



# GDF Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter

November 2015



## *Puppy Sunday Meeting*

*Date: November 8, 2015*

*Where: St. Pete Lions Beach House*

*9300 W. Gulf Blvd.*

*Treasure Island FL*

*Event: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Vet Dogs for Heroes Fund Raiser*

*Time: 2:00-4:00pm*

Hi Everyone

We are totally throwing out the date and time of our regularly scheduled main meeting of the month. The reason for this is to bring us all together for a special fund raising event. The St. Petersburg Lions Club is hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual American Vet Dogs fund raiser. American Vet Dogs is a separate but related organization of the Guide Dog Foundation. When one of our pups does not make the grade to become a guide dog, they are considered to be trained as a service animal for this program. In fact, Chuck and I just dog sat for a 5 year old Black Lab that was originally trained for the guide dog program but has now become a mobility assistance service dog for a Tampa Bay veteran.

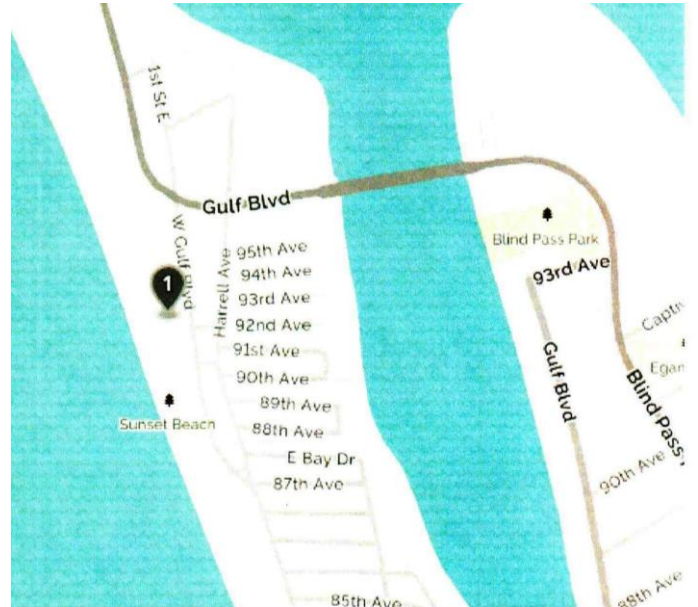
Although our main purpose at this event is to show off our puppies, this will be our official monthly meeting. The event starts about 2:30pm and goes until sunset, but you are only being asked to stay until our official meeting is over. There will be food at a \$10.00 donation, music and a silent auction.

So come out and enjoy a day at the beach while raising awareness about puppy raising and guide dogs.

### **Directions and Parking:**

The Beach House is located on Sunset Beach, Treasure Island. From I275 heading south bound take the 5<sup>th</sup> AVE north exit, go straight to Central

Avenue turn right on Central Avenue once you cross a bridge it will become Treasure Island Causeway, take it till it dead ends at Gulf Blvd, turn left on Gulf Blvd. follow Gulf Blvd south for approximately 1 mile to West Gulf Boulevard. The Sunset Vista Beach Pavilion will be on your right. There is a 7-11 Store at the intersection. Make a right at the stop light, turning south on West Gulf Blvd. The Lions Club is immediately on the right. Make sure to park in the lot across the street from the Beach House. The adjacent lot is generally reserved for disabled parking during events.



**Buddy and Rugby arrive, picture thanks to Francis Lucas**

## *Last Month*

Thanks everyone for joining us last month in downtown St. Pete. After announcements and obedience, we boarded the local city bus. Upon exiting, the rain clouds burst, and we had to scurry to seek refuge under the Vinoy Hotel's covered outdoor seating area. After a brief down pour, the sun came out and we joined the end of the SPCA's public event in the park. Once in the park, the group split up and everyone was on their own the rest of the afternoon. As for Chuck and I, it was such a nice day we walked back to our car strolling through the Saturday Morning Market and caught some lunch. After the long hot summer, it's nice to be able to enjoy the outdoors.

On Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the puppy group met at Bill Jackson's sporting goods store. Here is Donna's recap of the meeting: Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure always offers a variety of unique exposures for our pups. Even the walk from the parking lot is like a hike through a wooded campground. First we explored the variety of tents and kayaks displayed on the large outdoor back deck. Passing through the fishing & backpacking area with fishing lures, animal fur and feathers, we visited the hunting, taxidermy and shooting range. In addition to tanks and dive suits, the scuba area features a large indoor swimming pool. All we were missing was Chuck to demonstrate Tampa Bay's only indoor ski slope.

As always thank you Don and Donna for organizing such adventurous sub-group meetings!

## *Up Coming Events*

We want to thank every one in advance for volunteering their time at any of our past and future event requests Here is what we have coming up in November. And remember, you can help out even if you don't currently have a puppy. It is always a good learning experience especially for new raisers. Besides, we might just be able to arrange a loner pup for the day.

**Saturday, November 14; Dogtoberfest; Dunedin; 11:00 – 5:00pm:** We have had a table at this event several times in the past. It is sponsored by the Suncoast Animal League and is a major "Adoptathon" event. It's a lot of fun and a super exposure just walking around for our pups. We are looking for volunteers to do 3 hour shifts: 11:00 -2:00pm, or 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Chuck and I will be doing the set up and break down. Send us an email and we will give you more details.



**Top Jackie and Kristen show Buddy to friends interested in becoming puppy raisers, Middle Segway group helps with our training, and bottom Mel & Mike stroll, all in front of the Dali museum last month.**

**Wednesday November 18; and Thursday, November 19; Great American Teach inn:** So far, we have two schools that we would like to cover requesting a puppy come to the, "Great American Teach-Inn." On Wednesday, the request is from Mildred Helms Middle School in Largo and on Thursday, it's in Tampa at Buchanan Middle School. Of course, both schools are requesting pups from 9am -4pm, but will take whatever we offer. So what we are looking for is volunteers who can cover the morning, afternoon, or all day. Please email us if you and your puppy are available. You tell us what hours you can cover

and we will set you up with a Teach Inn gig. If you have been asked to do a Teach Inn speaking event that did not come thru us let us know where you will be and what time so you get credit for doing that event.

**Wednesday evening November 18<sup>th</sup>; 7:00pm; Dodgeball Tournament:** The University of Tampa Delta Gama girls are hosting a Dodgeball Tournament and have requested us to take a few moments before their event to talk about the guide dog program and what we do as puppy raisers. We have been actively trying to recruit some of the girls to puppy raise, so if you think you can make this event, drop us a note.

That brings us up to date so far. But don't worry, we will continue to keep you busy, we already have two requests for January. If we want our group to grow, we need to keep ourselves in the public eye and we could not do this without you. **THANK YOU!**

### ***Training Updates***

We just got updates on Mel, raised by the Deckers, and Banjo raised by the Thompsons. Mel just went back last month and is settling in nicely. He is bonding with his trainer and enjoying group playing with the other dogs. Pretty soon Mel and his trainer will be taking it to the streets! Good job Mel.

Banjo's report is equally as positive. His trainer says his directional commands are fantastic and he has beautiful control around birds and close proximity to other dogs. The trainer also reported that Banjo is responsive to all known commands and his guide work is progressing nicely. Banjo, we are all very proud of your progress!

### ***General Group up Dates***

Since everyone enjoys staying in touch we can fill you in on some group information. First, Mary and Bill Wallace are back in town after spending the summer in New York. They have brought with them Shadow, formerly Trumpet, Banjo's litter mate, which is now a permanent part of their pack. They are co-raising a puppy with their son who lives in New York and the puppy is staying with him for now.

