



Derek

Derek's thriving
at training school

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Derek



“
**Hello, it's
Laura here,
one of Derek's
trainers.
Yvonne and I
are training
Derek
together.**

”

Derek has moved on to advanced training with Guide Dog Trainer Yvonne and me. We're working together to help Derek through the next stage of his training journey. We're both really enjoying teaching Derek, he's such a lovable boy.

Advanced training

During this stage of his training, we'll take all the skills Derek has learnt in the 'classroom' and apply them to real-life situations. For example, in your previous Pupdate, Derek was learning platforms training, which he excelled at. To use this in a real-life situation, we are teaching Derek to associate kerbs with platforms. This means when he reaches an up or down kerb, he will stop and wait, which lets the person he's guiding know there is a change.

Learning to avoid obstacles is another crucial skill to master in a real-life setting, and Derek was fantastic at this in our training room. Examples of obstacles that Derek could encounter in public

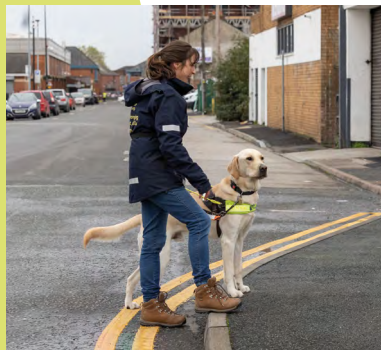
might be a bicycle lying in the middle of the footpath or a person approaching. Yvonne and I are helping Derek develop the confidence to decide how to overcome obstacles in a way that's safe for the person he's guiding. We train all our dogs using positive reinforcement, so when Derek makes the correct decision, we reward him with treats and lots of fuss – his favourite!

New skills

Derek is a very tall pup – he's all legs, which makes travelling by bus and fitting into the small spaces between the seats a little challenging. So, we're training Derek to sit between our legs during bus journeys to help prevent any other passengers from accidentally stepping on his tail. Derek is really enjoying this new way of bus travel and thinks he's getting all this extra fuss for being such a good boy!

Looking ahead

Over the last few months, we've been working hard on Derek's separation anxiety with lots of encouragement and praise to help him adjust to spending small amounts of time on his own and to view them as positive experiences. And we're pleased to say he's made some fantastic



Learn more about Derek's advanced training by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-derek



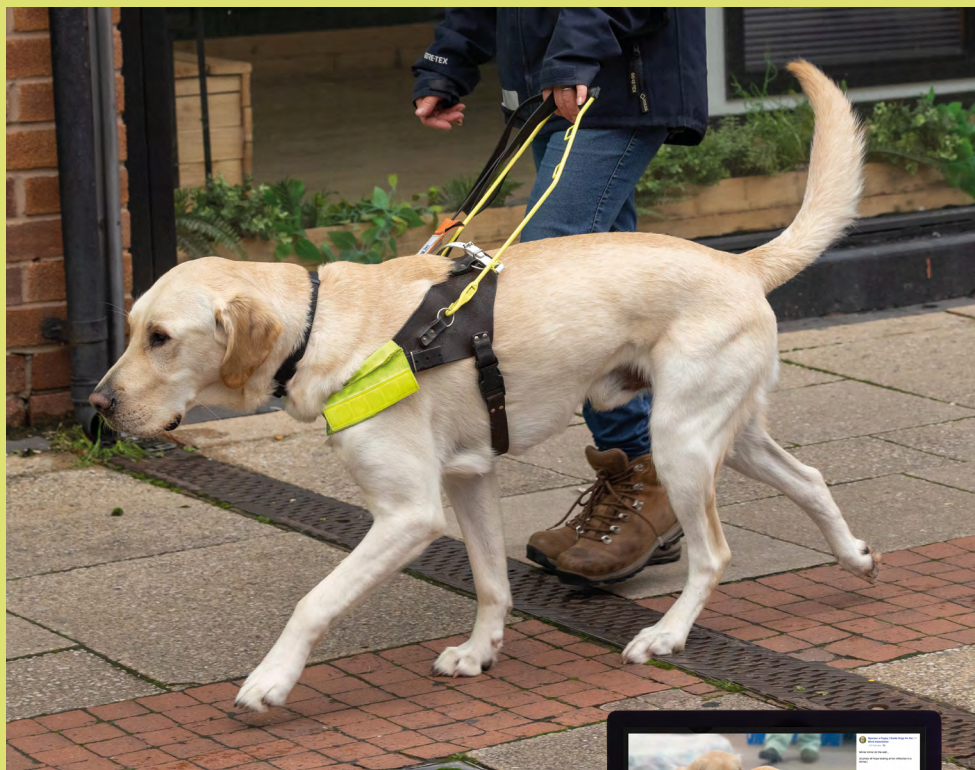
progress! We'll continue to work on this throughout Derek's training to ensure that he is comfortable. Guide dogs may be left on their own for short periods of time if, for example, their owner has decided not to take them to an appointment or meeting.

In the next few months, we will also be beginning to look at the type of partner who would suit Derek. We'll look at how quickly Derek walks, the environments he enjoys working in and the number of daily tasks he can support. Derek loves routine; he really thrives when he knows where he's going and what he's doing next. Derek also works well with a lot of reassurance, either verbal praise or treats. For him to excel and be part of a successful partnership, he will need someone who will be able to support him in this way.

We're looking forward to finding Derek the perfect match!

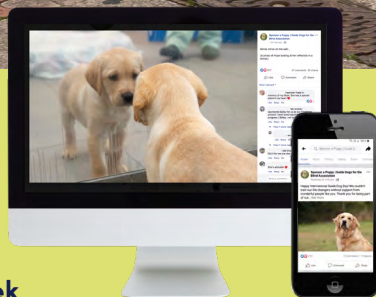
Thank you for sponsoring Derek. Find out how Derek is progressing in your final Pupdate in June!





Don't forget, you can find even more exciting updates by joining Derek's exclusive Facebook group.

Visit www.facebook.com/groups/puppy.derek



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