



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Coco

Growing up

Pupdate 2

Coco continues her journey



“ Hello, it’s Fran here, Coco’s Puppy Raiser. I’m excited to update you on her progress. ”

Although the last few months have been a challenge due to Covid-19 restrictions, I’ve enjoyed watching Coco grow and develop. She has definitely grown in confidence and her cheeky, loving personality has continued to shine.

Life at home

Coco is a bright pup who is quick to learn. Everyone around Coco loves her as soon as they meet her. We have a lot of people wanting to say hello when we’re out on walks, and she will never say no to a tummy tickle from them.

Coco still adores any chew toy. She’s very intelligent and has come up with a game to keep herself entertained during her free time. First, she’ll hide a toy in her blanket, and wrap it up. She’ll then spend ages pulling on the blanket to retrieve the toy again – it is so funny to watch!

Developing skills

I've tried to make sure that Coco is gradually introduced to new things when we want to train her on a particular skill to help increase her confidence with it. For example, Coco was initially a bit wary of stairs. To help her with this I started out with practising at home and would sit on the middle of my stairs. Eventually Coco would come and sit by my side, and then slowly took her time in coming up the stairs. Now she is excellent with stairs!

Coco has progressed well in her training, and despite restrictions I've been able to take her to different areas to train. Prior to lockdown I took her in a lift to get out of a car park – she was brilliant and didn't seem to notice anything was out of the ordinary. Before lockdown we were also able to meet up with other puppy raisers and their pups in training. This helped Coco with her dog distraction.

Coco is a very bouncy and energetic pup who is lovely to be around. She always has a spring in her step, which is handy for jumping in the back of the car! However, it also means that Coco wants to jump on the sofa. To move past this every time I see Coco lying nicely on the floor I'll give her a treat. I have no doubt that in the future Coco will learn not to jump on the sofa.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Coco has grown in her own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco

Looking ahead

I'm looking forward to continuing teaching Coco new things and taking her to new places once it is safe to do so. She truly is a lovely dog, and I'm enjoying being her Puppy Raiser. Coco is a real beauty and has the shiniest coat I've ever seen on a dog. I can't wait to see her potentially become a guide dog and change the life of someone with sight loss.

Coco is a lovely pup who is a joy to be around. Look out for your next Pupdate in June!



Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Raiser. They then venture on to Guide Dogs training school, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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