

Eve

**GUIDE
DOGS**



Pupdate 4

The next step

Eve has started training school!

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





Hello, I'm Rachael, a trainer at Guide Dogs. I'm pleased to say Eve has made it to training school!

I've been working at Guide Dogs for a while now and last year took on the exciting role as a guide dog trainer which has always been my passion. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing my dog progress through different stages of training, to become an invaluable companion for someone living with sight loss.

Best foot forward

Eve is very attentive and eager to learn, which makes her great fun to work with. She has settled into her life at training school very well and has quickly bonded with puppy pal, Wendy, a Labrador retriever cross. They have spent a lot of time together since day one and are now inseparable! When Eve is not busy training or playing with Wendy, she loves to play with her favourite toy – a squeaky pig!

Eve's first week in training school was spent teaching her how to settle in her pen, which is in my office. Sometimes she can be a bit vocal when I'm not around, and my colleagues are helping with this as they reward her with tasty treats when she stays calm whilst I'm away. I've spend a lot of time creating a strong bond with Eve through lots of playing and grooming.



Behaviour learning

Every week I introduce Eve to a range of new behaviours, whilst refining her current skills and slowly building her confidence. So far we've been practising walking to heel and the 'drop' command, where she lets go of items such as toys when asked. Eve is a very happy pup and she seems to be really engaged during our training sessions.

Recently, we've been working on the 'hand target' command, where Eve is learning to touch my hand with her nose. This behaviour will be extremely useful when Eve gets partnered with her owner as they will be able to find her easier.

(Continued overleaf)



Overcoming challenges

Eve gets a little excited and 'wiggly' when she sees me coming towards her pen. To improve this behaviour, every time I enter, I wait until Eve settles down before taking her out. She is already showing great progress!

When out and about, Eve sometimes finds it hard to ignore other dogs.

I'm trying to regularly expose her to different dogs and monitor her reaction, so that over time she learns to ignore them. I have full confidence in Eve and I'm looking forward to teaching her even more skills.

Thank you for sponsoring Eve. I'm excited to see how she matures and develops over the coming months. Look out for your next Pupdate in June.

The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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.