



Derek

**Derek has
qualified!**

Pupdate 6

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**Hi, it's Yvonne here, Derek's trainer.
Derek has qualified as a guide dog!**

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Matching Derek

Derek's been a pleasure to work with, and finding him the perfect match was crucial to make the partnership successful. The process is a bit like online dating! First, I looked at Derek's profile: his likes, the speed he walks at, and the amount of work he would be comfortable doing whilst guiding his new owner. Then I searched through our 'Ready to Train' list to find someone whose needs matched Derek's abilities. I'm so pleased that I found the right partner for Derek.

Derek's guide dog owner

Derek's new owner is a lovely gentleman, who was a keen fisherman. It was while he was fishing that he first noticed he was losing his sight. Usually, you can tell when a fish bites because the 'float' on the fishing line disappears as it's pulled beneath the surface. Derek's owner couldn't see the float, so he thought he'd caught a fish when he hadn't. After this happened a few times, he went to the opticians to find out more, and was eventually diagnosed with glaucoma.



Glaucoma is caused by increased pressure in the eye when fluid isn't able to drain away as it usually would. This triggers a slow loss of vision. For Derek's new owner, this means he has no vision in his right eye, and some remaining blurred vision in the top half of his left eye. Because of this, he struggles with depth perception and has light sensitivity. On sunny days, he finds it especially difficult as his vision is reduced even further.

It's the first time that Derek's owner has had a guide dog and he's never used a white cane; being matched with Derek has made a massive impact on his life. At first I was a bit nervous introducing them to one another due to Derek's separation anxiety. However, I shouldn't have been worried at all. Derek was calm and gentle, but I could tell how excited he was to meet him. From the moment they were introduced, Derek and his new owner were instantly smitten!

Once they settled in, they found their routine of doing daily tasks. Derek gets all the reassurance he needs, whilst his owner gets support and independence from Derek. They bonded so quickly, which made it very easy to train them throughout the five weeks of partnership training.

Derek wasn't fazed about me being there and wasn't bothered when I left! He had complete trust in his new owner; it was incredible! Working with Derek and his partner was a dream because they really are the perfect match.

Life together

Derek's owner is a very sociable person and enjoys his daily trip to his local café for a cup of coffee and some lunch. He now has Derek to make sure that doing things like this, the things he loves, are easier and safer. Derek has truly transformed his life.

Derek's owner loves having a dog in the home and really enjoys his company. They regularly explore together as Derek's owner knows the local area so well. They also enjoy gardening together. Derek will happily potter around the garden while his owner tidies up the flower beds; they just like being in each other's company. Derek's owner loves being out in nature too, so taking Derek for free runs is something he really enjoys. Having Derek by his side has helped him gain more confidence and allows him to live the life he chooses.

I want to say a huge thank you for supporting Derek's journey and making this partnership possible. I hope you've enjoyed watching him grow into a life-changing guide dog!



Find out more from Yvonne on how Derek's settled into being a guide dog by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-derek



Scan me



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Working with Derek and his partner was a dream because they really are the perfect match.

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Yvonne, Derek's trainer.

Where is Derek
on his Pupdate
journey?



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Thank you so much for sponsoring Derek!

We believe that visual impairment shouldn't stop people from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs to those affected by sight loss, helping them to live their lives exactly as they choose. This wouldn't be possible without kind people like you, and we can't thank you enough for your incredible support. Together, we can continue to train more pups like Derek and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Derek's owner.



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