

 Southeastern Guide Dogs

PupDate **1**

Jake

Life in Puppy
Kindergarten

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PUPPY 



Making Memories

For a sweet, eager-to-learn puppy like Jake, preschool and Puppy Kindergarten has been an exciting, constant adventure! The volunteers and staff were busy every day introducing Jake and his furry little friends to the wonders of a full curriculum, exposing them to novel objects, noises, and new surfaces. It may look like gentle touch and curiosity-building play, but there's always a purpose behind the fun. Starting just days after he was born, Jake embarked on a time of exploration

and learning that creates a vital "library" of experiences to build upon for the future. Jake loved everything about preschool and gathered valuable skills and exposures that are now embedded in his memory.



Chew This, Not That

All pups learn about the world around them through their senses, and Jake adored putting things in his mouth. From a very early age, he was taught what is acceptable to chew on and what is not. When this little guy tried to bite on shoelaces, pant legs, or fingers with his tiny, sharp, puppy teeth, he was redirected to a safe and satisfying chew toy instead. This type of consistent redirection and reinforcement helps to socialize Jake and the other pups so that when they head out to puppy raiser homes, they behave well and are not overly "mouthy" with their humans. Throughout his early



months, Jake became comfortable with human touch and handling, including gentle massage and petting. Engaging with people in Puppy Kindergarten is the best!

// Climbing to the Top

Part of the stimulating curriculum of Jake's Puppy Kindergarten involved trying out new surfaces and under footings. Jake enjoyed romping and climbing on a pint-sized playground of slides, tippy objects, exercise peanuts, and inclines, which improved his balance, strength, and endurance. While having fun, he gained confidence and became more sure-footed.





The Adventure Continues

As he matures, Jake accomplishes many milestones on his journey, including graduating from Puppy Kindergarten. He has now left the Southeastern Guide Dogs Puppy Academy behind to live with his volunteer puppy raisers, Colleen and Maria. They are fully committed to exposing Jake to all sorts of stimuli and new experiences and will continue with his puppy fitness. Every outing in the car, trip to the grocery store, visit with friends and

family, and opportunity to practice cues and skills makes Jake more self-reliant and competent. This intelligent pup is always eager to learn, and Colleen and Maria are keen to teach him. Stay tuned for more of Jake's adventures as he continues to live his best life. There's so much good news ahead!



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NEXT PUPDATE
IN JULY**