



## BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SUPPORT DOGS • PTSD SERVICE DOGS

[bcandalbertaguidedogs.com](http://bcandalbertaguidedogs.com)



Serving those who served

A Division of BC Guide Dogs

April 2020

Hello there! It's me, Faisy! I'm the puppy you're sponsoring to become a life-changing dog. I feel so grown up now that I am writing my first 'pup' date. The older pups in obedience class all talk about how much their sponsors love their letters. I hope you'll love mine too.

I've settled nicely into morning and evening eating routines. The first skill I mastered was listening and waiting for the whistle sound before eating my food. I can even ignore food laying around the kitchen floor and in food courts and restaurants we visit. That makes my Puppy Raiser super proud!

Ringing the bell to go outside is another one of my achievements. I quite like that sound and make sure everyone can hear it throughout the house when I need to 'get busy'. My Puppy Trainer says that I am "very intelligent for my age".

I am doing very well learning the commands: 'sit', 'down', 'stand', 'come', 'heel' and 'stay', 'take it', 'let's go', 'touch' and 'look'. I have quite a large vocabulary for a six-month-old pup. Kibble rewards are always nice to help me remember.

'Bed' is a super important command. Yes, I've got that one down pat, too! I can find my bed as soon as I'm asked, even if it's in another room in the house. This is important, so I have a safe place to go especially when there's a lot of activity around me. Like when someone knocks on the door and enters. It's the best place for me to wait patiently.

Public outings have also helped me practice 'polite greetings', especially when I'm wearing my special blue BC & Alberta Guide Dog jacket. Everyone knows I'm training when I wear it. I'm determined to become a Guide Dog or Service Dog for someone visually impaired, a child with profound Autism, or a Veteran or First Responder with an Operational Stress Injury, like PTSD. That's pretty important and I'm up for it!

Now that I've got all my vaccinations, I've been out and about more. In the past few months, I've taken a bus and even the fast Canada Line to the airport. I started to learn all about 'find the door' and getting on and off. I sure look forward to more experiences like this in the future. Maybe I'll meet you on one of those buses. Just watch out for my blue jacket and you'll know who I am.

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Legal Title: British Columbia Guide Dog Services  
Registered Charity Number: 89131 1763 RR001

You remember I live near the beach in Tsawwassen. There's lots to explore during our off-leash walks, and so many interesting smells and creatures everywhere, especially when the tide is way out! It's also a great place for me to practice my recall with my Puppy Raiser, especially when the seagulls are calling me to chase!

I've gone to work with my Puppy Raiser a few times before all this COVID-stuff started. She teaches adults. I practiced settling under her desk when she was in meetings and quickly got used to this new environment and new smells. I also did pretty well practicing my polite greetings when someone came to say, 'Hi'.

My training has changed a bit in the past few weeks because of COVID-19. That's a mysterious creature everyone is trying to stay clear of. We aren't visiting any enclosed public spaces now, so that means no more mall visits. We're doing my training at home or outside where there aren't people close to us. Off-leash parks are our best place to practice and PLAY these days, with some distance from others.

I'm sure everything's going to be ok, even though this mysterious creature is hiding somewhere. I see big hearts in windows throughout our community. I'm outside at 7 pm every night with pots banging and drums banging, to help cheer for some very special people. When I watch this celebration, I know there's lots of love all around. Love is brighter and bigger than anything as dark as that creature.

It's time for a game of hide-and-seek with my family. Maybe they'll hide my rope under the couch again. They can't fool me. My sniffer is good, but my memory is even better.

Thanks so much for supporting the Puppy Sponsorship Program and especially me. I'll keep lots of notes for my next 'pup' date in August. Bye for now.

Love and tail wags,  
Faisy

