

Hi Susan,

By way of introduction, I'm \*\*\*\*, the benefactor of your beautiful yellow lab, Nexus. He was delivered to me on October 22, 2012 by an instructor from Guide Dogs for the Blind in Boring, OR. I had been at the Boring campus a couple of weeks earlier and was given another dog, "\*\*\*\*\*". When we got home \*\*\*\* had issues trying to guide me across a busy U.S. Highway because of the noise and size of the semi-trailers that frequent the highway. Unfortunately we live on one side of the highway and the business district of Hermiston, OR is on the other. The regional manager came by a few days later and noticed the problem, worked on it with \*\*\*\* and after returning a week later decided to take \*\*\*\* back to the Boring campus to try to work out the problem. I learned a few days later that they felt that they must retire \*\*\*\* and had found me a replacement, Nexus. I appreciated \*\*\*\* but really hadn't had time to bond up with him. Probably just as well, because Nexus is definitely a rock star. He's so much like my retired guide, Jeb that they could be twins, except for the age difference.

I am a retired agricultural engineer. I am 75 years old and suffer from RP. I got Jeb about 9 ½ years ago. (I've been blind for many years ) I quit driving in 1984). We live in Hermiston, Oregon, a small town of about 15,000 located in Northeast Oregon along the Columbia River about 189 miles east of Portland. Our family consists of my wife, our retired yellow lab, Jeb and a 17 lb. Jack Russell/Brussels chiffon named Shorty. We don't know how old Shorty is because he was a pound pup, but we guess about 4. We live in a residential area and have a large fenced backyard for the boys to play in.

We appreciated your kind letter and the picture book with Nexus's early years photos. You might be particularly interested to know that Nexus's hiking experiences will serve him (and me) well in his future. We own a family tree farm in southwest Mississippi and travel down there at least once a year. We have some fertilizer plots there which require some trail finding and off-road walking. Jeb was a master at this and I'll bet Nexus is too. I walk 2-5 miles a day as a form of exercise and to get to my old office. I still consult from time to time and need to get there occasionally. We go to a yoga class 3 times a week and to the Methodist church a couple of times a week. All in all he'll lead a fairly active life and shouldn't be bored for many years.

Nexus's work is impeccable, particularly for such a young guy. He's still a pup and needs guidance, but is a quick learner and strives to please. He is a gentle soul, but likes to have his fun when he is off duty. People, trucks, dog distractions and similar challenges don't faze him at all. He weighs 74 lbs. now, and will be larger, I fear, when he grows into his feet.

Thank you for being such a good puppy raiser. You obviously enjoy it and you'll never know how much good you're doing for mankind and the blind community in particular. I can't imagine raising 9 puppies and giving them all back to the school. Obviously for you it's a labor of love.

I'll try to send you some pictures of us at work from time to time. I'll try to call you sometime this weekend. Feel free to communicate with us anytime you wish.

Best personal regards,