



IWDBA Conference 2017 Banff

ENRICHED PUPPY PROTOCOL™



ENRICHED PUPPY PROTOCOL™ (EPP)

- Developed by breeder/trainer Suzanne Clothier
- Promotes physical, social & cognitive development
- Age-appropriate stimuli & experiences
- Suitable for puppies in any program/working purpose



GUIDE DOGS

75
litters
(2012)



2007

35
litters
(2015)



2013

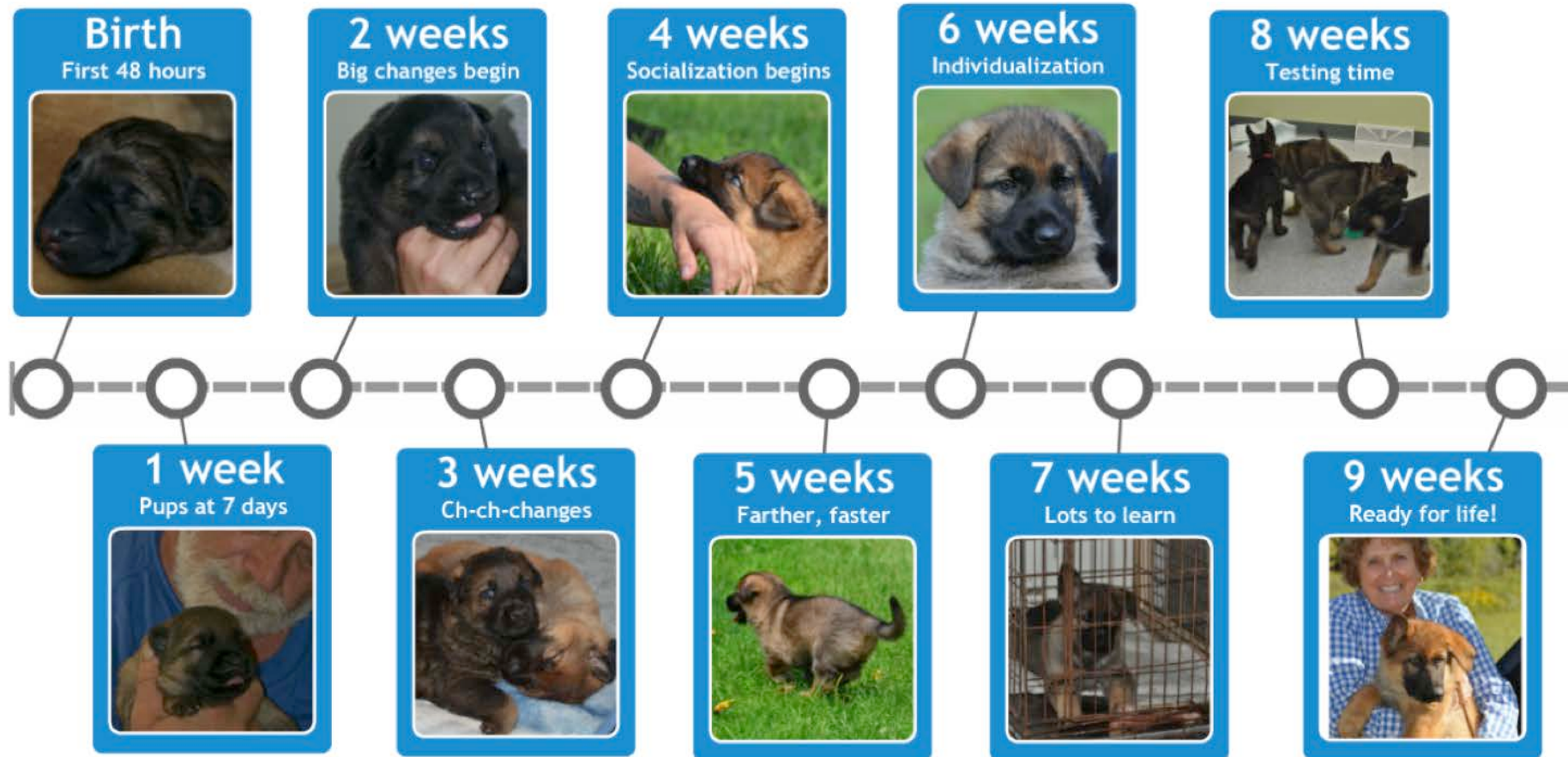


GUIDE DOGS



Ready? Set? GO!

