



Bonnie

Bonnie's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you are well and enjoying the start of summer. I'm sure you are looking forward to finding out the latest update from your sponsored puppy.

Your support is vital to help our future life changers complete their training and support a person with sight loss. We're proud to create so many partnerships through our guide dog and buddy dog schemes, and to be continuing this throughout 2022.

We really appreciate that the past few months have been really challenging in lots of ways, so we are so grateful that you have continued to support us by sponsoring a puppy. On behalf of everyone at Guide Dogs, I'd like to say a huge thank you.

Because of you and your amazing ongoing support, we can continue to make life-changing partnerships possible!

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Bonnie



“Hello, it’s
Caroline
here,
Bonnie’s
Puppy
Raiser.”

Before I became a Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs, I was in recovery from a long-term illness. I’d had to leave my job in education and move back in with my parents, so my doctor suggested being a Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs to rebuild my confidence. I am so glad he did! I am at my happiest when I am socialising the puppies, and I love knowing that I have given these puppies the best start in life to prepare them for the next stage of their journey.

Bonnie’s personality

Bonnie is the fourth puppy and first female I’ve raised. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect when Bonnie came home, but I knew immediately that she would be a joy to have. She has the sweetest personality – she is so affectionate and loves a cuddle! She’s an energetic pup, very playful and the most confident puppy I’ve raised.

Bonnie gets on well with my pet dog, Harry, who is a black Labrador. Harry is a wonderful big brother and a big softie, he’ll let her get away with anything! He’s got a favourite teddy bear that he’s had since he was a puppy; Bonnie loves to take it and snuggle up with it.

Welcoming Bonnie

Bonnie is quite attached to me and likes to follow me around the house. I've slowly been introducing her to being left alone for short periods of time and will gradually increase this over time. She also took a little longer to settle into a toileting routine, especially at night-time. She didn't like to feel 'closed in' in her crate overnight, so I am helping Bonnie feel at ease by leaving the crate door open and having another bed in the kitchen. She usually falls happily asleep in her crate but by morning has moved to her second bed stretched out! She's a lot happier with this routine.

A skill that we've been working on is the bucket game, which is where we teach Bonnie to focus on a 'bucket' of food and reward her when she does so. It is a brilliant tool to help learn patience with tasks that need her to stay still like handling, grooming and veterinary checks. It also allows Bonnie to communicate, because when she moves her focus away from the bucket, she's telling me that she needs a break, and we stop.



Discover how Bonnie has mastered the bucket game.
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-bonnie](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-bonnie)



Bonnie loves to learn

Bonnie is a joy to work with as she is very engaged and a quick learner. She's already mastered some verbal cues including 'sit' and 'down' and is making wonderful progress with loose lead walking as well as coming back when I call her. During the next few months, I'll focus on helping Bonnie to remain calm, developing patience. She likes to be on the move so can get a bit fidgety at times; everything is so exciting for her!

I'm happy with Bonnie's progress so far and excited to update you in your next Pupdate.



Behind them every step of the way

A guide dog puppy's training journey could not have been possible without our fantastic volunteer puppy raisers. They do an incredible job of building the best foundation for our puppies before they head off to Guide Dogs Training School. One of the best parts of puppy raising is knowing that when the pup moves to training school, they will hopefully go on to change the life of someone with sight loss.

To find out what a day in the life of a Puppy Raiser is like, listen to Kirsty and Phil's experience at [guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser)



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