



# BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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A Division of BC Guide Dogs

## LATE AUTUMN 2022

Hello lovely human ~ it's your 10-month-old Lewis here and time to Carpus Diem as I always like to do! And what a day it is! I am excited to catch you up on all my news but first I'd like to apologize for being a bit late with my letter. It's been a whirlwind of activity in my world, and this is the first chance I've had to collect my thoughts and get them down on paper.

But first, tell me, how are you doing? Did you stay cool through all the hot weather? I hope so! And isn't it amazing that we can have such hot, sunny weather and then leaves fall off the trees, pumpkins grow faces, and now we have snow?! I can't decide which one I like better because pawsome things happen ALL the TIME!

Like, I've been everywhere! Well in parts of BC that is. We went on vacation, and I got to meet new people who were travelling on the same ferry as us. We visited the cool city of Nelson and stayed in a condo above a restaurant and then went to



Blind Bay and stayed in a house. The staff at the restaurant loved me and promised to follow the rules so they could give me lots of cuddles and pets. It was totally quieter in the Shuswap but both places were so fun ~ the only trouble was mom and

dad wouldn't let me just swim across any of the lakes we hung out at! Every time I got up to my elbows mom would practice my 'recall' and I'd come back, *sigh*....it was super annoying because I'm good at recall so I could never get in over my head! *Geesh!* They even blocked off the huge deck of the house in Blind Bay so I couldn't just run down to the water when I felt like it...*good grief*....it's enough to make a young pup roll his eyeballs.

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I guess they must trust me a little though, because they let me do home alone without a puppy pen when they went kayaking ~ hmmmmm....it's almost like they knew I'd just use the time to take epic naps! Actually, I've been allowed to have free run of the house during home alone since I turned 7 months old! I'm a very good free-range boy but mom and dad can't take credit for that. My puppy sitter's Sandy and Lyle boarded me during a two-week vacation from my parents and they never penned me, and I was great! But I'm not sure if mom would have been the first to try that back then.

Other than travelling I've been very busy with my training and obedience. I usually start the day with a settling exercise (apparently my impulse control 'needs work', *sigh*) and then we go for a walk around our neighbourhood. Sometimes it's a loose leash walk in and out of jacket and sometimes when I'm super lucky ~ it's just a sniffy walk and I get to check out all the new smells and p-mail. Other times we work on commands like 'stay' and 'recall' from a distance and I learned to do the Counting Game which is kind of fun. What mom does is count how many numbers it takes me to come when called. The very first time it was 15! But the second time she only got to 3 and I came running in so fast I knocked her over! I think probably 5 is a good number ~ depending on how far away I am...because I love my mom and I don't want to knock her over again!

I've been putting some extra time into my polite greetings and the best place to do that has been when I visit my 100-year-old great grandma at her Lodge. I am loved there, and it makes me feel good to visit and practice being my most gentle and calm self. Sometimes it's just easy to be that way, like when mom had an owie in her back and had to stay in bed for 2 days. I practiced my sensitive Lewis and stayed close by to make sure she was okay. I even let her play with my toys ~ except for tug ~ and brought them back when she would throw them for me. She says not only can I be polite and gentle ~ but I've even got something called em-pawthy.



Yup, *I am* a good boy! Well, except until I get to know another dog really well, I guess, then I can get a little too rambunctious (according to my parents). Like with Craig. He's another pup in the program and my bestie, but mom says we need to spend more time on our training and less time playing when we are together because I 'lose my marbles' when he's around. *Sigh*...I don't think dogs are even supposed to play with marbles ~ sometimes parents fuss about the silliest things.

Mostly though my parents are pretty sensible and fun to be around. We usually do public access outings at least 5 times a week which includes the mall, public transit, restaurants, pubs, swimming pools and even mom's Book Club ~ talk about a rambunctious group! We also do our grocery shopping at the same time every week and often see the same people at the store. They always ask mom how I'm doing and I try not to eavesdrop, but I can't help it because mom always says nice things about me and that makes me feel so good! ❤️ It also makes me feel good to hear things like I have a 'good base foundation' and that my 'commands are phenomenal' which is what our Training Supervisor, Sandra, says. Of course, she also says that I'm going through the 'teenage stage' and having trouble remembering and applying my skills. Mom says she thinks my life stage is causing me some challenges also (it's almost like my body is in charge of my brain!) and that being a nearly teenage male is interfering with my ability to concentrate.



Still though, my obedience classes are going well. I love to show the other pups my skills and Sandra has given me more advanced things to learn. Like now that I know to stop for curbs, mom tries to trick me into moving off the curb without the right prompts, but I rarely fall for it. Also, my 'heel' is amazing and now I will do it from anywhere. My biggest trouble like I said is my impulse control....Toys! Food! Dogs! People!...they are all so awesome and I am a naturally friendly guy so I want to explore everything and meet everyone!

What about you? Isn't making friends and hanging out with our loved ones GREAT? I know! ... and it's so important because we have to enjoy all the time that we can with them. I learned this kind of the hard way because my big sister Tina has left us forever and crossed over the rainbow bridge. We all miss her a ton but treasure the moments we had together. Even though she thought I was annoying at first because I licked her ears when she was eating.... she loved me in her own way and eventually let me snuggle with her and lick her ears any time ~ once she understood I wasn't just weird but that I was being kind and friendly in my own way!

Lucky for me I get to spend time with my other dog friends and that has helped keep me happy and feel joy every day! I am mentoring new BCAGD pup, Ponty (which means it's *my job* to play with him!), I have my little cousin Libby (who is so small that her eyeballs get in the way when I lick her ears) Frankie, Dave, Marvin, Dodge, and my wonderful Craig! What a pack of pups to be blessed with...plus I have my amazing human family! And of course, there is YOU! None of this would be happening without your support and I was thrilled to get to meet some of you at the Paw-ty in October! ❤️ I hope we can get together again sometime soon, but until then ~ THANK YOU!

No wonder mom says I'm so happy that I wag my tail in my sleep! And no wonder I can't wait for the morning so I can begin the day! Carpup Diem my friend! It's a pawsome way to be!

Until next time,  
All my Lewis Love  
& (ear) Licks

Your pup, *Lewis*



