



Basil

**Basil's new
experiences**

Pupdate 2

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 Basil



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

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Since your last Pupdate our boy Basil has been busy growing. He's still Mr Laid Back, very chilled but also extremely affectionate. Basil still adores his bed; he'll take it outside to lounge in the sun. He's maturing and going through a teenage phase, so he can be a little stubborn sometimes, which in my opinion is typical of any teenage boy! Basil's lovely and I love being his puppy raiser. Raising him would make anyone want to welcome another young life changer into their home.

Basil's progress

Basil's great in his puppy classes. He does whatever is asked of him, whether that is 'sit', 'stay' or 'down' to name a few cues. Basil can now get into the back of any car but needs a little step up to mine, as it's quite high. He can get a bit distracted by dogs, but all pups are at this age, so I'm not concerned. He only gets distracted by people when they make eye contact with him; he knows he's been noticed and can tell when they're saying how handsome he is. He gets so excited by the fuss. He quickly settles down, which is a good sign. Basil walks beautifully on a loose lead, and we're working on perfecting all the skills we've been developing since he arrived, but if he could stop moulting, that would be great; I find Basil's hair everywhere!

Out and about

Basil's had many new experiences since your last Pupdate. He's joined a girly staycation with me and my friends. He settled nicely and wasn't fazed by the new environment or spending the night in a different place. He enjoyed having more people around to give him attention – well done Basil!



I'm a volunteer speaker and Basil's joined me on talks to local groups of Cubs and Brownies. He had a great time on these visits. Basil loves children as they are what I described in his last Pupdate as 'Basil-sized'. The girls at Brownies gifted Basil with a soft toy dragon, which he loves! He'll take it to bed to cuddle with. Basil's even been to the local fire station. He wasn't affected by the hustle and bustle of the station or the fire engines; he liked all the firefighter cuddles he got.



Basil's also been a busy boy visiting a castle, a vineyard and even attended the Guide Dogs Volunteer Awards with me. He takes every new encounter in his stride. Basil's excellent in supermarkets and cafés, and he'll happily stick by my side and settle by my feet as I enjoy a nice cup of coffee. Everyone knows him in our local supermarket; he's a popular pup there!



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

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-basil



Scan me

Moving forward

In the coming months, I'll focus on giving Basil as many new experiences as possible and perfecting all the skills he needs for training school. He's a great pup, and I'm so proud of him. I'll miss his laid-back energy when he goes off to training school as I'm loving raising him.

Thank you for sponsoring Basil. Find out how he's progressing in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Basil 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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