



Betty

**Betty heads
out and about**

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. 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 Betty



“
**Hello, it's
Geraldine
here, Betty's
Puppy Raiser.
I'm excited to
update you on
what we've
been up to.**
”

Betty has grown so much since your last Pupdate, but she still is the same happy and relaxed girl who loves a good game of tug with her favourite rope toy! She constantly has a friend to play with as my grandchildren live next door and they love Betty.

Exciting experiences

Betty's been a busy girl visiting many new places. She's a brave pup; I try to introduce her to as many new experiences as I can and she does so well in unfamiliar situations. In her future role, Betty will be accompanying her new owner to different places such as supermarkets and cafés. We visit them regularly and Betty settles really well in cafés, so I can enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a sweet treat. Recently we've had our first visit to a shopping centre and Betty was a terrific shopping partner. I was pleased by how well she did, especially the way she navigated through busy crowds. She was calm but confident. The shopping centre is a great place for Betty because she can go in a lift, which she loves! Lifts can be challenging for some new pups, but Betty took to them so well.

Betty is really living the life and has also accompanied me on recent trips in my campervan to Cornwall and Devon, and she had a wonderful time exploring these areas. She had so much fun playing along the beach and splashing in the waves that she didn't want to go home! When she comes across something new, she takes it all in and isn't fazed, which is a great quality of hers.

New skills

Betty adores my pet dog Zoe and they enjoy going on long walks together. They are the best of friends! Betty is making excellent progress, her recall has always been good, but now it's fabulous. She loves meeting new dogs on walks but is rightly a bit cautious until she knows they want to interact with her. She's very good at understanding when other dogs want to play. We're working on how much Betty gets distracted by other dogs, but I think she is doing very well for her age.

As we live in the countryside, many of the places I take Betty involve a car journey; she is very well behaved and always waits for me to put her lead and puppy coat on before jumping out. I've recently introduced her to a TTouch harness, which allows for multiple points of contact with her body. This will help Betty become familiar with this feeling



Discover more about Betty's new experiences by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-betty



before she moves on to wearing a guiding harness. It's quite different to a traditional collar and lead, so will take some time to get used to, but she's becoming more comfortable with it.

Looking ahead

Betty has encountered many different environments now, such as shops, cafés, and the occasional staycation. Moving forward, I intend to introduce her to even more new and varied locations. However, I'm not worried as she is doing amazing so far and will take it all in her stride, putting her best paw forward.

I'm excited to see how she progresses and I'm happy to be a part of her incredible journey.

Thank you for sponsoring Betty. You can find out how she is getting on in her next Pupdate in June.





Training – puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic skills and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Raiser. 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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