Adler's Adventures

VOL. 2

OCTOBER 2016



Adler at 6 months

The bowtie Adler is wearing was a gift from one of the choral groups at the university where his puppy raiser works. He's very popular at school and well loved everywhere he goes!

Hello, again! It's me, Adler!

So much has happened in the past 3 months!

My sweet disposition, observant nature, and desire to please have all become big influences on my personality. I have crossed several new milestones, progressed well in my training, and have grown into a handsome young gentleman.

This newsletter covers from 15 weeks old to 6.5 months. Let me show you what I have been up to!

As always, 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!



Adler at 4 months

Follow Me!

For more frequent updates, you can follow me on



Instagram
@adler_thegdapup

OR

Online:

www.instagram.com/adler_thegdapup

Watch me grow!

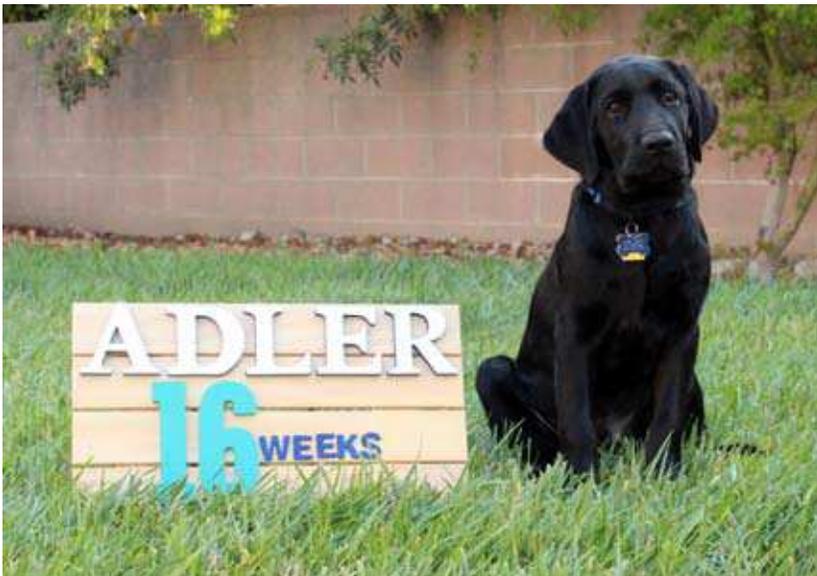
15 weeks



When I go out working, I am calm, collected, confident, attentive, and focused. This week I have made wonderful progress in my obedience; a lot of behaviors I have learned in Puppy Kindergarten are becoming second nature. My puppy raisers are very proud of me!

Highlight of the week: I got a brand new “big boy” collar.

16 weeks



I am showing a lot of wonderful traits that will serve me well in my training and as a working guide. I am laid back yet playful, gentle yet determined, observant yet confident. I am attentive to my puppy raiser and always eager to please.

Highlight of the week: I got my final set of puppy vaccinations and became “street legal.”

Reaching New Milestones



Adler and puppy raiser Karen



I'm "Street Legal!"

When I turned 16 weeks old, I visited the GDA campus to get my final set of puppy vaccines. Now I'm "street legal!" That means I'm no longer restricted about where I can walk in public spaces. Watch out world!



Adler in front of GDA at 16 weeks celebrating that he can now walk on the ground outside the campus!

New Puppy-in-Training Jacket



At 5 months old I out grew my "puppy-in-training bib" and received an awesome present: my new jacket!! It is beautifully engraved to indicate that I am sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament. I'm proud to show it off everyday!



Puppy Kindergarten



At 16 weeks old I became a Puppy K graduate! For our final session, we met at a local bookstore and practiced all the different commands and behaviors that we learned in a more distracting environment. I was calm, focused, and passed the tests with flying colors! On to bigger things!



