



Comet

**Comet's qualified
as a guide dog!**

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; 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



“

Hi, I'm James, and I'm excited to tell you I've been partnered with Comet. Thank you so much for supporting Comet on his journey to become a guide dog. He's my star with a tail!

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My sight loss

I have an eye condition called retinitis pigmentosa. I'm completely blind in my left eye and have 10% vision in my right eye. At the moment, it's like looking through a straw but I'm noticing that it's getting smaller over time. As I have a small amount of vision, I can tell the difference between night and day, but at night I can't see at all. This is an inherited eye condition that I've always lived with; it was passed down from my mother, who is also supported by Guide Dogs and has her own guide dog called Alfie. When I was 12, my mum got her first guide dog. The confidence and independence he gave her was incredible. Comet is my third guide dog, so I know the charity and their wonderful work very well.

When my last guide dog Kim retired, I started using a white cane again. One of the biggest differences I noticed is that people don't help you as much when you have a white cane as opposed to a guide dog. With a guide dog, people are much more aware of you. I struggled not having a guide dog for a few years, especially during the pandemic. When I got the news that I had a match, I was so excited and couldn't wait to meet Comet!

Welcoming Comet

I stayed in a hotel near the training centre when I first met Comet. Guide Dog Mobility Specialist Sian knocked on my hotel room door and brought Comet inside – it was the best room service I've ever ordered! He settled quickly with me and when he got up the next morning, it was like we had always been together.

Comet's a very chilled and happy dog but also very nosy and likes to be involved in everything, which works well as I love his constant company. We're very similar in a lot of ways. Comet loves to cuddle, and I may be biased but he gives the best hugs. Comet's very funny and we both have a great sense of humour; he's brought so much positivity to my life.

Life together so far

Life's a lot easier with Comet, he's given me back my self-assurance and independence. Nothing seems to faze him, and he's confident in his abilities to look after me, which is lovely. We've only been together a short time but have already settled into a routine.



Meet James and find out how Comet has changed his life by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-comet



Scan me

Comet joins me several times a week in the charity shops where I volunteer; all the customers love him! My partner has a pet dog and every day we free run the dogs together on the beach. Comet loves splashing around in the water. We've recently found a new favourite game to play together. Comet adores his squeaky toys so I keep one in my pocket and every time he squeaks his toy, I will squeak the one in my pocket and we will do this back and forth for a while, it's a great laugh.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Comet, he has already made an incredible difference to my life. I feel pure comfort with him!

Find out how we're getting on in your next Pupdate in October!



Where is Comet on his Pupdate journey?



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Creating new partnerships

Matching our dogs with their future owners is the final stage in the guide dog journey and a very important one! This task is completed by a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist (GDMS) who will take the dog's personality and preferences into account, the volume of work that the dog is comfortable doing, and at what pace. They will look to partner the dog with someone whose lifestyle matches the dog's. It's almost like creating a dating profile!



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