



**Guide
Dogs**

Sponsor
a Puppy



Coco

**Coco is preparing
for training school**

Pupdate 4

Coco is progressing well



“ Hello, it’s Fran here, Coco’s Puppy Raiser. I’ve been continuing to prepare Coco for Guide Dogs Training School. ”

Coco needed a few more months to work on improving her confidence to make sure she was ready for the challenges that training school will bring. I took Coco to visit a local training school so she could try out some things she will learn, and she even practised some platform training.

Coco has matured so much. She is still a loving; enthusiastic pup and we have been consolidating what she has learned so far. With COVID-19, we have not been able to go out as much normally, so I am working on building her confidence.

Preparing for training school

Coco picks up things quickly. I’ve started a new verbal cue with her whenever she tries to jump on the settee. If I say, “All four on the floor” Coco will get back to the floor right away.

Coco absolutely loves travelling in the car and settles promptly. I recently took her onto a bus for a couple of stops and she coped well. I then introduced her to the train, as this was something she didn’t get to experience previously because of COVID-19.

I was really pleased with the way she progressed, she just hopped on and knew exactly what to do – she was great when minding the gap between the train and platform. This is something I will continue to practise until she heads to training school.

New experiences

I have started introducing new experiences with sights and sounds for Coco to become accustomed to. Recently, Coco has been around some loud construction noises from a nearby building site. To help her get used to it, I have been playing similar sounds around the house. I also took her back near the building site and sat with her to listen, and she was absolutely fine. Coco tends to recover brilliantly from anything she finds unsettling!

We recently stayed with a family near Kent, who have a pet golden retriever that Coco could play with in the garden. Coco had a lovely time and was able to visit different shopping centres.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Coco has grown in her own video:
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco)

She happily sat under the table when going into restaurants and cafés and settled quickly. Coco is learning patience, and for that reason, I can imagine she will enjoy training school. Although Coco loves her cuddles, she will happily settle down and work.

Future plans

Coco is curious about the world around her and can get a little distracted by her environment and other dogs. To overcome this, I let her explore for a minute or so, before redirecting her attention to me and the task at hand. When she has her training coat on, she knows she is working and is much better at coming back to me on her free runs!



Thank you so much for sponsoring Coco. Look out for your next Pupdate to see how she is progressing on her journey to become a guide dog.

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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