Adler (center) with his classmates



Adler demonstrating a perfect "heel" with puppy raiser Dianne

Adventures of a GDA Pup 4 - 5 months

At the Office



I have been going with one of my puppy raisers to her office more and more frequently as I get older. She works on a university campus and now that school has started, I have made so many new friends! I am very popular with all the students and staff; they are so impressed with how well behaved I am for such a young puppy.



4 months old



After I got all my shots, my puppy raiser and I would walk around the campus during her breaks. I love exploring! Here I am in the courtyard.



Sunset at Marina del Rey

Out and About

Thanks to the summer heat, we kept most of our summer outings short, sweet, and indoors. My puppy raisers say that I'm doing such a great job when I'm out in my jacket. I remain focused on my handler in progressively more distracting and challenging places. People are always complimenting me on my good behavior!



Practicing my "down-stays" at Target (top left, 5 months), Home Depot (bottom left, 4 months), and while shoe shopping (top right, 4 months).



GDA July Meeting

Once a month, all of the GDA puppies and their raisers in our local area get together for a group meeting. During the summer months, our group went on a field trip to a local restaurant so us puppies could practice our table-side manners while around other dogs.

Karen (wearing pink) and Adler with the rest of the raisers and their puppies-in-training.

Obedience Class



After completing Puppy Kindergarten, I started another obedience class that would challenge me in new ways. And though I was one of the youngest puppies there, I was also one of the most well behaved. It must be all that hard work and practicing I do with my puppy raiser at home!



Adler (bottom) and brother Ace (top) watch a tennis ball bounce past.



I get lots of praise for doing a good job!



Demonstrating my "sit-stay."

We worked on loose leash walking, plus a lot of the same commands that I learned in Puppy K, such as "sit," "down," "stay," and "come." As the class went on, the trainer added new distractions, like toys and food, so we had to focus more intently on our handlers and ignore everything else. I did a great job and got better every week!

We did it!



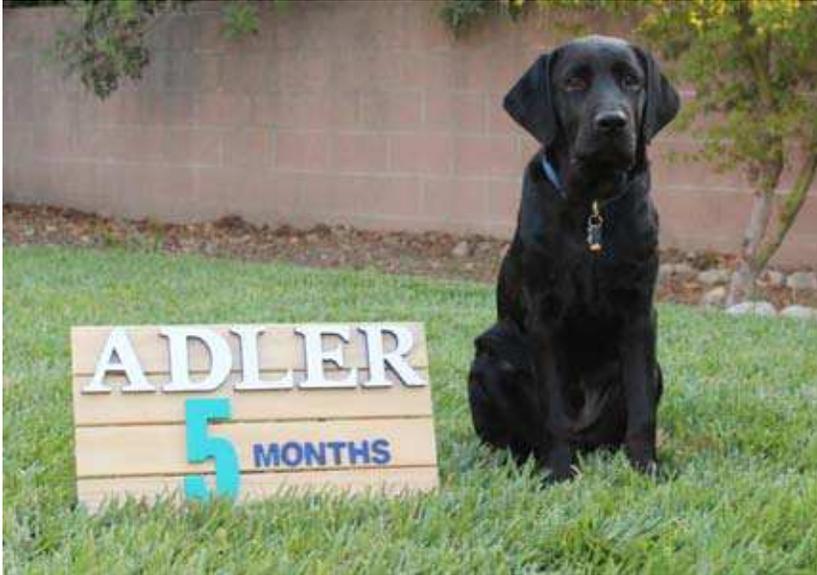
Demonstrating my "down-stay."



Me (left) and Ace (right) with our certificates. We both graduated at the top of our class!

Watch me grow!

5 months



Now that I'm a little older, I am able to go on bigger outings in my jacket. I'm getting to be a pro at running errands, going to work at the office, and focusing on my job (and good behavior) while I'm out and about.

Highlights of the month: I completed my Puppy Kindergarten class with great compliments from my teacher. I have also started a brand new obedience class where I am able to improve upon my skills every week. And I recieved my new puppy-in-training jacket!

