



Sponsor
a Puppy



Albus

Albus has arrived
at training school!

Pupdate 3

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these beautiful autumnal months.

Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide our incredible life-changing services. It's estimated that six million people in the UK live with sight-threatening eye conditions, and more than two million of these are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. At Guide Dogs, we want to support as many people as possible through these life-altering changes, providing the right services to help everyone.

Did you know that training and partnering our wonderful guide dogs isn't all we offer? We also provide support to adults through our My Sighted Guide service which partners trained volunteer guides with a person with a visual impairment. For children and young people, we offer a fantastic range of support, from companion dogs via our buddy dogs scheme to personalised, large print books through CustomEyes Books. Our expertise means we can make life-changing differences to those affected by sight loss, enabling them to live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. Thank you for helping us to do this with your generous support.

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
Ellie here,
Albus'
trainer.**

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I've been training pups for three years and I am about to qualify as a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist. In this role, I'll create partnerships between guide dogs and their future owners, and take care of them after being matched. I'll take the dog's speed and personality into consideration, so that they can support their new owner's lifestyle. Currently I'm training three dogs: Albus, Paddy and Sandy B - they all have such different personalities!

Settling in

Albus has settled in very well at training school, he's really easy-going and everybody loves him. He's great at settling in his pen, where he plays with his frozen Kong which I fill with kibble. He likes spending time there as he can also meet other dogs, he's already made pen friends!

Albus made himself comfortable at his fosterers' place too, and they adore him. They travel by train every day to bring Albus to training school, which is great practice for him, as his future owner might use public transport regularly too.

Albus is responding very well to his new routine. His fosterers usually drop him off at 7:30am and I train him indoors for a 40-minute session. I play a lot with him to make it an enjoyable experience, he has lots of fun! Next, I take him out to learn a route – recently we've been working on the route from the office to a local café. He's doing a fantastic job! In the afternoon, we have another training session before I take him to have a lovely free run.

Learning skills

Training Albus is an absolute delight, he's affectionate and responsive. He's still at the very start of his journey with me but there are lots of great signs.

I'm working on some behaviours with Albus, such as food manners and recall. These are already very good, and I'm working on reinforcing them. I'm also introducing him to the skill platforms: I place two low platforms on the floor and ask Albus to walk between them, stopping with all four paws on each one. This helps him learn to walk in a straight line, which will be very important when he is guiding a future owner.



Learn more about Albus and Ellie's bond by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus)



Scan me

I'm also using platforms to teach Albus about kerbs so that he can begin to pause before stepping up or down. This will help ensure his future owner doesn't trip. I'm also working on chin rest where he finds a towel on a chair and rests his chin on it. Later, I will transfer this skill outside the training environment as I teach Albus to locate chairs and benches, and indicate them by resting his head.

Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I'll work to improve Albus' distraction around other animals as he gets so excited when he sees squirrels and foxes!

Thank you for sponsoring Albus. I feel so lucky to be training him. Find out how he's progressing at training school in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Albus on his Pupdate journey?



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The training harness

After around 12-16 months with their puppy raiser, our pups move to training school to learn more specific tasks related to their future career. Introducing a young dog to their brown training harness is one of the first milestones at training school. Most dogs have previously worn their puppy coat, meaning they're familiar with the body sensation. With this as a foundation, we build up to placing the harness on the dog's back and fastening it. Once a dog is partnered, they will wear the iconic white guiding harness.



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at [guidedogs.org.uk/privacy](https://www.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.