



Dexter

Dexter's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

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 Dexter



**“Hello, it’s
Sheelagh,
Dexter’s
Puppy
Raiser.”**

I started volunteering as a Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs back in 2000 and Dexter is my 20th puppy! I love knowing that these puppies go on to change the life of someone living with sight loss. I’m fortunate to be in touch with many of the guide dog owners that have been matched with my previous puppies and it’s so nice to hear how they’re getting on and the difference that they’re making.

Welcoming Dexter

When Dexter first arrived, he didn’t like to be left alone and would follow me around the house. But his confidence grew quickly, and he’s now settled well. He’s got a lovely comfortable bed but often prefers to lie on the cool floor tiles, especially when the weather is warm.

All the puppies I’ve raised have had their own unique personalities, and Dexter is no exception. He’s such a happy dog; his whole body shakes when he wags his tail! He absolutely loves attention and will run up to anyone for some fuss. He will say hello to other dogs when out but he’s a little uncertain of dogs with coats on – he’s not sure what to make of them! One of Dexter’s little quirks is that he loves the camera – as soon as the camera comes out, he strikes a pose!

Home life

We have a pet dog, Dawson, who used to be a guide dog in training, and he is like a big brother to Dexter. They get on so well together and love playing with each other. Dexter has a favourite green crocodile toy and loves to play tug with Dawson; he'll pick it up and take it to Dawson to try and entice him into a game. While Dawson's a wonderful and patient brother, when he's not up for a game, Dexter is great at entertaining himself. He loves to strut around with his toys in his mouth looking very proud of himself!



Dexter is a great learner

Dexter is a very intelligent boy. He's made great progress on learning some of his basic skills such as 'sit' and 'down'. He's very eager to please and his tail is always wagging when we're training! He's mastered toileting on cue; he's got a penned off area in the garden that he uses for toileting, and he knows not to go anywhere else.

Dexter's quite fidgety so I'm working on helping him to settle himself calmly. He's got a hollow toy that I fill with soaked kibble to help keep him entertained and this works well.

Find out the skills that Dexter has been learning so far.
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-dexter



We've been practising settling in his bed when at home, as well as settling on a blanket out in cafés whilst I enjoy a cuppa. He's gradually starting to settle for longer periods of time which is great!

We've also been to our first puppy class. Dexter wasn't sure to start with – it was a very different environment for him, but his confidence grew as the class progressed. We practised weaving in and out of cones and he was brilliant, although his tail was wagging so much it knocked the cones down behind him!

I'm pleased with how Dexter is progressing so far and am looking forward to updating you in your next Pupdate.



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



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