



# Cooper

Cooper'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



# Cooper's potential career



**“Hello, it’s  
Jo here and  
I am a Canine  
Assisted  
Partnerships  
specialist  
at Guide  
Dogs.”**

In your last Pupdate, Cooper’s Trainer Sophie mentioned all the important skills Cooper was working on that would help him in his journey to becoming a guide dog. Since then, we’ve noticed that Cooper has become very distracted on his walks and began to display stopping behaviours. This meant that Cooper became unmotivated when he was out training, and he would really struggle to focus on his guiding work. He also started showing reluctance to jump into a car.

The trainers all really worked hard to try and encourage his motivation, but unfortunately we haven’t seen improvements. Every dog is unique, and has their own quirks and personalities, but we soon realised that Cooper may be better suited for an alternative career as a buddy dog.

## **Buddy dogs**

Becoming a guide dog isn’t quite right for every dog we train, and some will undergo a career change to be assessed as a buddy dog. These dogs are for children living with sight loss; they offer companionship and can significantly improve a child’s wellbeing. Buddy dogs can help with a child’s physical activity and build confidence, which helps them to create better relationships with others.

Although a buddy dog isn't a mobility aid in the same way that a guide dog is, they have an incredible impact on the lives of the children they are matched with.

## Cooper's previous skills and experiences

While he was a pup-in-training, Cooper mastered a lot of crucial skills that will help him in a potential career as a buddy dog. He's such a sweet boy and loves being around people of all ages – he was wonderful with his Puppy Raiser's grandchildren and was very patient when playing! He loves spending time with other dogs and doesn't get distracted, so this will really help him feel comfortable in lots of other environments.

Except for his new lack of confidence with cars, Cooper is also really great with other types of transport. He settles well when on trains and buses, so he would definitely be able to cope with busier places that he may go to with a potential family. His recall when he's running is brilliant as well, so I have faith that he won't go running off to say hello to other people!



See how Cooper has been getting on with his potential career change: [guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-cooper](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-cooper)



## Next steps

I will now be assessing Cooper to see if he responds well to all the scenarios a buddy dog may experience. He's been staying at home with me over winter so I can get a better understanding of where he may not be as confident.

If he ticks all the boxes, I'll then find a potential family that he could be matched with. During this process, I will look for a child and family that are best suited for Cooper and vice versa. I'm sure Cooper will be brilliant and will help provide confidence and friendship to a child with a visual impairment.

**I look forward to updating you on how Cooper has progressed in his next Pupdate.**





## See how much Cooper has grown

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

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



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at [guidedogs.org.uk/privacy](https://guidedogs.org.uk/privacy) or call **freephone 0800 953 0113** to request a printed copy. Please use this number to tell us if you have changed your mind about how we contact you; including telling us that you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail about Guide Dogs.