



Comet

**Comet's journey
has begun!**

Pupdate 1

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



Thank you

for sponsoring Comet



**“Hello, it’s
Bridget here,
Comet’s
Puppy
Raiser.”**

Comet is the 15th dog I’ve puppy raised. I love being a Puppy Raiser as each pup is so different and I enjoy getting to know their personalities. There are certainly easy days and more challenging days but it’s so rewarding to play a role in each puppy’s journey to becoming a guide dog.

Settling in at home

Comet has settled in well at home. His first week had some challenges as there were local fireworks which spooked him a little. He needed extra cuddles and comfort for a couple of nights but thankfully this didn’t affect him long-term. There have been fireworks since and he didn’t bat an eye; it’s lovely to see his confidence has grown already.

Comet’s cheeky personality is starting to shine through. He’s very playful with our pet dog Amber, who is 6 years old, and she is very patient with him! It’s great that he has her to learn from and gain confidence from. They often curl up in bed together which is lovely to see. But when Amber prefers to do her own thing, Comet’s good at entertaining himself. He loves a squeaky toy and zooming around the house with a toy in his mouth!

Training and puppy classes

Comet has enjoyed attending his puppy classes. He's great to work with as he's very responsive and his basic skills are coming along nicely. He's comfortable wearing his jacket and has already proved that he is able to settle himself with little prompting.

I like how the training focuses on each puppy as an individual and aims to build a relationship of trust between the dog and handler. We're ensuring that Comet's needs are met and that we're working at his pace.

We've been practising the bucket game at home and this has been going well – it is a great way of giving Comet choice and control when training. We teach him to focus on a 'bucket' of food and reward him when he does so. It is a brilliant tool to help with tasks that need him to stay still like handling, grooming and veterinary checks. It also allows Comet to communicate when he needs a break by moving his focus away from the bucket.



See how Comet has settled into his new home:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-comet

New sights and smells

Comet adapts well to new environments. He loves to have a good sniff when visiting places; this is important as it helps him to feel comfortable and to learn about his surroundings.

When he goes shopping with me, he loves to say hello to people! He's very good at waiting patiently whilst I browse the shelves. He even went on holiday with me in my caravan by the coast. He was so well behaved during the two-hour car journey as well as the ferry crossing; I was really pleased.

Look out for Comet's next Pupdate; I'm looking forward to updating you on his progress!





See how much Comet has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Comet since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed.

To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-comet and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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