

# Bella

GUIDE  
DOGS



**Pupdate 2**

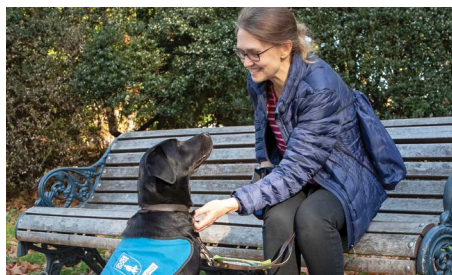
**Building confidence**

**Bella is growing up**

**SPONSOR  
A PUPPY**







## Hello, I'm Vicky, Bella's Puppy Walker. Welcome to Bella's second Pupdate!

Bella is such a bright and eager puppy and is so much fun. It's been a pleasure to have her as part of our family and watch her grow into such a well behaved and delightful dog.

Through volunteering as a puppy walker for Guide Dogs, I've learnt so much about how to raise a puppy. It's been an incredible experience and while it is a

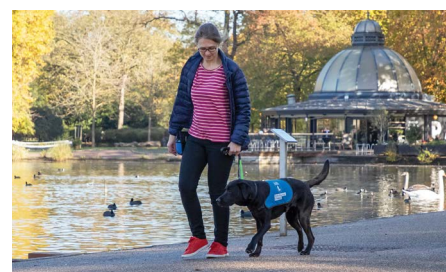
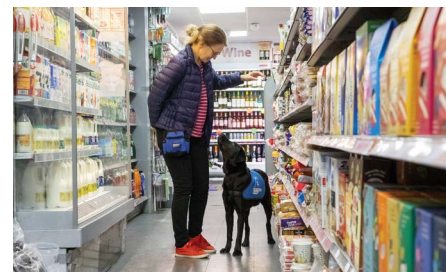
big commitment, it's one we would take on again once Bella moves on to training school.

### Gentle girl

Bella has limitless amounts of energy and when it's playtime her lively personality comes through! Although George the giraffe toy has now gone out of favour, she still adores her green fluffy hippo and has a new rope toy which she loves to play tug of war with. Bella still loves playing with the children and she is always so gentle with them, which is a true testament to her good nature.

### Making progress

We've seen a huge improvement in Bella's patience over the last few months. She settles quickly when we sit in coffee shops



and no longer pulls on her lead when we are out walking together. Bella's focus has also improved as she is no longer distracted by other dogs – no easy feat for any dog and so we are super proud of her!

Bella has been mastering her basic obedience commands such as 'sit' and 'stay'. I've taught Bella to go to her bed on command and also to 'drop it' when I need her to let go of something she is holding in her mouth. I'm so impressed

by how quickly she picks up new commands, which will help her through her journey to become a guide dog.

One challenge we've faced due to Bella's playful personality, is teaching her not to be distracted by other dogs' tennis balls when out on walks.

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She finds them hard to resist and so we are working alongside our Puppy Training Supervisor to help her overcome this distraction.

### **Sun, sea and sand**

Bella is always ready for an adventure and came with us on holiday to the seaside and got to experience the delights of the sea and sand for the first time. It was lovely to watch her running along the beach following all of the new, exciting smells. Bella is such a confident little puppy and wasn't even fazed when

we came across some cows and sheep!

We recently visited my children's school where I spoke about Bella's journey to become a guide dog. Bella was so well behaved and loved the cuddles from the children. She represented Guide Dogs perfectly and I was so proud of her.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Bella. Look out for your next Pupate in June.

## **Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog**

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog.

The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker.

They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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