



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SUPPORT DOGS • PTSD SERVICE DOGS

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Serving those who served

A Division of BC Guide Dogs

March 2020

Hello there! It's me, Red! I'm the puppy you're sponsoring to become a life-changing dog. I'm full of energy and raring to write my first 'pup' date. I hope you love it.

What's big, red and full of love? Me of course. I'm a healthy 70 pounds and loving the opportunity to greet children at Maple Ridge Elementary School. Yup, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday I sit by the front door when the bell rings and say, 'Good morning'. It's my job to be a good helper and listener with reading groups. Boy am I learning a lot sitting beside them! I'm also helping other special children to adjust when they find it hard to come to school. I'm a calm helper all the time and have the best job in the world!

Never a dull minute in our house with two children ages 11 and 8 around. After we get home from school I like to take a short snooze with my pickle-toy. Then we're off to sports practices and games. I can tell you all about hockey, soccer, lacrosse and synchronized swimming. But, most of all I enjoy all the children buzzing around sharing lots of snuggles and scratches. Sometimes I find a cozy spot under my Puppy Raiser's chair and dream about the day I'll be a Guide or Service Dog.

I've settled into morning and evening eating routines and wait patiently for the whistle sound to signal it's time. I'm growing bigger and bigger every day along with my appetite! The kitchen isn't a place for a pup though and I'm real good at remembering to stay behind the green tape on the floor.

I've done well learning the basic commands: 'sit', 'down', 'touch', 'come', 'heel' and 'stay' and practice in public. I also love to greet everyone (and dogs) and sometimes pull on my leash to say, "Hi". This works best if I greet them when I'm sitting, so my four paws are stuck to the ground and don't move. Kibble rewards are a good reminder too.

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Public outings also help me practice 'polite greetings', especially when I'm wearing my special blue BC & Alberta Guide Dog jacket. My jacket helps everyone know I'm training. I even wore it when I visited the Vancouver Airport for the Canuck Place Children's Christmas Flight event. I didn't go on the plane, but I sure got a lot of snuggles from the children before they boarded. I was on my best behaviour as a BC & Alberta Guide Dog ambassador.

It's also important for me to practice traveling on buses, boats and airplanes. I even traveled to Vancouver Island at Christmas on BC Ferries. You never know where I'll need to support my future forever friend, so practice is important.

I still remember all the fun playing in the snow in December. Did you get to play in it too? Me and my puppy pals Lucky, Joey and Theo played zoomies in our big backyard. This spring we enjoyed loose-leash walking on the trails at a nearby river. Tromping through the soggy bushes was almost as much fun as the snow, but way messier.

If you can find a copy of 'What's On! Port Coquitlam March/April edition, you'll see my handsome photo and awesome Puppy Raiser family on the front cover. I'm so lucky to be part of their 'darling' family and to share their love. I don't know what the next few months will bring, but with all those hearts in everyone's windows, I know it's going to be ok. You share the love too!

Take care, everybody. I'll write more about my journeys in July. Thanks for supporting the Puppy Sponsorship Program and especially me!

Love and tail wags,
Red

