



 Southeastern Guide Dogs

PupDate **1**

Luke

Life in Puppy
Kindergarten

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Luke Loves School!

Born in our Puppy Academy, Luke began his education at just two days old. This energetic bundle of curiosity played and learned with siblings while being taught by caring staff and volunteers. His joyful personality makes it easy to see why he was so beloved in his Puppy Preschool and Kindergarten classes.

Inquisitive Luke explored without fear when faced with new experiences, tastes, smells, sounds, and surfaces. He demonstrated poise when introduced to novel objects as part of his puppy curriculum. If he could talk, he might

have said to his teachers, "That bright yellow car looks like lots of fun!" before climbing in like a pro.



Tools for the Future

Puppy Kindergarten includes time for education, supervised recess, mealtime, and rest. Standardized assessments help staff members identify each puppy's strengths and areas for improvement. Then, volunteers and staff operate from a robust curriculum, individualized for each puppy's personality and characteristics. Our Luke enjoyed improving his strength, agility, confidence, and basic skills, and like every young pup, he loved playtime! Like his favorite Baby Yoda toy, the force is strong with this one.

When Luke rode in a cart, practiced "follow me" and "follow me on a leash," and experienced a mock



medical exam, he learned valuable lessons. He'll undergo regular vet checkups throughout his life, so it's essential for him to remain relaxed while a human touches his mouth, eyes, ears, paws, and entire body.

// Stepping Up

In Puppy Kindergarten, Luke wasn't fazed by the feeling of unusual surfaces under his feet. His brain will store these memories, and someday, he may confidently stride over uneven or wobbly textures while keeping his future handler safe. One day, he might even hike a mountain trail with his person.



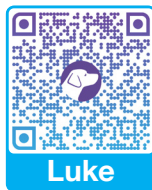
What Comes Next?

Luke graduated from Puppy Kindergarten with flying colors. Next, he met his volunteer co-raisers, Vicky and Kathy. By splitting time between their homes, he'll receive twice the love! Vicki and Kathy will continue Luke's training, steering him toward a hopeful destiny. They will teach him new basic skills, socialize him, take him on car rides, introduce him to friends, and expose him to many real-world experiences such as stores, restaurants, public transportation, and more.

Someday, Luke may become a guide dog for someone who



cannot see, a service dog for a veteran with disabilities, or a skilled companion dog for a child with unique challenges. His lack of shyness, ability to learn, and willingness to work are invaluable attributes for a future working dog. Good boy, Luke!



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