



Clyde

New adventures

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Welcome to your February Pupdate

The colder months are nearly behind us and spring is just around the corner.

The UK's first guide dog partnership qualified in 1931. Since then, we have matched over 37,500 people with a guide dog – that's at least one new partnership every day for the last 94 years. Our dogs help people with sight loss to get out and about safely, providing life-changing support every single day. They help people with visual impairments to enjoy the freedom and independence many of us take for granted.

1 in 5 people will live with sight loss in their lifetime. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping us provide vital services, from mobility training to assistive technology and more, that enrich the lives of adults and children with visual impairments. None of this would be possible without supporters like you!

I hope you enjoy reading the latest news from your sponsored puppy. Thank you for being a part of their journey.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Steph". The script is cursive and fluid.

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Clyde



“
**Hello, it's
Maureen
here, Clyde's
Puppy Raiser**
”

Clyde is growing up fast and embracing his 'teenage' phase. He still has that playful puppy energy, but he's maturing into a handsome young dog. He's as fun as ever, especially when it comes to playing with squeaky toys. I've been exploring new enrichment toys with him like puzzle games and snuffle mats – he loves the challenge of finding hidden kibble! His new favourite is a multi-level tower dispenser. He pulls out the drawers to make the kibble fall to the bottom, and it's hilarious to watch him figure it out!

New cues

Clyde's food manners are impeccable now. I've been reinforcing his basic cues like 'sit', 'down', and 'wait'. Over the last few months, he mastered the chin rest beautifully, learning to rest his chin on my lap. Now he's progressed and can place his chin on a tea towel on a chair; this will be a helpful skill to use during routine health checks. I'm so proud of him. He's also learning the cue 'place', which teaches him to settle down on his mat. This builds focus and self-control. Plus I've introduced him to his puppy coat and he's very relaxed in it.

Exploring the world

Clyde thrives in social environments. He's a star when I take him to fundraising events and talks.

We visited a special educational needs (SEN) school, and Clyde was an absolute gem, staying calm and relaxed as the children stroked him gently. He loves being with me in cafés and restaurants, where he settles quietly on his mat, and chews on his toys or snacks. My next plan is to bring him to the theatre. During the festive season, I discovered that he's completely unbothered by fireworks, which is fantastic.

My partner's daughter lives on a boat on the Thames, and Clyde had his first experience onboard recently! He felt right at home. I haven't been on a moving boat with Clyde yet, but a boat trip is definitely on our to-do list. He's also great at travelling on buses. After getting him used to the traffic sounds, I taught him how to get on and to settle safely behind my legs, under my seat.

What we're working on

When Clyde was younger, his recall was perfect. Now that he's a teenager, learning more about the world and building his personality, it's a bit more challenging, especially when other dogs are around. I'm focusing on rewarding him consistently when he leaves his play pals and comes back to me. He can also be a bit vocal sometimes, so I'm working on that too.



Watch Clyde's adventures out and about with Puppy Raiser Maureen by going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-clyde

Puppy pals

Clyde loves making new friends! He recently met a little golden retriever cross Labrador puppy named Yumi, who is being raised to be a guide dog too. He also enjoys playdates with my friend's two-year-old black Labrador, Yogi. It's wonderful to see Clyde developing his social skills and learning how to interact with other dogs of all ages. These playdates are not only fun, but also important for his development, since a future guide dog needs to be well socialised. I'm so proud of him, and glad to be by his side as he grows into adulthood!

Thank you so much for sponsoring Clyde. Find out how his training is going in your next Pupdate in June!





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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