



Comet

Comet's progressing
at training school!

Pupdate 4

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Comet



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**I'm excited
to update
you on his
progress.**

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Comet has been progressing well with his training, and I'm so proud of how quickly he picks up new skills. Unfortunately, I was recently off work with Covid and Comet developed kennel cough – a common cold for dogs. So, we had some time off while we both recovered, but now we are back together, it's like we've never been apart.

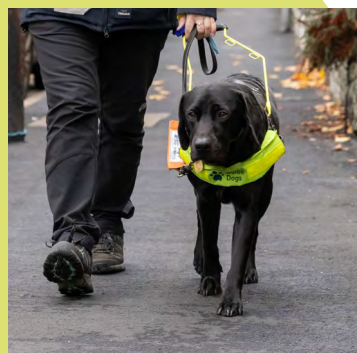
The training harness

I've introduced Comet to the training harness, and it went so well! To make this a positive experience, I used a skill he had previously learnt called 'touch'. This is when I curl my hand into a fist and hold my arm out with the verbal command 'touch'. Comet will touch my fist with his nose and receive a treat. I used this cue and held the harness in front of my hand, encouraging Comet to put his head through it. He had no issues and popped his head straight through – such a clever boy!

Blindfold walks

Comet has learnt a lot of new skills, and in the past few months, I've been mainly focusing on obstacle avoidance. Obstacles can be many different things, such as cones, lamp posts or people. Comet's learning how to safely navigate himself and me around them. He's made fantastic progress with this and always includes me in his thinking process when he's moving around obstacles, it's incredible to witness.

I've recently started doing some blindfold walks, in which I wear a blindfold to test Comet's skills. I'm always with another trainer who ensures that I stay safe. Sometimes I'll unintentionally give cues asking Comet to avoid obstacles, but when wearing a blindfold, I have to trust that he can guide me. Comet is doing incredibly well, I'm so proud of the progress that he's making!



Comet's future

In the next few months, I'll be working on some things that Comet needs a little bit more help with. Comet is still distracted by other dogs, which I'm working on; although he is slowly improving, we still have a long way to go. He's excellent at ignoring dogs he doesn't know, but when he sees his puppy pals, he gets too excited and wants to play.



Learn more about Comet's personality by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-comet



I've no doubt we will get there, just a work in progress as he's such a playful boy. 'Comet loves his food and can be very distracted if he comes across it during our training walks. So we're working with him to overcome this instinct. He's great at ignoring food on the floor in the training environment but not so great outside the training room. I've started to hide a few treats around the floor of the training van before he gets out to help teach him to ignore them. I'm making progress, but he can't help himself sometimes when it comes to tasty treats.

Over the next few months, I'm looking for potential matches for Comet. I think Comet would suit someone who enjoys a cuddle; he's a very affectionate dog and loves verbal praise.

Thank you for sponsoring Comet. I'm looking forward to updating you on his progress in your next Pupdate in June.





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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