



Sponsor
a Puppy



Grace

Grace's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your February Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Grace



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**Hello,
it's Wayne
here, Grace's
Puppy Raiser.**

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I've been involved with Guide Dogs for a few years now and began my journey when I saw a post on Facebook advertising puppy raising. Initially, I thought that it would interest my wife, Mandy, so I sent her the link. But the more I learnt about it, the more interested I became; as they say, the rest is history.

Grace is the second pup I've raised and she's so different to my first. I'm enjoying the challenge of learning new techniques, discovering more about PREP (Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships) and understanding how the skills I'm teaching Grace will set her up for her future career.

Grace's personality

Grace is such a lovely pup – full of mischief and energy, and she loves learning. One of her favourite things to do is chase our pet dog Elsie around the garden. She will do anything I ask, especially when she knows a tasty treat is waiting for her. Grace's favourite toy is anything that big sister Elsie is playing with – I'm sure many parents know that feeling!

They love playing together in the sandpit and agility tunnel in our back garden. One of my favourite things is hiding a toy in the sandpit. Grace will dig it up and zoom around the garden with it.

One of Grace's funniest quirks is that every morning she takes out all her toys and blankets from her 'bedroom'; it's our sign that she's woken up and is ready to start the day. At the end of each day, Grace lets us know when she's ready to go to bed by giving us a five-minute cuddle. Then, after she has finished, she takes herself off to bed – it's the sweetest thing!

Training so far

Grace picks everything up so quickly and is a joy to train. She's so observant and as soon as I reach for her treat bag, she sits down hoping to get one. I've been teaching Grace the cues 'sit', 'stand' and 'place' which she's mastered so quickly. Grace has also been on her first car journey with big sister Elsie. Having Elsie there helped reassure her that the car is a safe place to be. I've only taken her on a few short journeys but since that first trip she has been fantastic!

Grace is very polite and anytime we meet someone new, she sits down and patiently waits for them to come close and give her a fuss; it's adorable.



Learn more about Grace's personality by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-grace



New skills

Over the next few months, one of the many skills I'll be working on teaching Grace is helping her to become less distracted on training walks. When we are out and about, it can be challenging to keep Grace focused, as she is so mesmerised by everything she sees that even yummy treats don't bring her attention back to me. To tackle this, I'm going to use a squeaky toy that she'll only get during walks and free runs; hopefully this will regain her attention and keep her focus on me.

Thank you for sponsoring Grace. I hope you've enjoyed her Pupdate, and I look forward to updating you on her progress in June!





See how much Grace has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Grace since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed.

To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-grace and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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