



# Betty

**Betty's school news**

**Pupdate 5**

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!**

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I can't wait for you to read your puppy's latest Pupdate, and I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



**Steph Potter**

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Betty



“

**Hello, it's  
Sam here,  
Betty's  
trainer.**

”

Betty and I have been developing our bond nicely. Working with her is wonderful as she loves doing training walks. She's very willing to learn which is a lovely trait.

## **Betty's progress**

Betty's doing well at training school. Last time I updated you, creating the right guiding tension was proving a little tricky for her. Now she walks nicely while guiding me; she has a consistent pace and is easy to follow. Betty's already mastered stopping at kerbs and navigating obstacles on the street. As I see her improve more and more, I'm helping her less. This way she can develop her independence and make her own choices while facing all these challenges.

I've been consolidating the skills I'd already taught Betty by going to busier places like the town centre; she's doing well in these environments now. I've also shown her some new spots in the big wide world. I've introduced her to new routes and noticed she prefers the long ones – she just likes to keep trotting along!

Betty's got great energy but sometimes this can be her downfall, as she would like to keep going all the time. She's young, and with time, she'll learn to be more patient and to adapt to shorter routes.

A few weeks ago, Betty's fosterers were on holiday, and I had the chance to have her at home with me for a couple of days. She's great to have at home and she's fantastic with children and in family settings. I noticed that at home, she's more tactile than at training school and is happy to join you for a cuddle.

## Something to work on

Betty's developed some body sensitivity, showing signs of anxiety when being touched while performing chin rest. This will be challenging for a future guide dog owner whilst checking and grooming Betty and during vet visits. Because of this I'm now teaching her to perform the lateral lay: while looking at a bucket full of food, she lies down on her side, allowing vets to check her over in this position. When she looks away from the bucket, it's a sign that she's asking for a break.



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

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



**Scan me**



## Looking ahead

Over the coming months, I'll continue working on Betty's body sensitivity with the aim of reducing her anxiety and increasing her confidence. I'll also introduce her to blindfold walks: she will lead me on a familiar walk while I'm wearing a blindfold. There will always be a colleague close by to ensure we're both safe and doing this will allow Betty to make decisions on her own.

**Thank you for sponsoring Betty. I really enjoy working with her.  
Find out how her training's going in your next Pupdate in June!**



Where is Betty  
on her Pupdate  
journey?



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## Creating new partnerships

Matching our dogs with their future owners is the final stage in the guide dog journey and a very important one! This task is completed by a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist (GDMS) who will take the dog's personality and preferences into account, the volume of work that the dog is comfortable doing, and at what pace. They will look to partner the dog with someone whose needs match the dog's. It's almost like creating a dating profile!



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