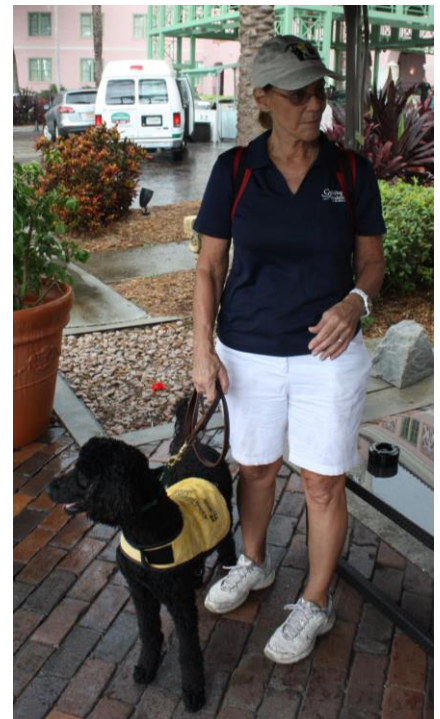
Mike and Alicia have taken a time out since their puppy Usher but it looks like they may be raising again by November or December. They've just returned from a 3 week adventure in Europe and are catching their breath. Mike and Nancy Decker plan to take a time out as well from puppy raising due to family obligations.

We want to welcome two new puppy raiser applicants. First, Andrea (Andi) Nachman, and Nancy and Joe O'Leary. We met Andi at our October meeting and she graciously agreed to puppy sit Frances's new pup Rugby. Although Rugby was a challenge for Andi I think she learned a lot and I don't think we've chased her away so easily. Hang in there Andi, we've all been there.



**Above: Suncoast Puppy Raisers riding the Bus at last month's meeting.**

**Below: Donna and a poodle waiting for the rain to stop before heading on to the pet walk**



Nancy and Joe are currently puppy sitting Carmon for Eileen Newsome. They have also had their challenges but are finding the humor in it and having a good time.

We have 5 new puppy raiser applications. Two of them look like a definite green light and may be on board by December but more likely January. The first is Shannon Roads, and the second is Kandice Smith. Shannon has already come to 2 of our meetings and handled Mac at our last meeting. Kandice is a young perspective raiser, and did an excellent job handling new pup Buddy at the Wag-O-Ween event. Fortunately, Kandice lives very close to Jackie Jordan and is friends with Kristen so she has two excellent mentors. The other applicants we are working to set up home visits with them to get them started with the group. We are very excited to have so many new comers to our group. Welcome and we are looking forward to sharing many new experiences with you while you raise your first puppy.



**Kandace and Buddy with Eileen and Carmen as Fran looks on as they worked our groups booth at Wag-o-ween.**

### *Training Tip – Let’s get started!*

What Chuck and I always like to say, “Unlike raising kids, our pups come with a manual! In fact a quite extensive one. There is no way any one could fully comprehend everything in the manual reading it the first time through. It’s best to digest it in small bites as you and your puppy grow together.

When your puppy first arrives, they are like a blank slate upon which you will write by teaching them manners, socialization and obedience training. As seen by the puppy’s point of view, you are their entire universe and they will take their cues as to how to behave by how you react to their behavior. Dogs are “pack animals” and they need to learn immediately where their position in the pack lies. It is important that the raiser immediately establishes themselves as the pack leader and that all others in the household including, , spouses, children and other pets, are higher ranking than the new puppy. Once this is established, training can begin.

Obedience training is a step by step process and each step builds on the one before it. It requires consistency, repetition and praise. Where we generally start is by teaching the puppy their name and teach them the “come” command. The “come” command is probably the most important one you need not only for control, but for the pups safety. Having your puppy trained to reliably return to you when called can prevent them from being hurt by a car or other impending dangers. Two other commands you can start with are the “no” and “Leave it” commands. These too are primarily for your pups safety. The tone of your voice also teaches them how to respond. A deep growling NO, speaks to them in their own language and will get their attention. Once you have their attention, a light high voiced, “good dog,” will also get their attention that they did something to please you.

Puppy raising is a process and you have over a year to complete it. You and your puppy will learn together. Please be sure to read your manual, over and over again and don’t ever hesitate to contact us for questions and help. Puppy raising should be fun so let the fun begin.

Hope to see you all at the Vet Dog event. Your Area Coordinators Debbie & Chuck Hietala



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