



Custard

Building on behaviours

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Welcome to your June Pupdate

We hope you've been enjoying the longer days and warmer weather that June brings. We're so excited to share what your sponsored pup has been getting up to!

Did you know that we breed and train more dogs than any other organisation internationally? We have a world-class breeding and training programme which focuses on dog health, behaviour and genetic merit. This helps us set our pups up for careers as future life changers. But none of this would be possible without kind people like you! By sponsoring one of our special puppies, you're helping us support the 1 in 5 people affected by sight loss in their lifetime.

Beyond our wonderful dogs, we also provide a range of services for people of all ages. From mobility skills to children's large print books, we're here for anyone who needs us. Your donations make this possible!

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Custard



“
**Hello, it's
Jean here,
Custard's
Puppy Raiser.**
”

Custard is still the lovely, attentive and cuddly girl that she's always been! She's become more mature since your last Pupdate, gaining independence and starting to behave more responsibly. It's wonderful to watch her grow up and see these new personality traits emerging. I'm so proud of her!

New people

The biggest change in Custard's life recently is the introduction of a baby! My husband Les and I are delighted to have a grandson in our lives now, and we knew it was important to introduce Custard slowly and gently. When we felt the time was right, I sat down on a chair holding him, and Les brought Custard over on a lead. She sniffed his feet as a way of saying 'hello', and now they're best friends. She sits calmly beside us when I feed him a bottle, and will never jump up or try to lick him. She's completely relaxed in his company, which shows what a lady she is.

New places

Now that Custard's a little older, I've started taking her out and about. We often visit the library together, where there's a glass floor.

I wasn't sure how Custard would react when we first visited, but she didn't seem fazed at all by the unusual terrain. This confidence will serve her well in her training and future career. We've also been to more unusual places, like the swimming pool, to watch my grandson's first swimming lesson. Even though it was really busy and noisy, Custard wasn't worried at all. She watched with interest from the side, and it was easy to get her to refocus on me when I asked, which suggests that she felt at ease in the space.

We've also been working on travelling on different forms of public transport, as it's important for Custard to experience these and be comfortable. So far, we've taken short bus rides and train journeys, plus trips on the ferry across the harbour. She's had no problems with any of these, so we're going to start slowly increasing the number of stops we stay on the bus and train. For the first try, I'll ask Les to be on hand with the car in case we need to get off early, but I can't imagine Custard will need to. It's just about ensuring she has a positive experience so that she feels confident with transport in the future and with any new experiences in general.



Enjoy Custard's adventures out and about with Puppy Raiser Jean by going to:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-custard](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-custard)

New skills

Custard and I have been working on lots of skills. Her recall is excellent. She's started venturing a little further away now and likes to have a good sniff around, but she comes right back when I blow the whistle. What a star!

She's also learnt the skill chin rest, where I ask her to rest her head on my lap or on a chair so that I can check her eyes and ears. This is a really helpful skill to have in the future as it ensures that Custard feels comfortable with routine health checks.

Custard is doing wonderfully. I can't wait to update you on her progress in your next Pupdate in October. Thank you so much for sponsoring her.





What is Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs?

Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. It was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. We treat each pup as an individual and help to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.

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