



# Derek

**Derek's progress**

**Pupdate 3**

# Welcome to your June Pupdate

**I hope you are well and enjoying the start of summer. I'm sure you are looking forward to finding out the latest update from your sponsored puppy.**

Your support is vital to help our future life changers complete their training and support a person with sight loss. We're proud to create so many partnerships through our guide dog and buddy dog schemes, and to be continuing this throughout 2022.

We really appreciate that the past few months have been really challenging in lots of ways, so we are so grateful that you have continued to support us by sponsoring a puppy. On behalf of everyone at Guide Dogs, I'd like to say a huge thank you.

Because of you and your amazing ongoing support, we can continue to make life-changing partnerships possible!

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Allum**

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Derek



“Hello, its  
Glynis here,  
Derek’s Puppy  
Raiser!”

## Derek’s health

In your last Pupdate, I mentioned the health issues that Derek was experiencing with his legs. Derek has a condition that is easiest to describe as ‘growing pains’. His health condition seemed to have resolved itself earlier in the year but unfortunately it has now returned. I am working closely with Derek’s Puppy Development Adviser to help him on the road to recovery. As we have done before, we are restricting his exercise. It’s important we do this because it helps to move his leg muscles very slowly and cause him as little discomfort as possible. It’s a bit like learning to run long distances; start with small amounts of running and slowly build it up.

Due to his restricted exercise, Derek has been showing more signs of separation anxiety. Since your last Pupdate we hadn’t been able to make a lot of progress with this before his health condition returned, but I had seen some small improvements.

I am working hard with his Puppy Development Adviser to slowly increase how long I'm away from him for while making it a positive experience for him. Derek is an extremely smart puppy, and he likes to be kept busy, so giving him a frozen bone while he is on his own helps to keep him occupied. Tasty treats like this help Derek to learn that being on his own for short periods of time is a nice experience. He is slowly improving and I'm hoping that these improvements continue to grow.

## Derek's training

Before Derek's health condition returned, he was making great progress with his training! Previously he would rush on and off the bus but now he is very polite and takes great care. Derek is very tall – and all legs – so he doesn't fit too well in between the seats on buses or trains. Sometimes, if there's space, we sit in accessible seating, where there is lots more room for him. Nothing fazes him when travelling! He is so content that sometimes he doesn't realise which mode of transport he is on.



Find out how Derek is navigating different places.  
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-derek](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-derek)**



He loves going to do the weekly food shop with me, especially when we go down the dog food aisle. It's not my favourite task but seeing how much Derek loves it helps me to look forward to it each week. We visited a local farm shop which presented Derek with lots of new smells, and he was captivated by the smells of the food counters. He sat patiently waiting, hoping that it would be his lucky day!

## Future plans

I am hopeful that Derek's health recovers so I can continue to prepare him for training school. For the moment I am focusing on reducing his separation anxiety and doing my best to help him to a speedy recovery from his health condition.

Thank you for sponsoring Derek. I know this news could be concerning but Derek's health is paramount. His Puppy Development Adviser and I are working closely with the vet to ensure that his health and wellbeing are at the centre of his training.

**Look out for your next Pupdate to find out how he is progressing!**



## Behind them every step of the way

A guide dog puppy's training journey could not have been possible without our fantastic volunteer puppy raisers. They do an incredible job of building the best foundation for our puppies before they head off to Guide Dogs Training School. One of the best parts of puppy raising is knowing that when the pup moves to training school, they will hopefully go on to change the life of someone with sight loss.

**To find out what a day in the life of a Puppy Raiser is like, listen to Kirsty and Phil's experience at [guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser)**



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