



# Barney

**Barney's  
growing up**

**Pupdate 2**

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!**

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I can't wait for you to read your puppy's latest Pupdate, and I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



**Steph Potter**

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

## for sponsoring Barney



“  
**Hello, it's  
Jean here,  
Barney's  
Puppy Raiser.**  
”

Since your last Pupdate, Barney's grown a lot. When I'm out and about with him, people think he's older than his age! Nonetheless, he's still adorable. My bond with him is getting stronger, and he's got a fantastic personality: he's incredibly confident and has no fear. As he gets closer to adulthood, Barney's becoming more and more active and ready for new challenges.

### **A pup's life**

Life at home is as playful as ever with Barney and my pet dog, yellow Labrador, Thomas. Their friendship is lovely, and there's a good balance between Barney's energy and Thomas' calmness. Barney's loving, and when he wants a cuddle, he comes and sits close to me; he likes to rest his head on my lap while I stroke his soft ears – it's so relaxing for the both of us!

### **New skills and places**

Barney loves exploring the world and to go out with me, although sometimes he becomes a little vocal when meeting dogs he doesn't know. As this is a source of distraction for him during loose lead walks, I'm rewarding him when he stays focused on me – it's a work in progress.

He loves meeting up with his friends: sometimes I arrange walks with other volunteer puppy raisers and their puppies. Together, we go to nearby parks so our dogs can have nice walks and free runs. It's great for Barney to socialise and to enjoy life outdoors. His recall in the fields is impeccable!

Barney is super intelligent and has got an excellent memory. Recently I took him to the shopping centre, and I said aloud: 'Let's go to the café'. The centre is very big, and I was so surprised to see that he already knew the way! His great memory helps him to pick up new skills very quickly. We've recently been working on going up and down stairs and now he walks up and down smoothly, without pulling. He can also master cues like 'sit', 'down', and 'sit and wait' beautifully.

With Barney, I've travelled on trains and buses, and he wasn't fazed at all. When I need to travel by car, he jumps into the boot and travels incredibly well, he'll lie down and go to sleep. I've also been to many new places with him, like new cafés, restaurants, local pubs, museums, busy streets and shops – he takes everything in his stride! Everywhere I go, I bring his mat with me, and he settles on it very well.



Find out more about how Barney's progressing with Jean by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-barney](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-barney)**



**Scan me**



When he meets children, he's not bothered – even if they're screaming and shouting! He just focuses on me. I also like to walk at the harbourside, so Barney can sit and watch the pigeons. He's a very good dog, and he's become accustomed to their presence.

## Looking to the future

Over the next few months with Barney, I'll continue practising all the cues he has already learnt, especially focusing on his dog distraction with positive reinforcement.

**Thank you for sponsoring Barney. I'm excited to update you on his progress in your next Pupdate in June!**



## Where is Barney on his Pupdate journey?



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## What is PREP?

Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. PREP was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. PREP treats each pup as an individual and helps to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.



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