



Southeastern Guide Dogs

# PupDate **3**



Julia

Life in Canine  
University

SPONSOR A  
**PUPPY** 





## School Days

Julia has settled happily at Canine University with her classmates. She loved living and learning in the home of her volunteer puppy raiser, Meghan, but now, she's part of a group of "college kids," mastering higher-level cues and skills taught by certified instructors. Julia's advanced lessons begin on our Palmetto, Florida campus, then extend to nearby communities and cities.

All Southeastern Guide Dogs canines have a special purpose and will someday make a difference in someone's life, whether they become working dogs or not.

From preschool to now, our experts carefully assess Julia's temperament, intelligence, health, and preferences, watching for clues to the career path that best suits this active pup. Whatever happens next for Julia, she will use the lessons she's learning at Canine University.

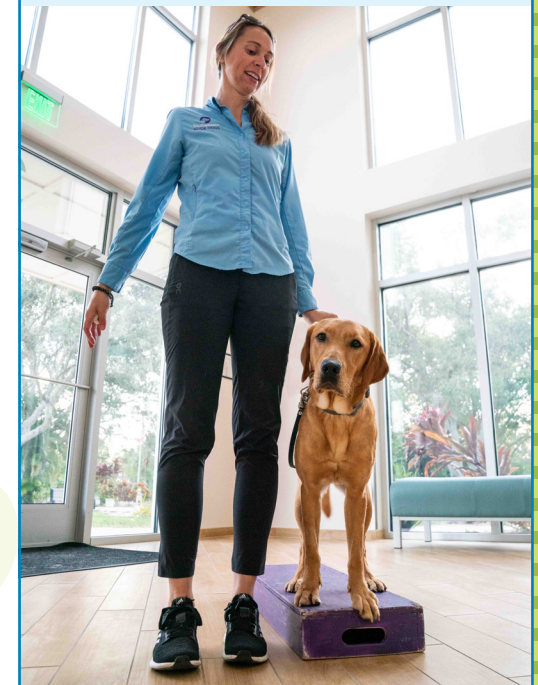


## Time to Learn!

Quick to learn new skills, when Julia's ready to work, she shows it! Instructors use the targeting stick as a fun way to introduce landmarking and the *find* cue. When a dog in training touches the tennis ball with its nose, instructors reward it with a yummy treat and praise. Dogs learn to generalize the *find* cue to include everyday items that could make life easier for someone with vision loss, such as *find the chair*, *find the door*, *find the exit*, and more. Tasty kibble motivates pups-in-training, but eventually, they perform tasks with only praise as a reward.

## // Standing Tall

Julia enjoys being active and busy. During play breaks between training sessions, she runs around the training center, playing with the tug toys and ball launchers. But when it's time to settle down and train, she can concentrate and perform well in an enclosed area with minimal distractions. Asking a dog to stand straight and tall on a raised platform helps perfect its body alignment and placement in the harness.



## Outdoor Adventures

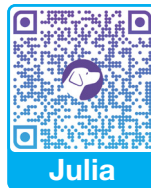
Indoors, it's one thing to demonstrate good concentration where there are no squirrels, birds, cars, people, dogs, or other distractions. But outside, Julia and her schoolmates must practice *impulse control*. Julia might someday be responsible for her handler's safety in all sorts of outdoor environments. She cannot stop along a route to sniff food remnants on the ground or plunge into nearby bushes to follow an enticing scent!

For dogs at Julia's stage, another crucial outdoor skill is learning to stop at a variety of curbs, including blended or sloping curbs and those that are defined. When they stop, instructors reward them with praise and treats.



As she trains, Julia will communicate her preferences for a particular career path through her personality, aptitude, confidence, and contentment during interactions with her instructors.

Whatever Julia chooses and wherever she goes, she's one happy pup!



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