



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Finn

Finn is doing well  
at training school!

Pupdate 5

# Finn is on his way to becoming a guide dog



**“ Hello it’s Ann here, Finn’s Trainer. I’m pleased to tell you that Finn is making good progress at training school! ”**

I have been a Trainer for nearly 26 years, and I love it. I’m with dogs all the time, I get to go outside, and every day is different because all the dogs are so individual — what more could you want?

Finn is a very easy-going dog, he settled quickly at training school. When he’s not at the training centre, he stays with a fosterer who looks after him in the evenings and weekends. The family he stays with love him!

## **Life at training school**

Finn is very bright and making steady progress at training school. Each dog learns differently, and at first when I’d take Finn out for a walk, he would take a few breaks before getting used to the routine. To overcome this, I associated walks with big value reward for him. Sometimes I would walk from the car to the training school (where there are lots of rewards like stuffed bones or paddling pools for the summer!) or take Finn on a walk near a free run area. This helped to give Finn the motivation to carry on, and he now walks in a harness well.

I can practise other guiding skills with Finn too and he is particularly good at stopping at kerb edges. I have also taken Finn to areas where I can place artificial obstacles on the pavement. He will navigate the obstacle by going around it and back onto the pavement. Finn is doing brilliantly with this.

## Finn is absolutely great

Finn is a social dog. He does this really funny thing all the time when we are on free runs, where he just flies through the air, it's fantastic! He also likes staying very close to you, even when we are on free runs and there are other dogs nearby. He doesn't get overexcited or distracted by other dogs.

Finn has got character and is such a lovely boy. He is quite relaxed, so I can take him anywhere and he will be on his best behaviour. For that reason, I could see him partnered with someone with a quieter lifestyle. Somebody with a set routine, and who has got time on their hands to take time to do things with Finn, perhaps someone retired. It is still early days though!

(Continued overleaf)



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



## Future plans

I think the main thing to work on is consolidating all the guiding skills that Finn has been learning, so he can get to a stage where he doesn't need prompting from me. Because of COVID-19 I haven't had the chance to take Finn on much public transport, so that is an area we are focussing on. I don't think there will be any problems though, as he travels perfectly well in the car — I think he is going the right way!

**Look out for your next Pupdate to see how Finn gets on with being matched.**



## See how much Finn has grown

We have been taking pictures of Finn since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed. Please visit [guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-finn](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-finn) and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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