



# BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • OSI-PTSD SERVICE DOGS

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Since 1996

## Welcome to BC & Alberta Guide Dogs Puppy Sponsorship Program

As we tread into the year and through the snow... I am happy to introduce our newest pup in the Sponsorship Program ~ **CRAIG!** He arrived just before the new year on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to excited parents Jet & Felix. Craig was born in a litter of 9 along with his only brother Milo and his 7 sisters, Joyce, Luna, Baily, Alice, Lexie, Taylor & Winter. Craig was one of three yellow labs in the litter, so he was outnumbered by both his black siblings and by his sisters, only having the one brother to join forces with. Craig proved to be a gentle soul who will play with anyone who's willing.



Craig stayed in the lower mainland and is now living with his new Vancouver based family. He was elated to find he now live by the UBC Campus and close to many parks around the block. His new human mom & dad are veteran Puppy Raisers who have been with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for many years and are no strangers to Puppy Raising. Craig has traded in his furry siblings for 3 human siblings, ages 15, 17, & 21, along with another BC & Alberta Guide Dog in training pup, 10-month-old Hans, and a 10-year-old rag doll cat named Oreo.

Oreo tends to spend his time in the basement avoiding the curious pups but occasionally when Craig is sleeping, he'll stealthily come investigate the new addition to the family. Hans on the other hand, was excited for a new live-in playmate. Being Craig's natural older brother, Hans took to the role instinctively. Craig seemed a bit perplexed at first as to why this new friend looked and smelled quite a bit like his mom... but wasn't! Soon he realized Hans was a great playmate and the two play very well together and the pair have great cuddles.



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Craig is always willing to share his toys, even his favourite stuffed teddy. The teddy accompanied Craig to his new home and his new family affectionately named the teddy *Jet* after his mom. Jet is his favourite toy, and Craig can often be found cuddling or sleeping with it. He has already proven to

be a good sleeper, preferring his little dog bed as the choice sleeping spot. His family reports that he usually starts on his bed but will sometimes end up on the hardwood floor in numerous poses while continuing to snore.



Not only is Craig a shining star with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, he's also a TV star! At his young age, he's already made appearances on two television networks promoting a fundraiser, helping raise awareness about Guide & Service Dogs, and



advocating for our need of new volunteer Puppy Raisers. His new mom works at UBC so Craig has already attended a few events there and has shared much puppy love with both staff & students. He will travel first class around campus in a little baby carrier with his mom until he's had his vaccinations. His mom can't wait to be able to let him explore and investigate the world around him.

Craig's early training will familiarize him with crowds, elevators, escalators, construction activity, and public transit while wearing his *BC & Alberta Guide Dogs Puppy in Training Jacket*. This jacket will gain Craig access to anywhere humans can go. He will learn to stop and sit at every curb, staircase, and door. He is also



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learning to wait patiently before he eats his meals. This is all part of the training necessary to establish good behaviors from the start.



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

We recognize that 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 OSI-PTSD Service Dog. Should Craig 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 Craig' 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, Craig will be continually evaluated for his final career path as a Guide Dog for someone who is blind or has low vision, as an Autism Service Dog for a young child with Autism, or as an OSI-PTSD Service Dog for a Veteran or First Responder 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 cursive script that reads "Shawna Feradi".

**Shawna Feradi**

**Sponsorship Manager**

Email: [puppysponsorship@bcandalbertaguidedogs.com](mailto:puppysponsorship@bcandalbertaguidedogs.com)



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