



Dexter

Dexter's news

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these beautiful autumnal months.

Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide our incredible life-changing services. It's estimated that six million people in the UK live with sight-threatening eye conditions, and more than two million of these are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. At Guide Dogs, we want to support as many people as possible through these life-altering changes, providing the right services to help everyone.

Did you know that training and partnering our wonderful guide dogs isn't all we offer? We also provide support to adults through our My Sighted Guide service which partners trained volunteer guides with a person with a visual impairment. For children and young people, we offer a fantastic range of support, from companion dogs via our buddy dogs scheme to personalised, large print books through CustomEyes Books. Our expertise means we can make life-changing differences to those affected by sight loss, enabling them to live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. Thank you for helping us to do this with your generous support.

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

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Dexter



“

Hello, it's Lucy here, Dexter's trainer. I've been training Dexter alongside Maxine.

”

Dexter's progress

Dexter was doing well with his previous trainer, Sam, but as he needed a little extra time to learn new skills, we decided it would be best for him to come and train with me, as I can give him the extra time and support he needs.

He's a great dog and has such a calming presence; he's also very friendly with the other dogs I train. You can tell he enjoys training games such as the bucket game; his whole body wiggles when he wags his tail!

To help build up Dexter's confidence, I revisited all the skills he'd learnt with Sam, such as platforms and locating objects. I also practised his recall, which is great. We did a lot of work together, but I noticed he is facing some challenges while training; he struggles to keep the right guiding speed and to approach platforms. He prefers to have brief walks and slows down during longer ones, eventually stopping. This suggests he isn't enjoying training or that his health isn't quite right. After many discussions with my manager and Dexter's vet, we decided to pause his training to do some medical checks to ensure he's happy and healthy.

Dexter's rest

Dexter's having a break from training for a few months and staying with his Fosterers, Danielle and David, and their rehomed guide dog Kenny, a golden retriever/Labrador. Dexter's very sociable and enjoys being around other dogs. He's very relaxed and makes Danielle laugh a lot – he's full of character!

Dexter adores Danielle and instantly built a strong friendship with her and Kenny; they run and play a lot together in the garden. Dexter's got many toys, but his favourite thing to do is play with Kenny. There are some lovely fields close to Danielle's home with tall grass. Kenny is tall, so Danielle can see him while he's running around; he's always closely followed by Dexter jumping through the long grass like a kangaroo!



Looking ahead

When we receive the results of Dexter's medical checks, Maxine, a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist, and I will be working together to prepare Dexter and settle him into a new routine. We will slowly start reintroducing some of the skills Dexter had previously learnt and monitor how he's coping. It's important we work at his pace to ensure he's comfortable and enjoying his training. Practise makes perfect, so we will practise the skills Dexter is learning daily, and will add new ones when he's ready.

Hear more about Dexter's progress by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-dexter



Scan me

Alternative career

If Dexter is unable to return to training to become a guide dog, he will be assessed to become a buddy dog. Buddy dogs are companions for children and young people with vision impairment. Rather than aid mobility as a guide dog does, instead they help to develop self-confidence, build trust and improve relationships. They make a huge difference to both the child and the whole family!

Thank you for sponsoring Dexter. Find out how he's progressing in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Dexter on his Pupdate journey?



1

2

3

4

5

6



Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 7-8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! To find out more about volunteering, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer.



/SponsorAPuppy



GuideDogsUK



/sponsorapuppygd

Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at guidedogs.org.uk/privacy or call **freephone 0800 953 0113** to request a printed copy. Please use this number to tell us if you have changed your mind about how we contact you; including telling us that you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail about Guide Dogs.