



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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August 2020

It's summertime and I'm loving these lazy-hazy-Faisy-days. How about you? I've grown quite a lot since my last 'pup' date as you can see from my 10-month photo and I'm still growing bigger (and smarter) every day.

In my last letter, I told you how my training started to change because of that COVID-guy. We stopped visiting public places and kept our distance from everyone. In-class training was changed to online training classes instead. It was kind of strange to only hear my classmates' voices and not see them in my living room though. Sometimes my Puppy Raiser even wore costumes and hid her face under a towel while we trained. This didn't really faze me, at all.

We've practiced lots of other socialization exercises like walking over ladders, rearranging our living room furniture and listening to doorbell sounds. These were great opportunities to show everyone how well I could adjust to unexpected changes.

I'm mastering the commands 'leave it', 'sit', 'off' and 'down' and practicing 'find curb', 'find stairs' and 'find door'. Before I can go over a curb or use the stairs or door, I practice sitting down in front of them. This is important so my future forever friend can rely on me in any situation. The Puppy Training Manager loves that I'm an enthusiastic learner and says I have lots of 'drive'.

We practice off-leash walking and obedience training during our daily walks. The Watershed Park and Boundary Bay in Delta are my favorite places to visit. You'll be proud to know that I no longer scavenge all those dead crabs and seashells and can *mostly* ignore them on the beach.

I've gotten better with distractions and responding to commands. At a busy park we recently visited, I wasn't distracted by people playing basketball or young children. I even walked past the dog park without pulling! I just focused on my Puppy Raiser and successfully practiced my recall even as other dogs roamed nearby.

I've also mastered food refusal. One day my Puppy Raiser accidentally spilled a whole bowl of kibble on the kitchen floor right in front of me! I know the rules and waited

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until she blew the whistle. (I did leave some extra drool behind where I had expectantly waited though.) What a delicious 6 am breakfast!

In the past few months, we've returned to smaller classes outdoors. It's been awesome to see my pals and siblings again. At first, I WAS very distracted because we hadn't seen one another for months. We were so much bigger which meant we could play chase much faster. Now that obedience classes are regularly scheduled, we've settled down and 'practice' playing after class instead.

The best part of the summer so far was a two-week vacation with my family. We camped at Arrow Lake and stayed at a ranch with horses and five dogs in Summerland. Camping in a tent was pretty fun. Five people in a tent meant five soft cozy beds. Well, I thought so the first night. On the second night, I remembered where my bed was.

I'm glad we can go out in the community more often now. I still see lots of people wearing masks in the stores. Maybe that's why my Puppy Raiser often wore costumes and masks at home this spring. She couldn't decide which one was the best!

Got to go! We're off to a new off-leash park. I look forward to running and exploring. I also like to stop and smell flowers, as you can see from my photo below.

I promise to continue to try my best and will share more adventures in December. Thanks so much for supporting me on my journey!

Love and snuggles,
Faisy

