



Clyde

School's in session

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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 Clyde



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**Hello, it's
Daniel here,
Clyde's
trainer.**

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I've always worked in the charity sector, and when I saw a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist job advertised, I thought it was the perfect fit for me. It's been two years since I qualified, and I haven't looked back. My job is incredibly rewarding; I love seeing the dogs have a lightbulb moment when they master a skill, and watching them change the life of someone with a vision impairment. It's so rewarding!

Training school

Clyde's new to training school; it's only been a couple of weeks, and I've spent that time getting to know him, building a bond, and helping him settle in with his fosterers and the new routine. Clyde's a very relaxed boy and has quickly gained a reputation with the team as the most chilled-out dog, he loves snoozing between training sessions! He's also helped some other pups in training to settle in the office environment by sharing a pen; his calm nature puts them at ease. Clyde loves to play and enjoys puzzle games. His favourite is a snuffle mat, which encourages him to use his nose to sniff out the kibble hidden inside.

I've taken Clyde on many loose lead walks around the city. These help me to learn more about him and how he reacts to new environments, public transport, and potential distractions like food on the floor. Clyde's not fazed by anything, which is fantastic! We've also been on the London Underground, and he wasn't bothered by the loud sounds or fast trains. I'm so impressed with his calmness in all situations; it's a good start to his training in the hustle and bustle of London.



Upon Clyde's arrival, Puppy Raiser Maureen let me know that he had some sensitivity when wearing his TTouch harness. Because of this I'm moving at his pace while introducing the brown training harness. I keep it on the floor in the training room so that Clyde can go and investigate it on his terms. When he does, I reward him with some kibble so that he builds a positive association with it. I'm also working on the skill hand touch. I give the verbal cue 'touch', which asks Clyde to touch his nose to my outstretched fist. Since Clyde's become more comfortable with this, I've started holding up the harness and asking him to put his head through to touch my hand. As we progress, I'll closely observe how happy he is wearing it on his back and fastened. We'll begin learning some guiding skills when he's confident with this.



See how Clyde is doing at training school by going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-clyde

Coming up

In the next few months, I plan to begin training in real-life settings by going on guiding routes. Clyde can get a little distracted by things that move suddenly, such as birds, cats or squirrels, so I'll also work to help him overcome these distractions and teach him self-control when these situations arise. We have a busy few months ahead, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

Thank you for sponsoring Clyde. I'm enjoying training him, and I'm excited to update you on his progress in your next Pupdate in October.





The training harness

After around 12-16 months with their puppy raiser, our pups move to training school to learn more specific tasks related to their future career. Introducing a young dog to their brown training harness is one of the first milestones at training school. Most dogs have previously worn their puppy coat, meaning they're familiar with the body sensation. With this as a foundation, we build up to placing the harness on the dog's back and fastening it. Once a dog is partnered, they will wear the iconic white guiding harness.



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