This publication is designed to inform the guide dog leader with tips, suggestions, and background for assisting a trainer (4-H member) with a guide dog puppy. It is intended to be a supplement to "How to Raise a Guide Dog Puppy" 4-H 122 (Ag 92).

This leader guide is divided into 3 sections: Helping the Trainer Prepare for the Puppy, Growth Patterns for Puppies, and Additional Suggestions.

* HELPING THE TRAINER (MEMBER) PREPARE FOR PUPPY

The trainer prepares for the puppy's arrival as discussed during the initial visit with the guide dog advisor, and "How to Raise A Guide Dog Puppy", page 3, Before Your Puppy Arrives.

Puppy arrives usually at about 10 weeks of age. Let him/her play, give him/her lots of time for quiet rest, and let the puppy get acquainted with his/her new family and home.

Be sure to start housebreaking at once. Pay close attention to instructions on page 8 and 9 of the training manual. Take puppy outside on lead on arrival, first thing every morning, after each meal, when he/she slows down after a play period, after puppy wakes up from a nap, and the last thing before going to bed. The trainer may need to make one or two trips outside with puppy during the night for the first two or three weeks. After that, he can make it through the night if the trainer takes him/her out quite early in the morning or late at night. "Every Two Hours" is usually a good time schedule for the first few days.

* GROWTH PATTERNS FOR PUPPIES

The following growth patterns from the eighth week through the 20th month represent average time frames for the average pup. Not all puppies are alike, so trainers must allow individual differences. Included with each growth stage are suggestions for trainers.
8-12 WEEKS

The brain is fully developed.

Needs of Your Puppy:

* Socializing with the outside world and other dogs and animals
* Continue lead-breaking and companion dog training in a relaxed manner.
* Practice retrieving with a soft, easy-to-carry article such as a stuffed or knitted sock.
* Call "Puppy, Come!" at mealtimes.
* Examine teeth (put fingers in pup's mouth gently and pretend to give a pill).
* Examine ears and clean every few days with a soft cloth or cotton, slightly dampened with warm water or diluted alcohol solution.
* Gently handle each nail, clipping tips as needed; examine feet.
* Pose puppy a few seconds at a time at first (longer periods as he/she gets older).
* Brush and comb coat daily.

This is the best time for learning with great responsiveness. Follow instructions on Socialization, Protecting Your Puppy, and Training (pages 10-15 of manual). Give behavior and training corrections in the act of misbehavior. Correction must last no longer than a tick of a clock. Immediately follow the correction with praise.

The eighth week is often considered the first fear period for the puppy; during this time, it is particularly important to avoid exposing the puppy to pain, fright, or stressful situations.

Teach puppy from the beginning what he/she is and isn't allowed to do. (Refer to page 8 & 9 in manual) Some things to teach puppy:

* Stay off the furniture
* Not to jump on people
* Ride on the floor of the car
* Not to develop destructive behavior
* Be quiet (no nuisance barking)
* Not to run in buildings or your home
* To walk with you, not pull you, through doors and gates
* Not to nip or bite at people, including the trainer, even in play
* Give up food, bones, or toys and not be possessive of them
* Not to beg or receive food or tidbits from the table or steal food
* To lie quietly away from the table while you eat
Don't give the puppy old shoes, clothing, or leather items for toys.

* Do not throw sticks of wood for puppy to retrieve.

* Be careful not to feed steak bones, chicken bones, chop bones, raw or home-cooked fish to puppy. These bones splinter and become like needles and can fatally puncture the puppy's stomach.

* Do provide the puppy with a nylabone and encourage him/her to play with it and chew on it. Puppies enjoy chewing on apples and carrots, too. A large piece of old car tire or hard rubber toys that are much too large for the puppy to swallow are good pacifiers when puppy is left alone. Puppies love to chew and will chew whatever they can. Channel the puppy's need to chew in the ways that are the least destructive.

* Don't let the puppy chase cats, chickens, birds or other animals. Chasing cars is also forbidden.

**12-16 WEEKS**

Continue with training and socialization; it is important for the puppy to feel comfortable in many kinds of situations and to learn to obey the trainer always.

*NOTE: It is important for the puppy to learn to relieve himself while on and off of the lead.*

Dominance and flight instincts are more pronounced (aggression and fear). Help puppy accept and give love and attention. Make him/her feel special, needed, and wanted.

**4-7 MONTHS**

A fear of new (or even of old) situations may develop. Overcome these with patience and persistence.

Puppy attains maturity.

*NOTE: Guide dog puppies aren't allowed to engage in sexual activities. Be careful that the puppy does not mate with other dogs. Do not spay or neuter the puppy unless Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc. requests it.*

Dominant traits are established.

Refresh a puppy's memory by continued companion obedience training and socialization with lots of fun outings.

Emphasize good behavior at home, while traveling, and while in public.
8 - 20 MONTHS

Continue all training.

Get puppy used to noisy places and things. If puppy is afraid, let him/her get used to a situation from a distance and reward him/her with play time with a favorite toy or yummy tidbit, working him/her a little closer as he begins to view the previously-frightful situation as commonplace. Repeat this conditioning behavior until he/she loses all fear. Walk the puppy across busy bridges that provide pedestrian walkways for an excellent training ground.

The puppy may jump over low jumps, but teach him/her to jump only on command; don't allow puppy to jump any fences. (Jumping is a not a part of the puppy's training; it's your option.) Be sure there is firm, safe footing for the puppy if he/she is going to jump at all.

* ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR TRAINERS

* Place guide coat or blanket on guide puppies when in public (this is a requirement by Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc.).

* Remove guide dog collars only during bathing. If puppy outgrows the collar, Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc. can mail you an extension. If a new collar is needed, the puppy's old collar must be returned to the school as soon as the new collar arrives.

* Wait until puppy is older, housebroken, and manageable, before taking to meeting classes, or into restaurants.

* Keep in mind that puppy trainer's (4-H member) parents are legally liable for any damage done by puppy.

* Let county or state 4-H guide dog advisor handle any controversial dealing with puppies in public places.

* Promote a good public image of the Guide Dog project (never take the puppy into places where he/she is not welcome ).

* Keep county guide dog advisor and 4-H project leader fully informed on all puppy health problems and behavioral problems; consult them first before taking puppy to the vet, except for routine shots and emergencies.

* Consult club leader or county guide dog advisor if you have any special training problems.

* Let county guide dog advisor make any calls that are necessary to Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc.

* After puppies are returned to the school for their final five or six months of training, your advisor can call the school for a progress report of all county puppies. They are graded A,B,C,D, and F, but this grade can change drastically from week to week; the guide trainee's (puppy) strong points and weaknesses are noted.
* The trainer may wish to write to the school about the puppy when returning the puppy. Attach a letter or note to the puppy's crate or send it under separate cover with the puppy's records. Remember to return the puppy's up-to-date records to Guide Dog For The Blind, Inc. at the same time you return the puppy. Make a duplicate copy of puppy's records for your 4-H member records.

* Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc. are appreciative of pictures and news items about 4-H members and their guide puppies.

* If a 4-H member would like to raise another guide puppy, they may send in a new application several months in advance of the expected date to return the current puppy. Please note on the application that you would like a new puppy to train after the current puppy is returned.

* Good luck in helping trainers with their puppies.

Prepared by Nancy Rand, volunteer State 4-H Guide Dog Advisor, and Alan Snider, former 4-H and youth development specialist, Oregon State University, with the assistance of the Oregon Developmental Committee for the 4-H Dog Program.