



# Clover

One paw in front of the other

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# 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 Clover



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**Hello, it's  
Geraldine  
here, Clover's  
Puppy Raiser.**

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I began volunteering after my husband moved into a care home. After I lost him, puppy raising renewed my sense of purpose. It's wonderful to know that my efforts could make a huge difference to someone's life in the future. What's more, I've made many friends through the volunteer network.

## Settling in

Clover is the sixth puppy I've raised, and she's an amazing little girl. She's very affectionate and always loves a cuddle! She settled into my home comfortably. The presence of Zoe, my 10-year-old pet spaniel, helped her feel at ease too; they're already best friends. They like to play every day, especially before going to bed. Clover is learning so much from Zoe about dog socialisation and boundaries.

To help Clover build a positive association with my home, I've collected lots of toys: she drags her soft toy pig everywhere and loves any toy she can chew. She really likes toys where I hide her kibble; they stimulate Clover's mind and keep her entertained as she finds and eats the treats.

Clover likes maze bowls too (dog bowls with internal ridges), which create a puzzle-like challenge and teach her to eat slowly. In the evening, when Clover lies on her mat, I give her a frozen cup of soaked kibble, and she licks it until it melts. It keeps her entertained for ages!

I have a big garden divided into two areas: one is dog-friendly, and the other is where I keep chickens and ducks. I often spot Clover watching them from a distance. She's such a curious and relaxed pup!

## Learning

Clover is very confident and quick to learn. I'm working on the cues 'sit' and 'down', and she's doing very well. I'm perfecting her food manners: to teach her to wait before eating, I ask her to lie on the mat by giving her the cue 'place'. When it's time to eat, I give her the cue 'okay' and she runs straight to her bowl. She's also learning not to scavenge food from the floor, but to take it from my hand instead. This is a crucial skill for a future guide dog who needs to focus on guiding while ignoring food on the ground.



See how well Clover has settled in with Puppy Raiser Geraldine by going to:

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



Clover started puppy classes, and she's finding the presence of the other puppies who want to play a little distracting. My aim is to teach her to focus on the cues she's learning. I'm also working on loose lead walking, discouraging her from pulling on the lead. I do this by stopping every time she pulls. With consistency, she'll understand that pulling won't get her where she wants to go. I always use positive reinforcement to reward her with a treat, some fuss, or play every time she does what I ask.

## **What's next?**

Being Clover's Puppy Raiser is a true delight! Her constant happiness and contagious energy are wonderful. What's next for us? We'll be venturing out more, exploring the countryside, encountering new friends, travelling by public transport, and visiting new places like supermarkets and cafés.

**Thank you so much for sponsoring Clover. Find out how she's progressing in your next Pupdate in October.**





## Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are usually spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! **To find out more about volunteering, please visit [guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer](https://guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer).**



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