



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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yAAAAWN... Oh.. good morning lovely human! Sorry, I didn't realize you were reading this already. It's your puppy Nikka and I'm tickled to be writing you my first pupdate. I can't wait to tell you all about my life ~ just let me do my cat stretches first! Yes I know I am a puppy but cats really know how to s-t-r-e-t-c-h.

Ahhhhh...and now breakfast...yuummmmm.....much better. We get up really early around here so everyone can do their workouts and I just got back from my first walk of the day! So now that I'm relaxed and fed, this is a great time for me to catch you up on everything that's been happening since I was 7 weeks old and came to live with my Puppy Raiser family in South Surrey! Can you believe I'm six months old now?! We can't, although my family still says that I am the cutest and smallest puppy they have ever seen and taken care of. I believe them! Look how cute I am!



Me & Millie and our beautiful bandanas!

And I get to spend my time with lovely people and pups. Like my new family! I have a human mom and dad and 2 human big brothers, Sebastian and Nicko (what... wait...hey, did he copy my name?). They are so amazing that I felt at home the minute mom scooped me up into her arms. Nicko and I play alot together and we both love to cuddle afterwards, sometimes he brings a blanket onto my bed and we have a long nap until someone wakes us up by snoring! He says it's me ~ but I am pretty sure it's him...maybe mom can say for sure. My other big brother, Sebastian, is a super swimmer. Sometimes I go to his practices and swim meets and charm the other swimmers and coaches. Mom says they LOVE me! Well, I am a puppy ~ what's not to love, right? Dad seems to like me quite a bit too! He says silly things to me and lets me hang out in his home office when he's working and he

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has a super comfy rug I can snuggle up with on the floor. My, I LOVE that shaggy thing!



Oh and Millie! Millie is a yellow lab that was living here when I first moved in. She's gone on to Advanced Training in the BCAGD program now and I really miss her, but she is my mentor and role model and is doing really well in the program. I was so lucky to have her explain the house rules. She

taught me the feeding routine (the faster I sit, the sooner I eat) and that if I sit in front of a door, a human opens the door to go outside ~ good human! Other important things she showed me were: off limits areas in the house and things I'm not supposed to chew....I listened, but those rules don't make too much sense to me!

Today mom is working from home, so we are snuggled up, side-by-side on the floor cushions 'cause she likes to be close to me when she's typing on her laptop. I like that! and you know what else I like - the pretty bandana she made for me to wear on special occasions...like when Millie had her 2-year-old birthday! We even had a dog cake with peanut butter frosting-*delish!* 🍰 I can't wait for my birthday to get my own! Oh ~ it looks like mom is taking a break for my morning training session...I'll be right back...

Phew - That was fun...all those puppy push-ups ('sit', 'down', 'sit', 'down'...). I think I'm doing really well with my training because I am so smart and confident....okay, it's true sometimes I do get distracted by other puppies in the class because they look so fun and silly ~ kind of like me! But I do like training because I get lots of delicious treats. Mom calls them rewards and I get them for doing stuff like 'heel', 'close', 'touch', and 'look'. There are a lot of things to remember but the Training Manager, Matthias says I'm doing quite well. He says I'm very confident going up and down escalators at the mall and he noticed that I was not worried about a big water fountain that lots of other dogs find weird. Yes, he did mention that I do

get excited about other dogs and occasionally a bark slips out when I'm excited or frustrated, but that I'm getting much better than I was as a toddler pup! Well, I hope so because I am half a year old now! Sometimes my training means I practice walking on different surfaces, and we also go to places where there are loud noises or big trucks. Like Matthias says ~ I do love the escalators, and my family says I'm fearless, but sometimes I get a bit anxious when cars pass by too close. Can you blame me? I'm only 6 months old!



Oh and before I forget let me tell you about the first trip I ever took! When I was only 3 months old I took a ferry to Victoria for a swim meet. We stayed in a hotel ~ it was neat ~ but confusing too! I didn't know where to do my business or where I was supposed to sleep, but we did lots of fun stuff like hiking on trails and visiting the beach for the first time! I also went to the mall for the first time too but I think the BEACH smells way better!



yAAAAWN...whoops, sorry! I dozed off for a minute there...us little puppies will do that - even though I have grown a lot! Oh, that's what woke me up ~ mom is getting ready to go out...I wonder where? I go with my family to stores, to run errands and to their appointments - it's SO fun. Oh!

We are going to do the pick-up from school and drop off at the pool.....Guess what? After drop off we are going to the off leash trail! I love it because I get to explore and let my sillies out! The puppy life! So much fun! I love it when I go on playdates with my sister Dandy too! I wish I could see my puppy brothers, but they are in Calgary. I know a lot, but I don't even know where Calgary is!

Life is Great! The only thing I don't like is when we leave the house close to my dinner or breakfast time! I worry that we will be late for my meal and a hungry puppy can't work. So, when I know mealtimes are getting close ~ I refuse to leave

the house, period! If you guys feed me first, I will happily go with you anywhere ...but if I think I'm going to miss out...good luck getting me moving.... speaking of which, the alarm just went off and that means: DINNER TIME!!!! Yay! 🍖

Ahhhhh....happy tummy, happy puppy. Now I can just chill out and play and cuddle with the family once they all get home. Maybe we will watch some TV! I really like to watch TV! My humans find this so funny and I don't know why?! Obviously, they like it too! Silly humans! I hope Sebastian has some time to give me a long belly rub ~ he is the BEST at those... he's so good that as soon as I see him I go belly up ~ no matter where I am or what I'm doing. Even the other day when I was on a working walk and had my jacket on ~ as soon as I saw him you know what I did, right? Yup, but then I was told I can't do that when I'm working... *sigh* another thing to try to understand and remember...and that is a super tough one!

Excuse me for a second.... oh, mom and dad are making plans for the weekend, and it sounds like we might go to the movies. Wow! I've never done that before. Hopefully we go out for lunch ~ we usually do and it is fun. They are also talking about taking me paddle boarding because Millie loved it and they think I'll like it too! Wow! the puppy life! Oh, dad just turned off the TV so that means I have to go out one last time before bed...I better run, but before I do...I want to say THANK YOU for sponsoring me! I can't wait to share more adventures with you and tell you how awesome I'm doing in my training because of your support...see you in the fall and have an AWESOME Summer!! ☀️

Puppy cuddles and all my love....

Nikka

