



Sponsor
a Puppy



Coco

Coco's great
qualities

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I do hope you and your family had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

As we try to return to normality and adapt to the new world that we find ourselves in following the turbulence of the last two years, our wonderful trainers and volunteer puppy raisers have dedicated themselves to helping our puppies on their journeys to become life-changing guide dogs. They continue to learn and progress, and we're so proud of how they have been doing in their training so far, and we're excited to find out where they'll go next. I hope that you enjoy your Pupdate, finding out what your wonderful puppy has been up to for the last few months.

I'd like to thank you so much for supporting us by sponsoring a puppy. We need people like you to be able to change the lives of people with sight loss, and we couldn't be Guide Dogs without you.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Coco's health

“Hello, it's Jenny here and I am Coco's Puppy Development Advisor. I've been supporting Coco through some delays in her training.”

In your last Pupdate, Coco's Puppy Raiser Fran mentioned all the important skills Coco was working on that would help her in her journey to becoming a guide dog and she was preparing for training school. Since then, Coco has experienced a few issues with her health where she had a raised temperature and seemed quite lethargic for a few months. As well as the impact of Covid restrictions tightening, her training was paused while she got better. Although she is back to her usual self, it has meant that she wasn't able to move on to training school when expected.

Progress so far

When Coco's health had improved sufficiently to be out on walks again, she wasn't as confident as she was before. She would sniff a lot at the new smells around her, but I'm pleased to say that she's already making some great progress since then! She's much more responsive now and she is quickly returning to her old self.

Coco does sometimes get a little bit upset by loud, busy places, but we're slowly exposing her to these environments again. There was a building site we passed, and the industrial sounds distracted her much more than they did before, but since then she has been making some steady progress and is making some really important steps in the right direction every time I see her.

Next steps

We want to make sure that Coco has the experience of training school, and we give her a fair chance. Over the next few weeks, we're going to gradually introduce her to the training environment – it'll be a little bit like playgroup at first for her! Our hope is that we'll be able to get Coco into the office for a half day each week to get her used to the busier environment, and experience being with different people throughout the day. Along with socialising with other dogs in a relaxed environment, this means that hopefully she will start to be completely comfortable in her surroundings before she starts to learn new skills. This will be much better for her welfare.

Coco is such a sensitive and lovely girl, and she always tries her best – it's so hard not to love her and she has the most wonderful temperament.



Find out how Coco is getting on in her video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco

Thank you

I know that this won't be the news that you wanted to hear, as we all had our fingers crossed that Coco would have been in training school by now. However, Coco's welfare is the most important thing to us, and all of our dogs are unique with different requirements, so some of them just need some more time. Thank you so much for your support for Coco, and I really hope that she will be able to move on to training school soon and become a life changer for someone with sight loss.

Find out how Coco has progressed in her next Pupdate!



Please note some of these photos are from Coco's previous Pupdates.



See how much Coco has grown

We have been taking pictures of Coco since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed.

Please visit [guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-coco) and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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