



Buttons

Paws out and about

Pupdate 2 of 6

1

→ 2

3

4

5

6

Welcome to your June Pupdate

We hope you've been enjoying the longer days and warmer weather that June brings. We're so excited to share what your sponsored pup has been getting up to!

Did you know that we breed and train more dogs than any other organisation internationally? We have a world-class breeding and training programme which focuses on dog health, behaviour and genetic merit. This helps us set our pups up for careers as future life changers. But none of this would be possible without kind people like you! By sponsoring one of our special puppies, you're helping us support the 1 in 5 people affected by sight loss in their lifetime.

Beyond our wonderful dogs, we also provide a range of services for people of all ages. From mobility skills to children's large print books, we're here for anyone who needs us. Your donations make this possible!

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Buttons



“
**Hello, it's
Ellen here,
Buttons'
Puppy Raiser.**
”

Buttons is growing up nicely and is more confident, while still maintaining his calm nature. He's become much bigger than his soft toys, but he enjoys carrying them around in his puppyish way as usual! He still loves a nap, which I find adorable to watch.

Ongoing learning

Since your last Pupdate, Buttons has been doing very well practising basic behaviours with me, like sitting and waiting for the release cue 'okay' to increase his self-control. We've also been working on his food manners and recall. He's now starting to learn the skill chin rest, where he rests his head on a towel on my lap, allowing me to check his eyes and ears. This will be very useful for him during routine vet checks and will form the basis for indicating empty seats to his future owner. At puppy classes, he's also learning the cue 'under', primarily for travelling safely on buses and trains. When I sit and say 'under', he'll find a comfortable spot under my legs and seat. Targeting is another skill I'm working on with Buttons. When I say 'touch', he touches my closed fist with his nose. This is great for catching his attention and maintaining his focus on me.

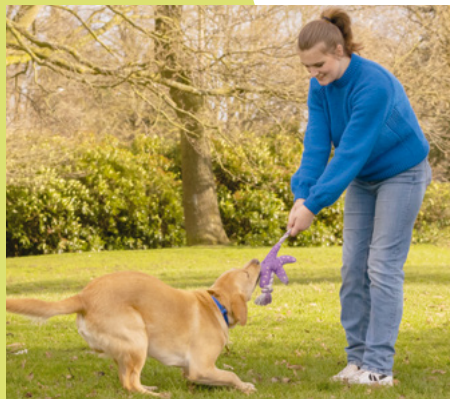
Every time he performs a cue correctly, I reward him with kibble, some fuss, or playtime with a toy. This way, he has fun while learning, which acts as positive reinforcement and encourages him to learn more.

Meeting people

Greeting people calmly is a work in progress, and I'm teaching Buttons to keep close to me when someone approaches. He's getting better at waiting and focusing on me, maintaining his position until I say 'okay', giving him the green light to say hello. Buttons is also learning to settle on his mat close to my chair when I stop in cafés. Sometimes he likes to paw at me to get my attention, however, I'm discouraging this behaviour by rewarding him when he settles nicely.

Out and about

I've been taking Buttons to various new environments, like shops and supermarkets. We visited a local farm shop, which is home to several animals. It's important for him to become familiar with unusual experiences, as this will be helpful in his future career.



Check out how Buttons is progressing with Puppy Raiser Ellen by going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-buttons

He did pretty well, showing only a little uncertainty around horses, which are understandably quite large compared to him! With consistent exposure, I'm confident he'll become unfazed by them.

I regularly bring Buttons to my workplace, a little bar close to a tennis club, and he brings so much joy to everyone there. He settles calmly on his mat in a quiet corner, playing with his toys or munching his snacks.

Buttons is becoming a fantastic traveller too; he's taken bus and train journeys with me, both short and long. Recently, I took him on a hike in the countryside, where he enjoyed new sights and smells. After a very active morning, he had a well-deserved nap once back home. Over the coming months, I'll take him to more new places - maybe even fundraising events!

Thank you for sponsoring Buttons. He's doing so well, and I can't wait to update you on his progress in your next Pupdate in October.





What is Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs?

Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. It was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. We treat each pup as an individual and help to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.



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