



# Bonnie

Bonnie's  
progress

Pupdate 4

# 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 Bonnie



Bonnie has really grown up over these last few months. She's still the same joyful dog but she has become more settled in herself. Since your last Pupdate, our lovely Bonnie unfortunately had an accidental injury to her tail and it had to be operated on to remove some of its length to help it heal. I'm pleased to say that Bonnie has recovered well from her operation and is learning to adapt to life with a shorter (but still very waggy) tail. This accident shouldn't stop Bonnie from progressing, and I hope that she'll be partnered with someone who will celebrate her uniqueness!

“

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

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### **Bonnie's maturing**

Bonnie is growing out of her teenage phase and is now much more responsive to cues. She loves to be rewarded with praise, but a tasty snack still goes down a treat. Bonnie's such an amazing dog and takes everything in her stride. She became very popular with the veterinary nurses when going in for check-ups on her tail, and she loved all the extra fuss she got. She's been fantastic!

## Developing skills

Bonnie's training has come on in leaps and bounds since your last Pupdate. We recently slowed down her training to focus on her recovery, but she's still making great progress. I've introduced a new skill called 'let's go'. I practise this with her when there are distractions, such as dogs and people, and it signals to her that we're moving in a different direction. Bonnie's picked this up really quickly and I'm so proud of her. I've also been teaching Bonnie the cue 'go sniff'. This allows her to sniff periodically during a walk after hearing this cue, meaning when she's working, she won't be distracted by new smells. I'll give her the cue in a small, safe area so that she can explore the new scents. Sniffing is also fantastic mental stimulation for Bonnie, helping to keep her happy and her mind active. I've also been focusing on Bonnie's food manners, and she's made some good progress. Bonnie's really developing her self-control and I'm proud of how far she's come. I'll continue to work on this with her over the coming months.



Find out how Bonnie's mastering the skills she needs for training school by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



Scan me

I've taken Bonnie to some new places: a museum and on a tour of a cathedral. She was really relaxed and content in these new environments and I look forward to taking her again. Bonnie's not easily fazed and takes everything as it comes; she's a wonderful pup!

## Looking to the future

Over the next few months, I'll continue to develop Bonnie's skills and self-control in preparation for her move to training school. I'll miss everything about Bonnie when she goes, especially her personality. She's a really enthusiastic, fun-loving dog with a lot of resilience. The way she handles new situations is fantastic and I think she will make a great faithful friend to any future owner.

**Thank you for sponsoring Bonnie. I'm really enjoying being her puppy raiser. Find out how she's progressing in your next Pupdate in October!**



Where is Bonnie on her Pupdate journey?



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## 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. 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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