



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy

Ginger

Growing up

Pupdate 2

Ginger continues her journey



“ Hello, it’s Jane here, Ginger’s Puppy Raiser. I’m excited to update you on her progress. ”

Ginger came to me after spending a few months with her previous Puppy Raisers as she can be quite a headstrong pup and likes interacting in new environments. Puppy raising is a tremendous privilege; from raising 31 potential life changers over the years, I’ve realised that no two dogs are the same. Every dog has their own distinct character and personality, and all have their own personal challenges.

Settling in at home

Since her arrival, Ginger seems to be developing a bond with me and is more inclined to listen to me rather than doing her own thing. Ginger is an easy going, gentle companion in the home and is a joy to have around!

Ginger has settled well into our household routine and is a firm favourite with our elderly cat Tibs. Tibs is used to all the pups in training, but Ginger has been particularly gentle with him, which is lovely to see. Ginger arrived with a well-loved squeaky soft toy that I like to call ‘piglet’. She enjoys cuddling up with it on her bed and likes carrying it around in her mouth.

Practising skills

I have spent a lot of time improving Ginger's whistle recall in the home, garden and free running. Since she can be quite wilful, I've switched over to using a canny collar, which rewards her when she doesn't pull. Ginger is very happy to wear her canny collar and I can see small improvements which are helping her to listen to me.



When she first came to me, Ginger was reluctant to get in the car, and could be a bit travel sick. We've now reached the stage where Ginger is happy to put her front paws on the boot of the car, and then be lifted in. I had to travel to a larger city for a hospital appointment recently and you wouldn't have known she was in the car – she was brilliant. During the trip, I worried that Ginger might be overwhelmed as this city can be a lot busier than what she's used to. Fascinatingly Ginger was totally unfazed and loved watching trains at the train station. Ginger is a clever little girl, and I think she thrives when she's in a situation with lots going on.



Looking ahead

Ginger loves to free run in the woods with Ellie and Daisy, two older pet dogs. Both dogs are a great influence on Ginger; they've quickly recognised that if they come back when the whistle is blown, they'll get a treat. This in turn, encourages Ginger to run back.



(Continued overleaf)



See how Ginger has grown in her own video:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ginger

Ginger is a strong-willed dog who can sometimes be easily distracted. The challenge with training her is getting her to engage and give eye contact when out and about. It's important for dogs to communicate and look upwards when they are young as they need the visual cues to understand the command that is being given. One thing that Ginger struggles with is getting a bit distracted during training. As a result, I've been taking her on many short and repetitive exercises in the garden, to try and make things second nature to her. Although there's a lot to work on I'm hoping to help Ginger succeed in these areas in the future!



Ginger is a clever pup who is a joy to be around. Look out for your next Pupdate in October!

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 Raiser. 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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