

SLD News October 2014



On 10th September Grant arranged for *Coda* and *Lyric* to be transported on an Air New Zealand plane bound for Auckland...time to return for advanced training. The previous Sunday SLD handlers and puppy sitters plus guests of honour, *Coda* and *Lyric*, gathered for lunch at the Skyline Buffet to farewell the siblings.

Pamela Houston, MD Manager of Canine Programmes, had these words to say about *Coda* and *Lyric* regarding their arrival.

“Both *Lyric* and *Coda* did not skip a beat in settling into a new life in Auckland. Once we got them away from the airport and out of the van, they picked up right where they left off.”

Below puppy raisers, Tony and Viv Campbell, reminisce about their time with *Coda*.

“It was October 2013 when we (Tony, Viv, Grant and Judy) headed to Tuatapere to fetch our wee balls of fluff. There they were playing among numerous Goldens of different hues. What a wonderful family to be born into!

Coda was a great little boy from day one, sleeping right through the night and obliging with little fuss in his potty training. Breakfast was at 7:30 sharp and a single bark was his signal that it was indeed ‘tucker time’. A few groans followed if we didn’t snap to. *Coda* was always very polite, obeying the ‘wait’ command until given the release to eat.

Coda loved training sessions especially when he realised that treats or praise were the rewards. We sailed through the commands outlined in the manual by the time he was 6 months old.

In addition to training, we enjoyed a lot of other fun activities together. ‘Hide and seek’ was one of *Coda*’s favourite games, along with romping with sister *Lyric* and swimming in Lake Wakatipu. We had numerous adventures with *Coda*: gondola rides, walking on swing bridges, car excursions, doctors’ visits, walks all around town and bus rides. (All the bus drivers knew him by name.)

At 10-12 months *Coda* started to show some teenage attitude; occasionally he would ignore a command and only capitulate if tempted with a treat. But all in all he was a lovely, gentle boy. He loved being petted and pampered, was easy to train, malleable, laid back and oh, so handsome. What a gift he will be to his future mate.

It was sad but at the same time heart-warming to say good-bye to *Coda* at the Queenstown Airport. We look forward to hearing of his progress."

Lyric's raisers, Grant and Judy Reid, talk about life with *Lyric*.

"*Lyric* has been a joy to raise. With her loving nature, her eagerness to please, her joy for life and her beauty, she's an absolute gem. Her frequent socialisations included bus rides, car excursions and visits to the supermarket, bank, restaurants and cafes. Often we would join brother *Coda* and his raisers plus other puppy club folks to take the Earnslaw Vintage Steamship over to Walter Peak where the dogs would have playtime on the beach romping in and out of the water while the humans picnicked on the beach. Another favourite socialisation with everyone was riding the Skyline gondola to have the buffet lunch at the top. Both the Earnslaw trip and the Skyline excursion gave us numerous opportunities to talk about Mobility Dogs and tourists' cameras were always at the ready.

Lyric's training went smoothly and on schedule. She loved training sessions, so much so that she'd wander into the kitchen and of her own volition start opening drawers and the refrigerator. Gee, you'd think to yourself, didn't I just close that drawer..?

One of *Lyric's* most endearing characteristics was her 'side to side head tilt'. What innocent sweetness as she stared at you with beseeching eyes, tilting her head side to side trying to catch a familiar word to puzzle out what you might be saying. There was always a lot of head tilting when she watched a nature programme on TV...a favourite pastime."

Fleur continues to carry out her Ambassadog role with patience and zeal. Few can resist stroking her silky ears and patting her cushiony wool coat. With her iconic ankle pompoms and stylish head coiffure, her breed type is easily recognised, and we often hear a wee voice in the distance call out, "Hey Mum, look it's a poodle."

We close this SLD news update with best wishes to *Lyric* and *Coda* as they begin this new and exciting chapter in their lives.

Judy & Grant Reid, Raisers/Leader
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