



Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Finn

Training commences

Pupdate 4

# Finn is on his way to becoming a guide dog



**“ Hello, it’s Ann here and I am Finn’s new Trainer. ”**

Finn has just joined Guide Dogs Training School and is learning a lot of important skills that will help prepare him for his future career as a qualified guide dog.

## **Finn is a lovely pup**

Due to COVID-19, Finn came to training school a bit later than was originally planned. Instead, he stayed with his fabulous Puppy Raisers Bob and June for slightly longer – which he absolutely loved, as Bob and June are great, and continued to keep Finn active during this time. One of the best things about Bob and June is how innovative they have been with Finn’s training during lockdown; for example, they turned an outside garden bench into a makeshift grooming table for Finn!

## Finn is very sociable

Finn is a very friendly dog who loves spending time with other dogs and people. With lockdown restrictions easing it meant that Finn got to spend time with his puppy pals Meri and Tiana. Both Meri and Tiana were puppies raised by Bob and June and have a lovely connection with Finn. Meeting up with other dogs is great for Finn as it helps him adjust to spending time with other dogs at training school.

Although Bob and June were not able to take Finn onto public transport due to lockdown restrictions, they came up with a very intelligent solution. They would take Finn to visit a train station during quiet times and would practise walking on and off a stationary train. This means that Finn will be familiar with public transport when he practises these skills at training school and will feel confident when travelling on a train.

(Continued overleaf)



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

## Introduction to training school

Finn has now started training school and is being introduced to the vital skills that will help him on his journey towards becoming a fully qualified guide dog. One of the most important parts is when I introduce him to his brown training harness. This will be an exciting landmark for Finn. One of the things I'm most looking forward to is teaching Finn how to avoid obstacles in the street. All the work Bob and June have done setting up DIY obstacles in their garden will definitely have prepared Finn for his future training. When dogs begin training school it is a really exciting time and is a lot of fun. I can't wait to see Finn's progression in the next few months.



**I look forward to updating you on how Finn has progressed at training school in his next Pupdate.**

## 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.

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