



Grace

**Grace is
growing up!**

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; 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



“
**Hello, it's
Wayne here,
Grace's
Puppy Raiser.**
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Since your first Pupdate, Grace has grown so quickly, she's now taller and still so good-natured!

She's always on the go, finding new ways to amuse herself while our pet Labrador Elsie prefers to sleep. She likes to play with her octopus and dinosaur soft toys, or any toy Elsie picks up first! But ear scratches and tummy tickles are her favourite: if you stop, she'll look around, asking for more. She's so expressive!

New skills

Grace has very good food manners and she won't touch Elsie's food. After she finishes her meal, she'll bring you her empty dish if you don't pick it up first! She likes to help in this way; when the post arrives through the letterbox, she collects letters occasionally, and lately she's been fetching my slippers in the hall just before I arrive home. My wife Mandy has started taking it as a signal to put the kettle on!

Whilst this is an adorable trait, we'll be working with Grace to reduce this behaviour as moving personal items around would be challenging for a future owner with sight loss.

Grace is great at grooming and the bucket game is very helpful when I brush her fluffy coat: she has learnt that when she focuses on the bucket, she gets a treat, and I'll keep brushing her. If she looks away, it's her way of saying it's time for a break. Cleaning her eyes and ears is very easy too, she sits so patiently while I do it.



New people and places

Grace is doing really well when out and about, after an initial burst of energy she settles nicely. She walks beautifully on a lead and we are building up to a TTouch harness as she did so well adjusting to her puppy coat. The TTouch harness allows multiple points of contact with her body, helping her to comfortably interpret different physical signals.



I've also introduced her to the bus. At first, she was a little apprehensive, but now she sits and waits nicely. When we arrive at the supermarket, she's so good and calm. Sometimes at cafés she can seem a little confused, but when I start to get her mat and toys out of her bag, she understands it's time to settle.



Learn more about the new places Grace has been exploring by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-grace



Scan me

Grace is so friendly, and she likes meeting new people. I've been working on her distraction; meeting adults or other dogs is fine now, but meeting children is still a work in progress. She likes them because she knows she'll always get cuddles so she tends to get overexcited when she sees them.

Since Grace loves a free run, I take her and Elsie down to the local park. She's always interested in the ducks and swans who live in the pond. Every time I call her she runs towards me, her recall is amazing!

Looking to the future

Grace is such a joyful dog, I'll definitely miss her when she goes to training school; she's become part of our family! But it's really helpful for me to think that she's going on to be trained to achieve something amazing.

Thank you for sponsoring Grace. I'm excited to update you on her progress in your next Pupdate in October!



Where is Grace on her Pupdate journey?



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What is PREP?

Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. PREP was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. PREP treats each pup as an individual and helps to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.



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