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

FIDELCO

75 litters (2012)

Guide Dogs of America

35 litters (2015)

IWDBA Conference 2017 Banff
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Ready? Set? **GO!**

63 days to build the foundation

- **Birth** (First 48 hours)
- **2 weeks** (Big changes begin)
- **4 weeks** (Socialization begins)
- **6 weeks** (Individualization)
- **8 weeks** (Testing time)
- **1 week** (Pups at 7 days)
- **3 weeks** (Ch-ch-changes)
- **5 weeks** (Farther, faster)
- **7 weeks** (Lots to learn)
- **9 weeks** (Ready for life!)

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Ultimate Purpose

Training at School

Puppy Raising

Early Development

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

- Resilience
- Adaptability
- Confidence
- Cognitive ability

Early Development
Going forward
Fear of **novelty** begins at 4 weeks, peaks about 9 weeks.

Extensive “Reference Library” provides pup with familiar experiences, not novelty.
Strong social relationships are key to any guide dog’s success. Learning **how to connect** to people starts with handling at birth & continues.
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
ENRICHE 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” goals

Replicable & Teachable
Staff can teach & oversee volunteers

Creativity
Empowers staff & volunteers

Accountability
Keeps team working on time critical & age appropriate
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
• Humane & ethical
Raising an enriched puppy is a wise investment in the future working dog.
Thank you for your attention!