



“ Daisy always comes to check up on me and presses against my legs giving reassurance. ”
Irene, Daisy’s new owner



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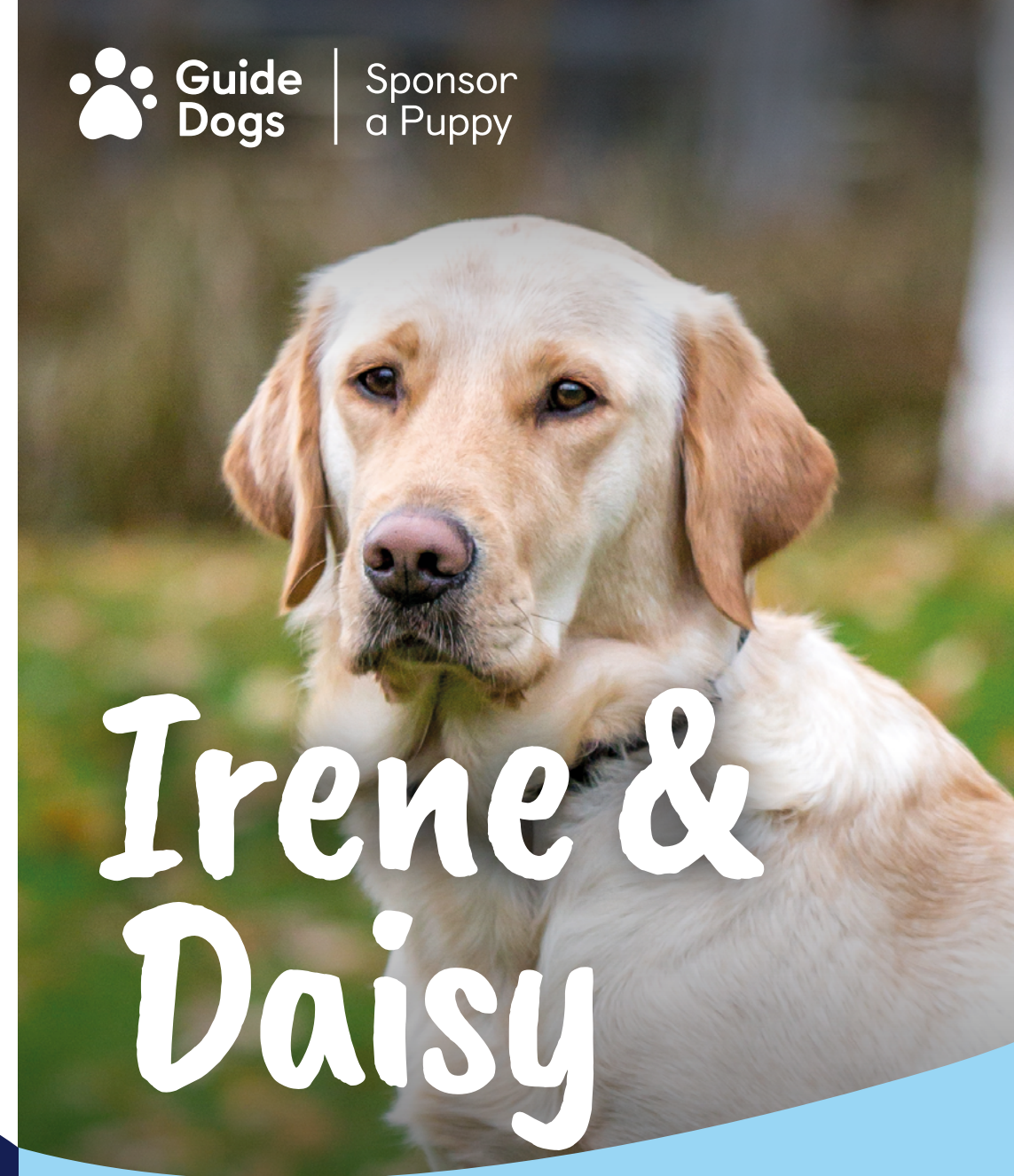


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Irene & Daisy

A brilliant partnership

Pupdate 6

Thank you for sponsoring Daisy

Hello, it's Irene here, Daisy's owner. Welcome to her final Pupdate! We are loving life together and I can't thank you enough for your support.

I've been visually impaired all my life as I inherited a retinal condition. I'm totally blind in my left eye and I can see shadows and a bit of hand movement with my right eye. It wasn't until I started going to school that I found out about my condition; my mum used to think I was being naughty and pretending not to see!

After my husband passed away, I realised how much I relied on him for support and I decided to contact Guide Dogs. It was a very hard time for me. I felt like my sense of security had been taken away and I was nervous to leave my house. I was very lucky to only wait five months for my first guide dog, Imogen.



Life-changing experience

I'd been trained to use a white cane, but it only works to a certain degree.

You can sweep it left and right, but you can never feel completely safe. There are so many dropped kerbs so you can easily get confused. I've also got arthritis in my right arm which makes using a cane more difficult. However, when weighing up a white cane and a guide dog, there's no comparison!

Imogen absolutely transformed my life and once she retired, it was a bit of a shock to go from having a guide dog for nine years to suddenly being left by myself. As soon as Daisy came into my life though, I felt like everything was back on track. I was so happy and grateful to be partnered with her. Daisy put a smile back on my face and helped me regain my independence.

Partnership training

My Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Hayley, took Daisy and I through our partnership training during our first few weeks together. She encouraged us to build a strong bond together and reminded me of all the commands I needed to give her to allow her to guide me successfully. Daisy was very calm with me from the beginning and we simply 'clicked'. She is very determined, so when given a command she follows it through to the end; she even corrects me sometimes!

Us against the world

Daisy settled in very quickly and for the first couple of days didn't want to leave my side. It's incredible how similar Daisy and Imogen's personalities are – they are both very loving and are keen workers, which helped me and Daisy bond easily. If I'm on the phone for a long time, Daisy always comes to check up on me and presses against my legs giving reassurance.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of coronavirus and social distancing guidelines, we've had to overcome some extra challenges and adapt our daily routine. Before the restrictions were put in place, we'd go on three walks per day, as we love being active and spending time outdoors. Now we're restricted to one walk per day, I try to vary our walks so that Daisy familiarises herself with different routes – she's a quick learner!

Apart from free running, Daisy's second favourite thing to do during down time is to receive a lovely belly rub which turns into a full body massage! I put some relaxing music on, and she lays across my legs while I pamper her, and we top it off with a cuddle at the end.

I hope you've enjoyed following Daisy's journey and watching her grow from a tiny pup into an incredible life-changing guide dog. I can't thank you enough for your support in making our partnership possible.

(Continued overleaf)



For more photos of Daisy, please visit:
sponsorapuppy.org.uk/puppy-daisy