

Preparing for training school

Pupdate 3

# Cookie's

skills are progressing!



Hello, it's Joanne here, Cookie's Puppy Walker. We have been preparing Cookie for Guide Dogs Training School.

Cookie's continued to bring us love and excitement and it's wonderful seeing her progress as she continues her journey. Due to the impact of coronavirus and social distancing guidelines, we've had to overcome some extra challenges and adapt our training routine, but this hasn't stopped Cookie being her usual positive self. To keep Cookie entertained we've been taking her on lots of extra free runs and walks.

# Overcoming past challenges

Previously, Cookie was a bit vocal around other dogs and struggled a bit with dog distraction. This has greatly improved, mainly because there's been more opportunities to practice – due to the parks getting busier! When Cookie comes across lots of new people on her walks she has been as good as gold.

Cookie is a typical German shepherd and always lets us know when it's nearly walk time – we can hear her as we come down the stairs in the morning! We've now moved our focus onto getting Cookie more comfortable in the car by putting toys and treats in the car when she jumps in, but not actually driving anywhere. This should help her associate the car with fun things, and gradually increase her confidence.

### Exploring the world

I'm looking forward to visiting more places with Cookie, once restrictions have been lifted further. So far, we've visited the town centre a few times, have been out for lunch at a local restaurant, and have also visited our friends' house and enjoyed some sunny weather. Cookie was completely fine when we have visited public places and isn't fazed at all about people wearing face masks!

(Continued overleaf)









See how Cookie has grown in her own video:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-cookie

#### What's next

Puppy walking Cookie has been an amazing experience. She's such a loveable, joyful girl, and I get a bit of a lump in my throat when I think about her going to training school. However, I know Cookie will be a perfect match for someone; in particular, an active person who loves to walk! I can't wait to see what Cookie does next.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Cookie. Look out for your next Pupdate in February.



## Next stop for Cookie – training school

Your donations can help to pay for an 'Off to School Kit', which costs £50 for a puppy moving into their first stage of training.

#### An 'Off to School Kit' includes:

A reflective sleeve for the lead, helping the public recognise a guide dog in training

**£18** A harness handle

**‡27** A brown training harness – the iconic symbol of a training guide dog

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