



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Finn

Finn is a fun-loving  
puppy!

Pupdate 2

# Finn continues his journey



**“ Hello, it’s Bob and June here, Finn’s Puppy Walkers. Welcome to his second Pupdate! ”**

## **Life at home**

Due to COVID-19 there have been a few challenges to Finn’s training that we’ve had to overcome, but Finn has progressed nicely and continues to learn quickly. During lockdown we set up various obstacle courses for Finn in the garden, to try and replicate some of the situations he would normally encounter. We also used CD recordings of traffic, trains and other noises to help Finn continue to feel confident when he experiences these noises outside. Finn has taken these all in his stride.

## **Overcoming challenges**

Lockdown has reduced Finn’s social interaction with other dogs, which has meant that Finn can get a bit distracted when he comes across them. To combat this, we have been meeting up with four other Puppy Walkers who have had similar challenges with their own pups, to train them all together. We’re delighted to say that since training with other pups Finn has already improved his recall, and general lead work.

Currently, we are working on getting Finn used to spending some time on his own, as he has constantly been with us during the isolation period. So far, we are gradually increasing the time he is left by himself, and although he can be a bit mischievous, we're certain as he matures he'll learn to cope with it better. Finn is also now coming with us when we go shopping, and when we go out to restaurants and cafés. He is very well behaved in these situations and all the staff love him!

## Free time fun

Finn has two favourite toys; a knobby ring and his squeaky ball, although he still loves to steal our slippers and thinks it's a great game to run around the house with them. He's very gentle and doesn't damage the slippers but will often sleep with his nose buried inside them! In his free time, he enjoys sleeping and playing with any dog he can find, especially when he's on a free run! Finn is a very friendly and sociable pup.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Finn has grown in his own video:  
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-finn](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-finn)

## Plans for the future

Hopefully, COVID-19 permitting, Finn will be coming with us to the Late District and will be able to enjoy walking around the lakes and up the lower peaks. Staying in a hotel will be a great test to find out how well he has learnt to deal with social situations. He has a lot to live up to as our previous puppies have been voted guest of the week by the hotel staff!

**We can't wait to see Finn progress on his journey to become a guide dog. Look out for his next Pupdate in February!**



## Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker. They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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