



Sponsor
a Puppy

Basil

Basil's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; by sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

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 Basil



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**Hello, it's
Justine here,
Basil's Puppy
Raiser.**

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This is my eighth year of puppy raising, and Basil is the ninth puppy I've raised! I first heard of Guide Dogs when I was a young girl and would collect milk bottles for Blue Peter to raise money for the charity. Then years later, as an adult, I walked past my village shop which was advertising for volunteer puppy raisers, and I felt lucky enough that I was in a position where I could apply. Soon after, I got my first pup and the rest is history! I'm also a volunteer speaker and mentor for new volunteer puppy raisers, and I love it.

Settling in

Basil has settled into home life really well. The first night he arrived he was a little unsure and started whining, so I sat on the floor next to him until he settled, then had to sneak away quietly; many parents will know that feeling! The second night I only had to stand in the doorway, and by the third night he was completely fine and is now happy going to bed, he loves his sleep!

Basil is not the only animal in the house. I have a 22-year-old goldfish called Bob that lives in a tank above Basil's bed.

Basil has noticed Bob but doesn't really pay any attention to him. We've developed a little morning routine: every day Basil wakes up to me saying 'Morning Bob' (as Bob is the oldest, he gets greeted first), followed by 'Morning Basil' and then we start our day. Basil is no early bird but once he's up, he's excited to get going. After breakfast, Basil loves to pull his dog bed into the middle of the kitchen and have a snooze, he'd sleep all day if I let him! Every afternoon, Basil loves going on a free run and sniffing out all the new smells. Sometimes I give him his dinner in a snuffle mat. He loves sniffing around and finding all the hidden bits of kibble and it's great for brain stimulation.

Basil's personality

I call Basil 'Mr Laid Back', as he loves to have a lie-in and a snooze - he's just like a teenager! Basil also enjoys being out and about and meeting new people. He's especially fond of children as they are what I call 'Basil-sized'. Recently, I've had my great niece and nephew over, and Basil just followed them around the house all day wanting to play. It was very sweet to watch. He's developing well so far and was quick to learn how to be in a home and play nicely with other dogs.



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

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-basil



Scan me

Developing skills

Basil's started attending puppy classes. These are excellent for him to learn skills such as 'sit' and loose-lead walking, but they also help us work on his dog distraction.

I've started introducing Basil to new people and places which will be our focus moving forward, along with developing his skills and the training that he has learnt in his puppy classes.

Thank you for sponsoring Basil. I'm looking forward to updating you on his adventures in October in your next Pupdate!



Where is Basil
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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