



Sponsor
a Puppy



Albus

Albus has started
his journey!

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Albus



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**Hello, it's Pat
here, Albus'
Puppy Raiser.**

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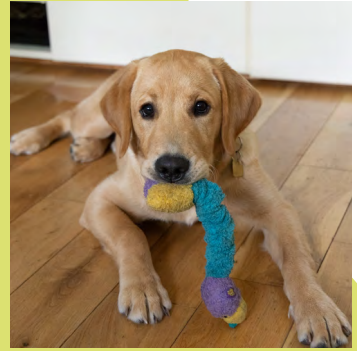
I've been a puppy raiser for about five years. I became involved with Guide Dogs when an elderly relative passed away in 2017, leaving a donation in their will. I called up to donate and gave my email address. Then, just as I was being made redundant, I received an email from Guide Dogs volunteering as a puppy raiser - it was meant to be!

Albus' arrival

Albus is the first male pup that I have raised, and in some ways he's very similar to the other pups, but in others, he's entirely different. When he first arrived with me, he settled straight away, which is quite unusual for a new pup. Albus loves to sleep and happily naps in his crate. For Albus, the crate is like his bedroom; it's a safe space for him to relax. This also helps him to learn to settle by himself, which will be important as he grows up and goes through the training process.

Every pup has their own personality and Albus is no different. He's such a cheeky chap and has quite the mischievous side. When Albus first arrived, he loved to bring items from the back garden into the living room.

They ranged from stones from our water feature to plants he had dug up and shaken all over the room – he was so proud when setting them down in front of me. Albus is a clever boy so he quickly learnt that bringing me toys instead of plants and stones would get him fuss and playtime. Unlike my other pups, puzzle toys are his favourites, or ones that squeak! He also enjoys playing tug with our pet dog Suzie. She never lets him win but bless him; he keeps trying.



Training so far

Albus has picked up so many skills already – it's amazing! We've been practising recall and it's going well. As soon as I call his name, he runs from wherever he is straight to me. We're also practising the cues 'sit' and 'place', which he is picking up very well. The cue 'place' asks Albus to lie down on a specific blanket; this forms the basis for his future training when learning to settle out and about.



I've also taken Albus to puppy classes. These classes help to socialise Albus with other pups while learning to overcome new obstacles. For example, in a recent class, the trainer played with different toys that made noise and played various sounds. The goal was to help Albus understand how to react calmly and for me to be there as a support. None of the noises fazed him and he took it all in his stride. I was so proud!



Learn more about Albus' journey so far by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus



Looking ahead

Over the upcoming months, we will work on loose-lead walking, which involves teaching Albus not to pull or tug on the lead and to walk nicely beside me. This will be a fundamental skill for his future training. Albus is such a quick learner so I know he will pick this up quickly.

Thank you for sponsoring Albus. I'm looking forward to updating you in June in your next Pupdate!





See how much Albus has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Albus since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed.

To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at guidedogs.org.uk/privacy or call **freephone 0800 953 0113** to request a printed copy. Please use this number to tell us if you have changed your mind about how we contact you; including telling us that you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail about Guide Dogs.