



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guide Dog Puppy Raiser: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GUIDE DOG TEAM GRADUATES

Local resident \_\_\_\_\_ contributed time and love in raising a puppy for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), and was proud to see the dog graduate as a guide in a formal ceremony at the GDB campus in (*San Rafael, Calif., or Boring, Ore.*), on Saturday, \_\_\_\_\_.

Shown in the attached photo is puppy raiser \_\_\_\_\_ who presented guide dog “\_\_\_\_\_”, a \_\_\_\_\_ breed, to graduating student: \_\_\_\_\_.

Puppy raiser \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the local GDB Puppy Raising Club \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (*city, state*).

GDB uses the following breeds: yellow and black Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Lab/Golden Crosses. The puppies are born at GDB’s headquarters in San Rafael, CA and then placed in the homes of volunteer puppy raisers when they are about two months old. Puppy raisers are responsible for teaching their puppies good manners and basic obedience, as well as introducing them to new experiences.

The pups return to GDB for formal guidework training when they are about 15 to 17 months old. Following the completion of training, the dogs are matched with someone who is blind or visually impaired. The new guide dog team then completes an intensive two-week course culminating with a graduation ceremony at which the puppy raiser formally presents the dog to its new handler. All of GDB’s graduations are open to the public.

GDB is more than an industry-leading Guide Dog School; they are a passionate community that serves the visually impaired. With exceptional client services and a robust network of trainers, puppy raisers, donors and volunteers, GDB prepares highly-qualified guide dogs to serve and empower individuals who are blind or have low vision. All of their services are provided free of charge; they receive no government funding. GDB is headquartered in San Rafael, California, with a second campus in Boring, Oregon. More than 14,000 teams have graduated since its founding in 1942, and there are approximately 2,200 active teams in the field. If you know someone who could benefit from their services, please let them know about this program. To get involved, contact GDB at 800 295-4050; or visit [www.guidedogs.com](http://www.guidedogs.com).