



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 adorable little black Labrador, **Nikka!** As you can see from the enclosed photo, she's as bright as a button and ready to take her place in your heart.

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

This little dynamo is a go-getter and very active (even by busy puppy standards)! She is the leader of her pack and is fortunate to be placed in a home with an older Guide Dog named Millie who will help foster her strengths and channel her natural exuberance in a positive manner as she matures.

Nikka has been matched with her carefully selected Puppy Raiser in the Surrey area. They are well suited to each other as the Raiser is an experienced puppy wrangler and BCGAD volunteer and very active in her community. Nikka is sure to get exposure to a wide variety of public settings and the opportunity to learn the skills and characteristics required to be a successful Service Dog.

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

Nikka 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.

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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 Nikka not move forward in our training program, we will place her in a forever home that positively benefits her 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 Nikka's training journey with you! As she grows, she will be sending you regular updates about how her training is progressing. We anticipate her graduation from the training program around the time she is approximately two years old. Throughout this time, Nikka will be continually evaluated for her final career path as a Guide Dog for someone who is blind or visually impaired, as an Autism Service Dog for a child with 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Goodall".

Kim Goodall
Manager, Puppy Sponsorship

Email: puppysponsorship@bcguidedog.com

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