

Becoming a guide dog:



A jumbled up journey

Puppies start to walk at around 2 weeks old and can hear properly from 3 weeks.



Our puppies wear a special blue jacket when out and about. Their Puppy Raiser teaches them basic skills like walking on a lead, how to settle quietly, and to come back when called.

Guide dogs retire and become pets when they are older.



Dogs at the training school wear a brown harness with a yellow flash at the front.



£38,110 could provide all the expert training needed to train a guide dog, transforming them from a pup into a partnership.

Guide Dogs uses breeds that are the right size and have the right personality to be guide dogs - Labradors, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, Curly-coated Retrievers, and Poodles.





We have partnered over **36,000** people with a life-changing guide dog.

Most puppies are born in a family home and stay there until they are 7 weeks old when they come into the National Centre for health checks.

After they leave their Puppy Raiser family, the dogs come to a training school to work with a trainer and learn how to be a guide dog.



Once a dog has completed its training, they get to wear a white harness and are matched to a partner.



Sometimes our trainers wear blindfolds, so the dog doesn't get any help when training.

At training school, our dogs learn things like how to target a down kerb, so they stop at a road.

At around **8 weeks** old, puppies go to live with volunteer Puppy Raisers and stay in their homes for **12-16** months.

Some dogs like to be rewarded with toys, some like food, some like being praised... some like all three!

