



# Betty

**Betty's progress  
continues**

**Pupdate 3**

# 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 Betty



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**Hi, it's  
Geraldine  
here, Betty's  
Puppy Raiser.**

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I'm excited to update you on what I've been up to since your last Pupdate. Betty is still Betty, such a happy dog! She's so lovely and really enjoys playing. Her favourite toy is still her rope toy as we always play with it together, so she associates it with having fun. She's such a mature young dog. People can't believe she's only a year old when we're out and about. Betty goes for a free run every day with my pet dog Zoe and loves it; everything is fun to her. She still has that 'puppy way' about her, but as soon as her lead is on, she knows it's time for business and is completely focused on what we're doing.

## Developing skills

Since your last Pupdate, I've been working on consolidating all the skills Betty has learnt with me and perfecting them before she goes off to training school. Betty loves a cuddle and some treats, and she knows if she does what's asked, she'll get something tasty - she's so eager to please! Her recall is amazing, but I'm still working on her settling completely when we are out in public places. For example, in a café she will sit there and relax but lying down and switching off is more challenging for her.



We've been working with the TTouch harness with Betty, and for now, I only use it when going out for free runs so that she builds a positive association with it. I hope this will carry through to her training harness when the time comes.

## New experiences

Betty continues to have lots of new experiences. She has been on many different modes of transport. She travels by car often, but she also goes on trains and buses. Ensuring Betty is comfortable on public transport is important for her potential future role, as people with visual impairments often rely on public transport to get around.

Recently Betty has been to the cinema with my grandchildren and me. She was amazing, they got bored before she did. I also went to see a musical at the theatre with Betty and it had lots of singing and dancing in it, but she wasn't bothered at all.

As well as this, she has accompanied me on more trips in my campervan and loves them, she always has the best time. Betty has even had her first stay in a hotel, which is exciting! I wasn't sure how she would be, but she was great and totally relaxed.



Learn how Betty's mastering public transport by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-betty](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-betty)**



Scan me

## The future

When Betty goes off to training school, I will miss her gentle and affectionate nature. She's such a loving dog and there is always a sense of calmness when she is around, which is very different to my pet dog Zoe. I will miss having her serenity and peacefulness in the house, but I'm looking forward to following her training journey to become a life changer.

**Thank you for sponsoring Betty. I'm really enjoying my time with her. Find out how she is progressing with her training in your next Pupdate in October!**



Where is Betty  
on her Pupdate  
journey?



1

2

3

4

5

6



## Our breeds

Labradors and golden retrievers are the most common pure breeds in our training programme, and historically crossing these two breeds has produced the most successful guide dogs of all. But did you know that we also breed and train German shepherds, poodles and curly coated retrievers? These dogs often become successful guides and also provide secondary benefits, such as longer strides for faster walkers, or shedding less hair which is very important for guide dog owners with allergies to dog hair!



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