6 months



I am growing out of young puppyhood and am beginning to channel my energy and focus into improving my training every day. I have completed my second obedience class and am ready to move on the new challenges.

Highlight of the month: I have been given permission to go on bigger outings with my fellow puppies-in-training.

What I'm working on: My puppy raiser and I are focused on polishing my obedience in more distracting and stimulating environments. She will continue to expose me to a variety of different situations that are increasingly more challenging so I can become completely comfortable in new places.

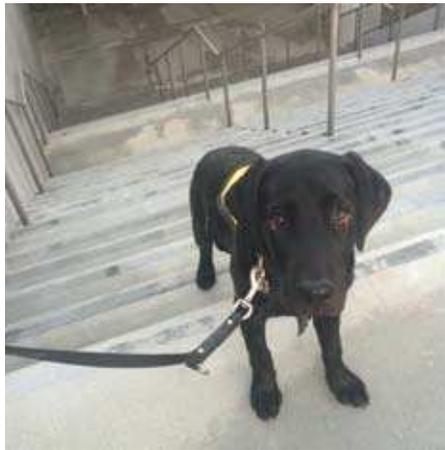
Adventures of a GDA Pup 5 - 6 months

New Challenges

As I get bigger, I'm learning to navigate new obstacles and experiences when I'm out in jacket. For example, my puppy raiser is working with me on how to climb and descend stairs at an even pace. At first, I liked to run up as fast as I could and then go down really slowly, but now I know to travel at a consistent speed without getting too far ahead of my handler.



Adler listening to the beeping noises in the elevator.



Practicing good restaurant behavior.



The pet store is very simulating for me since it has a lot of new smells. That also makes it a great place to practice maintaining good behavior in a distracting environment. On our most recent trip, I made two new bunny friends! I thought they were very fascinating, but I didn't lunge toward them or get overly excited. I hope they liked me as much as I liked them!

And while we were there, I got to pick out a brand new bed for my half birthday!



GDA Area Group Events



Adler (far right) with puppy raiser, Karen.

For our September monthly meeting, we participated in an obedience class led by the GDA puppy department. I was a model student!

I joined some of my fellow puppies-in-training, as well as a few "career changed" dogs, for an obedience walk on a local walking trail. The environment provided plenty of distractions for us to ignore while we focused on our handlers. It was great practice and a lot of fun!



Adler (5th from the left) with puppy raiser, Dianne.

Meet my GDA friends!

I get the opportunity to meet a lot of other GDA puppies in training at our monthly meetings, at obedience class, and during playdates. Part of my puppy raiser's job is to make sure I'm well socialized with other dogs, and getting together for some playtime where I can learn to interact like a gentleman is good practice. But when I see a dog when I'm out working my my jacket, I have to make sure that I ignore them and focus on my handler. Going on an outing with another GDA puppy is a great way for both of us to work on that!

On the job



This is Bosley! He and I met at our July puppy raiser meeting where our whole group went out to a restaurant together. I was so excited to meet him because he's sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament too!

One day I hope I can be as well behaved and handsome as Bosley is!



Meet Prescott (18 months)! I got to spend the day with him back in August right before he went in for his formal guide dog training. He gave me all sorts of helpful tips! I hear he's doing great and is loving the "college" life so far!



Piscar (also sponsored by Sepulveda Building Materials) and I got together for an adventure to a local mall. We practiced our obedience and got used to all the sights and smells of the mall environment. We both did a great job!

Here we are showing off our matching jackets! We couldn't be more proud to represent our sponsor!

Playdates

This is Glenn (right), a 10 month old yellow lab. He came over for a playdate with me (at 5 months) and my "career changed" sister, Kiara. And boy does he like to play!



Meet Jane (left), a 10 month old yellow labrador x golden retriever cross. She, Kiara, and I had a chance to play after Jane and I participated in an overnight puppy swap.

Visiting other Puppy Raisers



Ready for fall while running errands! I did very well while working with a new handler!