63 days to build the foundation



ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Training at School

Puppy Raising

Early Development



ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Environmental enrichment shown to induce profound and long-lasting behavioral & neural consequences.

- Resilience
- Adaptability
- Confidence
- Cognitive ability

Early Development



Where we began

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Going forward

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BUILDING THE REFERENCE LIBRARY

Fear of **novelty** begins at 4 weeks, peaks about 9 weeks.

Extensive “Reference Library” provides pup with familiar experiences, not novelty.



Growing the program & puppies

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Strong social relationships are key to any guide dog's success. Learning *how to connect* to people starts with handling at birth & continues.



Connection & training begins early



READY FOR PLACEMENT (8 WEEKS)



Individual attention & training away from littermates & dam



Basic training skills: SIT, DOWN, STAND, RECALL, FOLLOW, impulse control



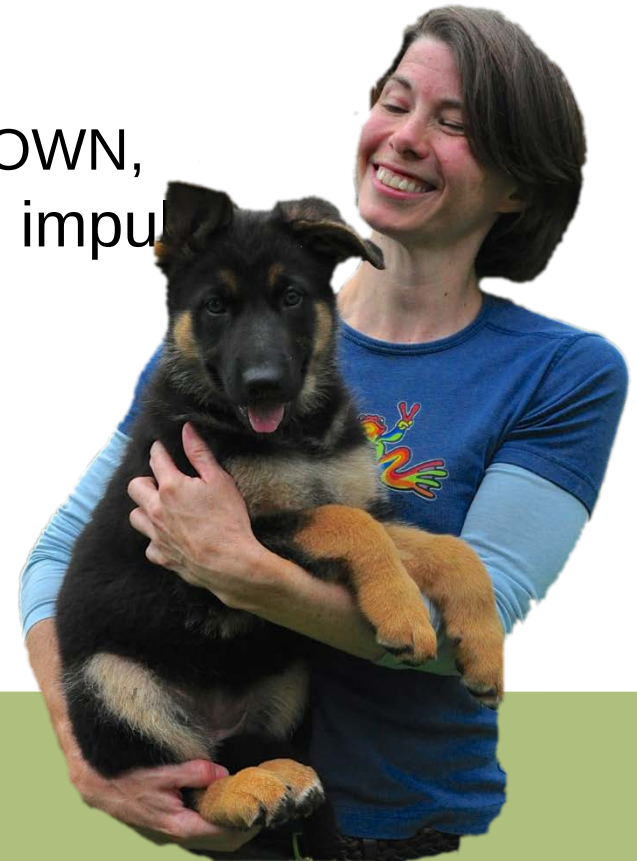
Walking on leash



Car rides & crating (solo)



Body handling



ENRICHED PUPPY BENEFITS



Smoother transition to raiser's home



Significant reduction of stress for ALL



Ready for socialization



Improved raiser experience



Ethical & humane



EPP BENEFITS - STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Specific Schedule

Detailed daily
& weekly
“what to do”

Replicable & Teachable

Staff can
teach &
oversee
volunteers



Accountability

Keeps team
working on time
critical & age
appropriate

Creativity

Empowers
staff &
volunteers

EPP BENEFITS – TRAINING DEPARTMENT



Trainers

Increased confidence & adaptability with underfootings, noise, novel situations.

Guide Dog Users

Faster working bond – 2-3 months, not years.



BENEFITS of EPP

- Implementation rapid & in stages
- Observable results in short time frame
- Use existing facilities & equipment
- Staff/volunteers FUN
- Improved raiser & user experience

- Improved quality of life for dogs

Raising an enriched puppy is a wise investment in the future working dog.



Thank you for your attention!



GUIDE DOGS

Guide Dogs of America

