



# Crumble

Training school:  
a new adventure

Pupdate 3

# Welcome to your October Pupdate

**I hope you're enjoying the start of the new season, as the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisper again.**

Did you know that every day, 250 people in the UK start to lose their sight, four of which are estimated to be children? Nearly half report feeling isolated and cut off from the world around them. Together, we can change that.

Your support goes beyond helping puppies become life changers; you're also making a multitude of vital services possible. We're dedicated to breaking down barriers by providing information, advice and support for adults, children and families. None of this would be possible without supporters like you.

Thank you for your invaluable and continued support of Guide Dogs. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of people with sight loss, ensuring everyone can live actively, independently, and well. You are making a massive difference!

Yours sincerely,

*Steph*

**Steph Potter**  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Crumble



“

**Hello, it's  
Charlotte  
here,  
Crumble's  
trainer!**

”

I've been training incredible dogs for five years, and I love my job. Every day brings something new and I never stop learning. The greatest part is seeing my dogs progress through training, qualify as guide dogs, and change the lives of people with vision impairment. They're amazing!

## Welcoming Crumble

Crumble and I have started to build a nice bond. I fell in love with her sweet and affectionate personality from the moment she arrived. She loves cuddles and has settled into training school very well. I explored different areas in the building with her, having downtime in rooms where she could relax and play with lots of toys, picking her favourites.

Her volunteer fosterers' family, with their three teenage children, help make Crumble feel right at home. She arrived with some familiar toys from her puppy raiser, which helped her feel comfortable in the new environment. She's very calm, so she adjusted quickly.

## Training school and new friends

Mornings begin with me picking Crumble up in the Guide Dogs van and heading to the office. Jumping into the van isn't her forte - Crumble prefers to paw at the side of the van, expecting to be lifted in! We're practising jumping in during training and playtime to encourage her, and I'm already seeing some progress. In the office, I work on simple cues she's already comfortable with, like food manners. This teaches her not to pick up food off the floor, which will be helpful when she's out and about in cafés and restaurants, stopping her from eating foods she shouldn't.

Crumble has found a special friend in Moxy, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever who's a little older than her. They're practically inseparable, playing together with the same energy. They're adorable!

Crumble loves being stroked and doesn't mind wearing her TTouch harness. This built a great foundation because I recently introduced her to the brown training harness, which she'll continue to wear throughout training. We teach all our dogs using positive reinforcement to help build positive associations with training.



Watch Crumble's Pupdate video to learn how she's settled at training school by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-crumble](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-crumble)**



**Scan me**



Crumble is amazing on loose lead walks. Close to the training school, there are both quiet and busy places. This will help her get used to various environments. She's very laid-back and happy to walk alongside me while occasionally looking up at me.

I'll teach her to focus straight ahead as she adapts to everything, as it's important for guide dogs to remain focused on what's in front of them. She's becoming more confident. She's a star!

## Future plans

The skills Crumble will learn at training school will ensure she stays confident in different environments as we go out and about. I'll expose her to more everyday noises, like construction and traffic, to build her resilience. This will help to improve her environmental awareness around different elements, such as kerbs.

**Thank you for sponsoring Crumble. I can't wait to update you on her progress at training school in your next Pupdate in February.**



## Where is Crumble on her Pupdate journey?



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### The training harness

After around 12-16 months with their puppy raiser, our pups move to training school to learn more specific tasks related to their future career. Introducing a young dog to their brown training harness is one of the first milestones at training school. Most dogs have previously worn their puppy coat, meaning they're familiar with the body sensation. With this as a foundation, we build up to placing the harness on the dog's back and fastening it. Once a dog is partnered, they will wear the iconic white guiding harness.



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