



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy

A close-up, profile view of a light-colored dog, likely a Labrador Retriever, looking towards the left. The dog has a soft, focused expression. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The dog's fur is a pale cream color, and its ears are large and floppy. A dark collar with a red tag is visible at the bottom of the frame.

# Charlie

Training commences

Pupdate 4

# Charlie

is on his way to becoming a guide dog



**“ Hello, it’s Jenny here and I am Charlie’s new trainer. ”**

I’ve been a Guide Dog Trainer for over 15 years now and I love my job! The most rewarding part is seeing a dog with basic training skills go on to master the more difficult challenges. And then to see the dog being matched to a guide dog owner at the end makes you feel so proud.

## **Settling into a new home**

Charlie settled in brilliantly to training school. When he first arrived, he took a look around his new surroundings, had a munch on a bone and plonked straight onto his bed – he’s so adaptable and content! Charlie has also settled in well with his Boarder which was made easier as the Puppy Walker left him plenty of toys and his old blanket to comfort him.

## Charlie's enthusiasm for training

Charlie is very loving. He is also very obedient which is a true reflection of what a good job the Puppy Walkers have done. He is very socialised which helps him to be so adaptable in new environments and is also very responsive and eager to learn; in fact, when we go out in the van with other dogs, he's always the first to want to get out and start working!

As you can imagine, I recently had to alter my training methods with Charlie due to the social distancing guidelines put in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus. However shortly after Charlie arrived at training school, I introduced him to a leather harness which he was very eager to put his head through! The harness doesn't have a handle attached as I'm trying to teach him to stay close. He likes to walk to the left and quite wide so taking away the handle encourages him to walk close and not stray too far ahead.

(Continued overleaf)



See how much Charlie has grown:

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

Over the next few months, social distancing guidelines permitting, I'll be taking Charlie to different towns. There are quite a few estuary towns here in Exeter and one day Charlie may live by the water, so it's important he is familiar with the sights and smells associated with it.

I'm also looking forward to continuing teaching him to stop and stand at the kerbs to avoid his tail being trodden on in busy areas, as well as taking him to places where he must avoid natural height and width obstacles such as low hanging branches.

**Overall Charlie is being brilliant with his training and I look forward to updating you in his next Pupdate.**



## The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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