

Bella

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 5

**Bella is preparing
for a new owner**

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





Hi, I'm Jayne, Bella's trainer. I'm preparing her to be matched with a new owner!

I've worked for Guide Dogs for over thirty years in various roles, both in the UK and abroad. Being a Guide Dogs Mobility Instructor is such a rewarding job as I love watching each pup progress through their training and become a life-changing guide dog. I particularly love the first few weeks of getting to know a pup as they have already achieved so much; to know I'm taking them through their last stages of training and on to a partnership with their future owner is such an exciting feeling.

A day in the life of Bella

Bella and I venture out in the training van each morning to practice her guiding skills in real life environments, such as local residential areas or busy public places. This puts her guiding skills to the test as she needs to make decisions herself and learn to ignore distractions that may be around her.

Our afternoons are spent practicing specific obedience tasks. At this stage in training I am reinforcing many of the skills Bella has learnt in her earlier training, such as travelling on buses or trains, working in the correct guiding position and responding to changes in direction; practice makes perfect! I love taking Bella on a free run at the end of the day too – it's a great opportunity to test her recall skills also.



Improving confidence

Bella settled well into her new surroundings at training school. She is a very bright and affectionate girl and of all the dogs I've trained she's one of the most eager to please! She loves being praised, adores people and enjoys having a job to do; all brilliant traits for a future guide dog.

After working with Bella for a few weeks I realised that one area I need to focus on improving is her reaction to other dogs; she can get slightly worried around other dogs who are more lively or playful.

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She tends to lose concentration when this happens and so I need to help her deal with these situations so she can remain confident whilst guiding.

In the coming months I'll be teaching Bella to consider her dog handler as an extension of her own body when it comes to obstacles and make space for both of us. I'll also teach her to recognise obstacles above her height, so that she doesn't try to guide me into them.

I know Bella's positive response to praise and treats will see her mastering these skills easily.

Looking ahead

Bella is so adaptable and has great route memory so I have no doubt she will make a brilliant guide dog for someone. I can see her suiting a wide range of owners, and could even cope well with busy lifestyles.

Thank you for sponsoring Bella. Look out for her final Pupdate in June to meet her new owner.

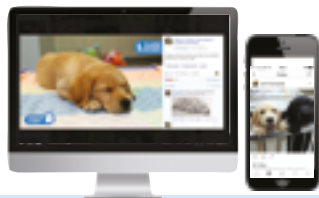
See how much Bella has grown

We have been taking pictures of Bella since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed.

To see your exclusive video, please visit

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-bella

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