



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • PTSD SERVICE DOGS

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A Division of BC Guide Dogs

Welcome to BC & Alberta Guide Dogs Puppy Sponsorship Program!

On behalf of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs I am delighted to introduce you to our lovable little yellow Labrador, **Lewis!** As you can see from the enclosed photo, he's a handsome little guy who is ready to charm the world.

Lewis was born on November 30, 2021, to proud parents Patricia and Dougie. His littermates included 2 sisters (Dandy and Nikka) and 1 brother (Ryder).

Lewis has big shoes to fill. He was named to honour the memory of Ken Lewis — an amazing friend and volunteer who left his mark on our organization through his adventures in raising puppies and breeding dogs, and whelping litters.

Lewis is big, cuddly, and smart. He was the first of his litter to learn the 'sit' command and showed his siblings the ropes. His Puppy Raiser family is new to BCAGD, but have lots of personal dog experience and his new Mom enjoyed a 30 year career in the Animal Health industry as both an Animal Health Technician and Pharmacy rep for Veterinarians. She is now retired and Lewis' new Dad will be retiring from his work in the Oil and Gas industry in 2023.

The new family includes an 11 year old dog named Tina and a weekly visitor, Dodge, who comes to the Calgary area home for canine daycare. Tina is well loved by the neighbours - big and small - so Lewis will have daily opportunities to practice his calm greetings on his walks with her. He will have access to a safe, pretty, yard that is the centre of many barbecues so will be fun to explore and play in.

Regular outings will include trips to the mountains to hike, bike, snowshoe, and cross country ski. Kayaking is also a favourite family pastime and we are confident that Lewis will enjoy being included in it all. In addition to these pursuits, Lewis will be exposed to a variety of public settings and given the opportunity to learn the skills and characteristics required to be a successful Service Dog.

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His training will familiarize him with crowds, elevators, escalators, construction activity, and public transit wearing his *BC & Alberta Guide Dogs Puppy in Training* jacket. This jacket will gain Lewis access to anywhere humans can go. He will learn to stop and sit at every curb, staircase, and door. He will also learn to ring a bell when he needs to go outside and wait for a whistle to be blown before he eats his meals. This is all part of the discipline training necessary to establish good behaviors from the start.

Lewis will also attend weekly obedience classes with other puppies in the training program and one-to-one training sessions with BC & Alberta Guide Dog's Training Instructor.

We recognize each puppy has its own personality and talents and not all pups are suited for a career as a Guide Dog, Autism Service Dog or PTSD Service Dog. Should Lewis not move forward in our training program, we will place him in a forever home that positively benefits his needs and the recipient's needs. We will then transfer your sponsorship to another puppy, often a sibling or a puppy of a similar age.

We look forward to sharing Lewis' training journey with you! As he grows, he will be sending you regular updates about how his training is progressing. We anticipate his graduation from the training program around the time he is approximately two years old. Throughout this time, Lewis will be continually evaluated for his final career path as a Guide Dog for someone who is blind or visually impaired, as an Autism Service Dog for a child with profound autism, or as a Service Dog offering a reprieve to a Veteran or First Responder living with an Operational Stress Injury (OSI) such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Thank you again for your participation in this life-changing journey!

Sincerely,



Kim Goodall
Manager, Puppy Sponsorship

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