



Sponsor
a Puppy



Bonnie

Bonnie is making
great progress

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and enjoying these beautiful autumn months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Considering the current economic challenges, we are so grateful for your continued commitment; you form an integral part of the Guide Dogs family. Your generosity is helping children and adults living with sight loss to live independent and confident lives.

Every day 250 more people join the two million already living with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050. Our services are needed now more than ever. Our guide dogs and buddy dogs really do change lives, and we couldn't breed and train these incredible dogs without you. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Chris

Chris Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Bonnie continues her journey



Bonnie is maturing into a lovely, confident pup and it's wonderful to watch her progress. She is so affectionate and still loves her squeaky toys. Her new favourite is a Canadian goose toy with crinkly wings and a rope attachment. She makes me laugh when she rolls onto her back and holds the goose in the air!

Bonnie's progressing well

It's been so much fun watching Bonnie grow in confidence and I'm proud of how well she's doing. I've been helping Bonnie to feel comfortable settling in public settings. This is an important skill for guide dogs as they accompany their owners to all sorts of places. Bonnie is good at settling in a café environment; I can sit and enjoy a cuppa and she'll lie quietly on her blanket. She never goes to sleep, as many other pups might; instead, she loves to people watch or enjoys a tasty chew!

Bonnie has always been happy to travel in the car, especially when she gets a free run at the other end! She's also now been on multiple bus journeys and has taken this all in her stride. She'll happily settle at my feet and watch the other passengers getting on and off.

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**Hello, it's
Caroline,
Bonnie's
Puppy Raiser.**

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Bonnie's a sociable pup

Bonnie enjoys saying hello to anybody and everybody; she's very sociable. She's such an energetic pup and greets people with an excitable bum wiggle! Bonnie's very good with children and I've noticed that she's a lot calmer around younger children; she seems to instinctively know that she needs to be more careful around them. If a toddler comes over to greet her, she will lie down instead of doing her usual 'hello' dance!



Bonnie loves to meet other dogs and I'm working hard to ensure that she's able to walk calmly past them when it's not appropriate to greet them. I've been working with another local puppy raiser who's raising a pup of a similar age to Bonnie. We often meet in the car park of a local free run area; we start by going to opposite ends of the car park and walking the pups past each other at a distance. At first, we'll position ourselves in between the pups but as they become calmer, we'll move to the other side. We'll gradually walk closer and closer past each other until the pups are completely calm - then it's free run time!



Find out how Bonnie is confidently navigating supermarkets by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



Looking forward

When Bonnie moves on to training school, I will definitely miss her; she's got such an exuberant character and never fails to make me smile. It's been a pleasure to watch her grow and mature during the time that she's been with me. We've still got lots of work to do together, but I'm sure that when she is ready, she will excel at training school.

I have every confidence that Bonnie will one day make a wonderful companion for someone living with sight loss; I hope that she partners with someone who loves an adventure as much as she does! She thrives on activity and excitement so I would love for her to continue this lifestyle. Look out for your next Pupdate in February!





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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