Puppy Sitting

One day, I hope to have blind partner of my own, and of course that means that I can't stay with my puppy raising family forever. I'm still pretty little, so I won't be leaving them for a while, but in the meantime, spending time with other puppy raisers will help prepare me for that transition. And why not start practicing early with short visits here and there. Another adventure, meeting new people, playing with other puppies, and spreading a little bit of puppy love? Yes, please!



Playing with Epic, also career changed from GDA.



This is my new friend, and career changed GDA dog, Spencer. He's 12 1/2 now, but he and I get along really well. Both of us like to lay in the sun and take long naps. We move through life at the same speed: super chill.

Exploring a different town with GDA puppy-in-training Prescott. We made a new bear friend!

Puppy Swap

When I was 5 months old, I participated in a overnight puppy swap with GDA puppy-in-training Jane. So she got to spend the day with my family and I got to hang out with hers. It's important that I get used to being handled by other people, and spending time with other puppy raisers is a great way to practice. Plus I get the opportunity to experience new things that I may not have in my everyday life at home.

Getting used to riding in a different car. I wonder where we are going?



A new restaurant with Jane's puppy raiser Liisa!



Watering flower baskets with Jane's family. I don't have those at my house!

Life at Home

Life with my puppy raisers is pretty awesome. They're always keeping me busy with new and fun things to do, which is a great way to keep my mind active and develop my problem solving skills. I love a good game and a good challenge. But in addition to that, there is always plenty of time to relax, play, and just be a puppy. My puppy raisers laugh daily at my funny personality. They are always telling me how handsome, sweet, smart, silly, and special I am. I have grown up a lot since I first met my family and they are so proud of my progress.

Here are some ways I spend my time when I'm "off duty."

My sister, Kiara

I have grown to love my "sister" Kiara very much. When we're hanging out at home, she and I are almost always together. She energetic, silly, and knows exactly how to bring out my playful side. Kiara helps remind me that life doesn't always have to be serious. Sometimes goofy is exactly what you need.



Kiara, 22 months, and Adler, 5 months



Adler playing fetch at 6 months

Obedience Practice

During the cool summer evenings, my puppy raisers would take Kiara and I to the local elementary school to walk around and practice our obedience. It's important for me to have specific times that are just dedicated to obedience training, even though I use my commands in everyday at home and when I'm out in my jacket.



Sit-stay



Practicing a down-stay while Kiara walks past as a distraction.



Down-stay



Our local walking trail is the perfect place to practice walking on a loose leash while ignoring distractions.



I love my new bed!

Learning to Swim

My puppy raisers, with the help of some close family friends who graciously invited us to use their pool, taught me how to swim this summer. It was almost all instinct, but the humans encouraged me and showed me where it was safe to play on the steps. Then I could climb in and out with my toys as I pleased! I LOVE the water!



4 months



I think I'm getting the hang of fetch in the water!



Celebrating summer's patriotic holidays!

Bath Time



Warm weather means outdoor bath time! Special thanks to Kiara who pitched in to help with the shampoo.

Beach Day!

For Karen's (puppy raiser) birthday, we took a day trip to Santa Barbara so Kiara and I could go to the beach for the first time. I LOVED IT!! I'm a water dog through and through, so the second I saw the ocean I got super excited. Kiara (who normally doesn't like water very much but warmed up to the beach quickly) and I had the best time running through the waves and playing on the sand. It was an awesome outing and a great day! I can't wait to go back!!



6 months



Kiara and I had great off-leash manners; everytime the humans would call us we responded right away.



Do we have to leave? I love it here!

Thank you!

I am so grateful for my amazing sponsors!

Thank you so much for your support!! I am so proud to wear “Sepulveda Building Materials Charity Golf Tournament” on my puppy-in-training jacket everyday. Your generosity is what makes all of this possible and I am so honored to partner with you on my journey to becoming a guide dog!

Tail wags and puppy kisses,



4 months old



5 months old