



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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Summer 2022

Howdy awesome puppy sponsor person! It's your Calgary Stampede fan Lewis here with my first ever pupdate! Where to begin? WOW! so much has happened since I hopped that plane to meet my amazing Alberta Puppy Raiser family ~ it's tough to know where to start but, if I think waaaay back, I have to say that meeting my new mom was a total highlight. From the first time our eyes met I knew she was the one for me and I was totally right! In fact my whole new family is perfect for me and me for them....well, except that Tina will tell you I'm annoying but she doesn't *really* mean it. She's my new dog sis and at 11 years old, she has seen some sights and has some tails to tell. She is also a little cranky at times, but I'm winning her over by licking her ears as much as I can whenever she's eating.... I'm not 'zactly sure how *that* could be annoying!



My days are super busy with exercise, eating, sleeping, training, playing and cuddling so I like to get an early start and usually tackle Tina at 6:30 before I let out a happy *Awooooo* to greet the day and let mom and dad know it's time to get ready for our morning walk. First though it's breakfast (once mom or dad blows the food whistle of course) and at some point in there I ring a bell by the door so they know I need to get outside and get 'busy' ~ if you catch my drift. Of course, before we head out for the day I have to brush my teeth and wash my muzzle, so I watch mom clean hers first then I relax and lay quietly so she can do mine.

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Tina doesn't like to join us for our big morning walk, but I've made other pup friends and get to hang out with my brother Ryder a lot. He's in the training program too but I get the honour of writing pupdates because I learned the alphabet super easily and he is more of a numbers guy. We spend time with Craig, an older BCAGD pup-in-training and he is AWESOME...he's super smart and writes letters too, but I mostly love him because he is so gentle and kind. He really took me under his paw and is helping me be more confident...mom says he took pity on me because the first time we met I didn't know what to do so I just rolled over on my back and played dead! Craig was so nice that I didn't last long in that position and now every time I see him it's hello and GAME ON buddy! In fact, I am usually a little bit shy when meeting other animals but if they are a nice pup there is nothing I like more than a good play and energy release! I was also very shy when I met four Calgary Police horses because at first I thought they were really big dogs. But once they started walking away their feet made a clip-clop sound which was super interesting and helped me get over my fear... but I'm still not sure why I can't get *my* toes to make that noise...

I've been going to classes to learn my training basics and mom and dad make sure I practice my public access behaviour in all sorts of cool places. This means wearing my special blue *BCAGD Puppy-in-Training jacket* and regularly visiting the mall or grocery shopping or practicing distraction work in our local parks. I LOVE this because sometimes I get to watch kids play baseball and other times I get to try climbing on some of the play structures so I can get used to different surfaces and practice different skills.

In class mom says I'm a star! ★ Well, of course! I catch on to things pretty darn quick. So far my 'sit', 'down', 'stay', and 'bed' commands are reliable and I can hold my positions longer and longer. The Puppy Training Instructor ~ and answerer of all things guide dog ~ is named Sandra. She says my 'stand stay' from a distance is *very advanced*...and that I'm really mastering my 'sit' and 'down' from a distance too! In fact, I've been a role model for some younger pups who need extra practice being around a relaxed, quiet dog in classes and I'm known for being a cool dude! Of course, I am a pup and a young one at that, so I do have my flaws...mom says I am *rubbish* at listening to 'out of the kitchen' and 'off'. That's because I LOVE to cuddle on the couch and I feel like my future person is going to want me to be *very, very advanced* at doing that! ...and is it *my* fault so many good smells come from the kitchen? *Sigh*...okay I guess I have some stuff to work on - like my new teenage stubbornness - but I *am* just getting started in life so give a pup a break, mom!



So far, I love all my days but Wednesday is **the best**. Of course, this is because my mom does daycare for a pup friend ~ Dodge (isn't that a great name!). We have the BEST time playing, playing, and playing...and then mom makes us have a nap. (Don't tell her, but we are usually pretty ready to snooze by then)! Of course, I also love kayaking and getting in a round of golf now that the weather is better... Mom says I can't actually play because I don't have thumbs, but mostly I just love to ride in the cart and pretend I'm driving it...so I'd rather not play anyway! I can't wait to

do more kayak-napping this summer and mom told me we are going to check out some festivals after we try an outdoor theatre show! I don't actually know what those are but they sound fun!! Also, we are planning a trip to Utah in the fall to do some hiking in a National Park...how Pawsome!! Aren't I Lucky?

Well, actually I am Lewis ~ but I feel super lucky and loved, of course, because I have awesome humans like you sponsoring me and cheering me on. Your support is **THE BEST** and makes me want to keep working super hard and learn everything I need to know so I can really help someone who needs me.



So I think I need to get back to my training. Class starts in an hour, and I like to do a little stretching and warm up so I can perform at my best! I wonder what we'll learn today? Maybe I'll find out how to clip-clop! Of course I'll let you know how it goes in my next letter. Have an **AMAZING** summer and if you see me drive the cart past you on the links - please don't tell my mom!

Loads of Lewis Love and Cuddles,
Your pup, *Lewis*

