



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Barney

Welcoming
Barney

Pupdate 1

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 Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Barney



I've been volunteering with Guide Dogs for a long time, and I love it. My husband Les and I have been fundraising for the charity for 25 years. Knowing the difference a guide dog makes to someone with sight loss inspired us to become puppy raisers; having a happy wagging tail around is always great. We've now raised over 20 puppies, including fellow sponsored puppy Rupert, who is now at training school and I'm so proud of his progress. I have a rehomed yellow Labrador called Thomas from the guide dog training programme, who unfortunately had to be taken out of training due to health reasons. He's like a big brother to Barney and they get along really well.

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**Hello, it's
Jean here,
Barney's
Puppy Raiser**

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Settling in

Barney arrived with me soon after Rupert left to go to training school, and the two of them are so different in personality. When Barney first arrived, he loved the sound of his own voice, but now as his confidence has grown and he's settled down, he doesn't bark much anymore. He'll still let out a little bark every now and again when running around with Thomas in the garden as if to say, "slow down, wait for me!". They play together wonderfully, and Thomas is a great role model for Barney as he's very laid back.

Barney's personality

Barney is an extremely lovable, cheeky, and confident boy. He's growing up so fast and looks older than he is. People are always commenting on what a beautiful boy Barney is when we're out and about, and how attentive he is. I can't disagree; he's a handsome boy! A funny quirk that Barney has is that he doesn't wag his tail like most dogs, he seems to rotate it like the blades on a helicopter, and his whole body shakes with his tail. It's very cute to watch. Barney loves to go for free runs, especially if they're with Thomas. Finding puddles and getting as muddy as possible is what they both excel at!



New skills

I've been teaching Barney the cues 'sit', 'stay' and 'place' and he's doing so well with these. We've also been working on the bucket game. This is when Barney will focus on the 'bucket' of food, and when he does, he gets rewarded. This helps teach Barney patience and can be built upon and transferred to tasks that need him to stay still, such as grooming and veterinary checks. Barney's food manners are amazing. I can put a piece of kibble on the floor, and he won't touch it. For this he gets a tasty treat as a reward. Barney's also been on some car journeys; he loves the car and travels well.

Find out more about the cues Barney's learning by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-barney



Scan me

What's next?

Over the next few months, I'll be practising and repeating all the skills we've been working on and increasing his confidence. I'll also focus on taking him to new environments and giving him as many new experiences as possible. Barney's been a pleasure to work with so far. It's been great getting to know him and watching his personality blossom.

Thank you for sponsoring Barney. I'm excited to see him progress further. I can't wait to update you in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Barney
on his Pupdate
journey?



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Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 7-8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! **To find out more about volunteering, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer.**

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