



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Douglas

Welcoming  
Douglas

Pupdate 1

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!**

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I can't wait for you to read your puppy's latest Pupdate, and I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,

*Steph*

**Steph Potter**  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Douglas



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**Hello, it's  
Caroline here,  
Douglas'  
Puppy Raiser.**

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I've been puppy raising for Guide Dogs for six years now. I was recovering from a long-term illness and wanted to do something where I could give back. My doctor suggested becoming a puppy raiser, and I haven't looked back since! I'm also a mentor for new puppy raisers, helping them along on their puppy raising journeys. I adore socialising with the pups, it's when I'm at my happiest. I enjoy helping a young life changer start their journey. It's very rewarding to feel like you're helping to change someone's life for the better.

## Settling in

Douglas was a bit unsettled for the first few days. I gave him lots of cuddles and made sure he had lots of soft toys to snuggle up with, this worked a treat. I have a pet Labrador called Harry. He's like a big brother to Douglas and helped him to settle into home life. Harry is very gentle with Douglas; they have a great bond. They enjoy free runs and will curl up for a nap together once we get home. It's very sweet!

Douglas has also made a new best friend, 8-year-old yellow Labrador, Winston. His face lights up, and his tail starts wagging really fast as soon as he sees him at the park.

## Douglas' personality

Douglas and I have a great bond. I'm really enjoying getting to know him and watching his little personality develop and blossom. He's such a cute pup, and everyone that meets him loves him instantly!

He's the most mischievous pup I've raised, but he's also very laid back and takes everything in his stride. Douglas is different to the last puppy I raised, fellow sponsored puppy, Bonnie. He's calmer and likes to observe. However, when he's on a free run he has so much energy and bounces around, it's funny to watch!

He has a little quirk where he will sneak up behind me and try to take my fluffy slippers off my feet without me noticing, then he'll cuddle up with them. He's only young so I am sure he will grow out of this habit.

Douglas loves to play with toys, especially soft toys. His favourite is a purple soft toy elephant, which he enjoys snuggling with in bed.

## Starting training

We've been to a few puppy classes, and I can see Douglas' confidence grow each time. He's good at interacting with other dogs but can get a bit overexcited sometimes when meeting a new dog.



Find out more about the cues Douglas is learning by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-douglas](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-douglas)



Scan me

I'm working on Douglas' meet and greets with new pups. He's making good progress with the cues 'sit' and 'stand', and his food manners are great. He's always been gentle around his food, so this is something he picked up naturally.

## Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I will continue to work on the cues Douglas has been learning, along with focusing on his dog distraction and helping him stay calm and confident when meeting new dogs. I'll also be taking him to as many new places and different environments as I can to increase his confidence as he grows up.

**Thank you for sponsoring Douglas. I'm enjoying raising him.  
Find out how he's getting on in your next Pupdate in June!**



Where is Douglas 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 usually 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](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer).**



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