



# Albus

Advanced training

Pupdate 5

# Welcome to your June Pupdate

**I hope you're well and enjoying the longer days and warmer weather as we begin to welcome summer!**

We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. Because of supporters like you, we've been able to create over 36,000 life-changing partnerships to date. That's more than 400 lives transformed each year for 93 years - and counting!

Did you know that 2 million people live with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050? We're committed to providing support to as many people as possible, for as long as that support is needed. With the cost of living continuing to rise, we appreciate your help now more than ever. Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate, 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  
Zoe here,  
Albus'  
trainer**

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I'm a Guide Dog Trainer with 16 years of experience in the field. The best thing about my job is seeing how dogs learn and progress, and how my work impacts the life of someone living with sight loss.

## **Getting to know Albus**

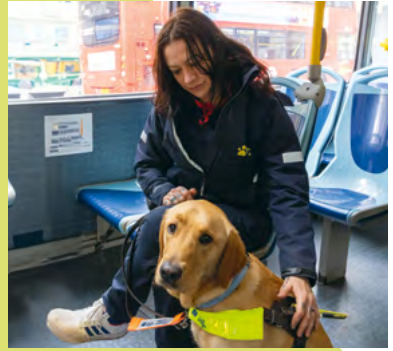
I'm building a strong bond with Albus. After spending some time with him and getting to know him better, he showed me his playful and energetic side. He's quite active and always enjoys a free run. He's also very affectionate, loves cuddling, and playing with his toys. Everybody at the office loves him, and his tail wags when they greet him. When Albus is wearing a harness and starts guiding, he switches to his serious and focused mode. He loves training and is confident in making decisions, which is great for a future guide dog.

## **Advanced training**

During his guiding sessions, Albus is wearing the brown training harness. I'm working with two different types of handles: the A-type and the B-type.

The A-type is straighter and narrower, lying flat on Albus' back when I'm not holding the handle. The B-type is wider and has a bend to bring it closer to the handler's side. This means it can fall down the side of the dog's body when the handle is down, so there's a place to fasten an extra strap to ensure it lies nicely across the dog's back. It's useful in case dogs have body sensitivity and don't like the feeling of it falling on their sides. However, Albus copes well with both, which means his future owner will be able to choose which one works best for them. Once Albus qualifies, he'll wear a white guiding harness.

Over the last few months, we've been extending Albus' routes to include busier areas close to the main stations in London. He's unfazed by the noise of trains and buses, and is adjusting to the bustling nature of the city. While he prefers familiar routes, he adjusts well to new ones after practising them a few times - this is common for many guide dogs. We've also done some blindfold walks to test his guiding skills: this is where I wear a blindfold and ask Albus to lead me on a familiar walk. Another colleague, like Sophie, is always close by to ensure we're both safe. He's doing great!



Find out how Albus is progressing 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

Albus' biggest challenge is still squirrels, which seem to be everywhere in London's green areas! He gets excited when he sees them.

## Looking forward

Over the next few months, I'll work on managing Albus' distractions. I'll also do more blindfold walks to refine his decision-making skills while guiding, without my help. Albus is doing really well in both busy and quiet areas, so his future partner could be someone who commutes to London during the week and lives in a quieter area around the city. Ideally, someone energetic to match his playfulness!

**Thank you for sponsoring Albus. He's fantastic. Find out how his training's going in your next Pupdate in October!**



## Where is Albus on his Pupdate journey?



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## Key skills

Did you know our dogs need to learn 37 key skills to qualify as a guide dog? These range from those designed to help with health checks to those more specific to guiding. Chin rest (where we ask the dog to rest their head on a surface) serves both of these purposes! Our dogs perform a chin rest when targeting objects such as seats, and also during health checks so that their eyes and ears can be examined.



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