



# Barney

**Making progress**

**Pupdate 3**

# 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 Barney



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

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Barney has been busy progressing since your last Pupdate. He's definitely maturing, but he still has some immaturity. He's been going through a bit of a 'teenage phase' and still enjoys the sound of his own voice at times. Barney's a confident, loving, loyal, and smart boy. He has that drive, energy, and enthusiasm, which makes him great to train.

His food manners are excellent. I can throw bits of kibble on the floor, and he won't go near them. He also sits and waits for the 'okay' cue before tucking into his meal.

## **Fine-tuning**

Barney has been in a Guide Dogs van, which has a very different layout from a car, but he adapted well and happily hopped in. He's also regularly on buses, trains, and recently a ferry at the harbourside. Barney isn't fazed by public transport; he's relaxed and fantastic at performing the cue 'under'. When I say 'under', he'll comfortably go under my legs and settle. This cue helps keep Barney safely out of the way when it gets busy.

He walks beautifully on a loose lead. However, Barney struggles to control his distraction and vocalisation when seeing new dogs out and about, which I'm still working on with him. I'm noticing improvements as he's maturing and settling down.

## Exploring

When it comes to different settings, Barney is fabulous and he settles really well in cafés and restaurants. He has an impressive memory and is doing great with stairs and lifts too. Barney's also been in a church with a loud organ and bagpipes playing; he wasn't distracted at all by the different sounds.

I've been introducing new experiences in familiar places, too. For example, I have taken Barney to the local high street on a day where there is a market or band performing, so the atmosphere is different. This sets him up for success when encountering new things, as he has the comfort of an environment he's been to before but with the added element of experiencing whatever event is going on. He's also been ten-pin bowling with us; he settled quickly and was a star.



Learn more about Barney's progress by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



**Scan me**



## The future

I think Barney would suit someone who wants a dog as much as a guide dog, as he's such a lovable boy. He'd also suit someone with an active lifestyle who likes to be on the move, as Barney is the same.

Over the coming months, I'll be perfecting all the cues he's learnt and preparing him for training school. I will also heavily focus on his vocalisation around other dogs when we're out. Barney hasn't been without his challenges, like any pup, but raising him has taught me a lot about how unique each puppy is. He's such an intelligent and lovely boy, and I'll miss his cuddles once he goes to training school.

**Thank you for sponsoring Barney. He's a great dog. Find out how he's getting on in your next Pupdate in October!**



## Where is Barney on his Pupdate journey?



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## Our breeds

Labradors and golden retrievers are the most common pure breeds in our training programme, and historically crossing these two breeds has produced the most successful guide dogs. But did you know that we also crossbreed and train German shepherds, poodle crosses and curly coated retriever crosses? These dogs often become successful guides and also provide secondary benefits, such as longer strides for faster walkers, or shedding less hair which is very important for guide dog owners with allergies to dog hair!



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