

PUPPY PROFILE
(EXCELLENT EXAMPLE)

Family Composition (Mom, dad, brothers, sisters? How old? Who raised the pup?)

Pup was raised by a recently engaged young adult couple. Both had an active hand in raising him. Pup was frequently puppy sat by the parents of the female raiser who are in their upper 60's and early 70's. He was great with their slower speed and need for gentleness.

Environment (House, Apartment, Country, Suburbs, Fenced Yard, State?)

Pup lived in a single family ranch-style home in northwestern New Jersey. The property was a good-size with plenty of space to romp and have fun in the fenced-in yard. The house is on a quiet street in a woodsy area.

Pet Friends (Any other animals your puppy grew up with? Was close to? Did not get along with?)

Pup grew up with five other large breed dogs: three Labrador/Golden Retriever crosses (two black, one yellow), one Golden Retriever, and a Siberian Husky. When pup was six months old, the Husky passed away unexpectedly at home; he was there to experience the whole thing. He and our Husky had a rough start, but when he was about four months old, they began hitting it off. Pup is extremely close to all of the dogs in the house and they all enjoy playing with him. They will definitely miss him, as will we. In the office, pup also had experience with a full-grown cat and a little kitten. He was kind and gentle with both. He also visited the raisers' friends that had ferrets and a puppy; he was great with all of them. He was very friendly with every puppy from the club and loved seeing them!

Exposure (Outings with family or club? Experiences outside home - fairs, school, work, rides?)

Pup went everywhere and anywhere. He has attended almost all of his puppy club meetings and went to work with the female raiser every day. He enjoyed being in the office and having other dog friends to play with throughout the day. Pup attended over 40 New Jersey Devils hockey games and Devils hockey events, a New York Giants football game, and a New York Mets game. He has visited Target, Walmart, a carnival, and many pet stores like PetSmart and Petco. Pup has walked in several parades, went on a Newark Airport trip with many other raisers and dogs, and he attended Ag-Field Day at Rutgers University during the 4H State Dog Show; although he did not compete. When he was almost six months old, he accompanied his raisers and their Golden Retriever on a trip to Cape Cod where he stayed in a pet-friendly hotel with a duck pond, rode on several boats, went on a whale-watching tour, and walked through many historic sites. He visited a famous Cape Cod fish market and watched the seals beg for scraps! Pup has been in a hospital setting visiting patients, been to events with kids of all ages, and walked through a large mall. He has been hiking, experienced large waterfalls, and walked through a busy college campus. He has met horses, cows, goats, chickens, deer, cats (domestic and stray), and many other animals. He also visited Boston and stayed with his raisers and friends in a large high-rise apartment complex. There he interacted with a ferret who liked to tease him, but he did not mind the little creature. There aren't many things this pup hasn't done or places he hasn't been to.

Positive Characteristics/Traits (Qualities or words you would describe your puppy to someone)

Pup is one of the best pups we have raised. He is very bright and obedient, and he loves to please. He is constantly trying to cuddle with us and our other dogs. He has just the right amount of stubbornness and cuddlebug all rolled into one sweet pint-sized Labradorable! He has two different lovely personalities at home

and in the office, both of which make him a unique and special boy. At home he loves to curl up, chew a bone, and share his abundance of love with his human and dog family. At work, he enjoys greeting visitors in the office and playing with the other puppies being raised there. He was very easy to raise and an absolute joy to have.

Toys (What toys did your puppy play with? Loves? Powerful chewer?)

Pup does best with hard toys, as he can be an aggressive chewer with softer ones. Initially he will play nicely with softer toys, but once bored of the toy he will destroy it. His favorites are all types of hard Nylabones, rubber Kongs and an elk antler. When being supervised, he has a blast with soft toys that contain a squeaker, or any squeaky toy for that matter. He carries his toys around all the time! He is not happy unless he can carry a toy in his mouth – to greet people, come say hi, when he is nervous, when he is excited, when he is trying to entice another dog to play; his reasons to carry a toy are endless!

Favorite Memories (Nice! Not naughty)

Pup left a huge impact on everyone who spent time with him. We could spend days telling funny stories about him. One of the things he does that always makes us smile is how he often lays down. He will stretch out completely with his front legs all the way out in front of him and his back legs straight out behind him. He is quite the SuperDog! He has a wiggly butt that makes us giggle all the time; it's hard to be still when the bottom wags faster than the upper body can keep up! One time when we were at a hockey game, he decided he wanted a tad more room, so the shoulder of the person in front of him was the perfect place for his head. He has mastered the art of lazy-toy-chewing. He will prop his bones against us, a sturdy piece of furniture (like a chair or ottoman), or the other dogs. It only requires one paw to hold the toy, if at all. He knows how to maximize his energy used in toy-chewing. Another funny story is when we were at our puppy club's summer barbecue. The leader has a pond on her property and tons of space for the dogs to play. He was only five months old and was watching the bigger dogs go in and out of the pond. He was intrigued with the paddle boat and a toy one of the dogs jumped into the water with. He was not watching where he was going and tumbled right into the water. At first he jumped up and looked for land, but then he suddenly realized he could swim and didn't mind the warm water; then he didn't want to come out! He had a blast and welcomed being wet to cool him down in the warm summer air. Everything he does is memorable; we will surely miss him.

How did your puppy let you know it had to go outside?

Pup would ring a bell that hangs on the back door to let us know he had to go outside. If we were out of the house where a bell wasn't around and he had to go out, he would whine loudly and go to a door or paw at us. If we didn't move fast enough, the bell ringing would be in extremely fast succession and the pawing would be in repetitive lightning speed!!