



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Grace

Grace's getting
out and about

Pupdate 3

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these beautiful autumnal months.

Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide our incredible life-changing services. It's estimated that six million people in the UK live with sight-threatening eye conditions, and more than two million of these are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. At Guide Dogs, we want to support as many people as possible through these life-altering changes, providing the right services to help everyone.

Did you know that training and partnering our wonderful guide dogs isn't all we offer? We also provide support to adults through our My Sighted Guide service which partners trained volunteer guides with a person with a visual impairment. For children and young people, we offer a fantastic range of support, from companion dogs via our buddy dogs scheme to personalised, large print books through CustomEyes Books. Our expertise means we can make life-changing differences to those affected by sight loss, enabling them to live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. Thank you for helping us to do this with your generous support.

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

Yours sincerely,



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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Grace is a wonderful companion and raising her is so enriching. Being by her side during the first part of her journey is amazing. The best reward is knowing that the cues I'm teaching her now will help her to progress in training school, and hopefully change someone's life.

Gorgeous Grace

She's the same lovable Grace, always bringing me a toy to say 'good morning'. She loves to play with her big sister Elsie; when they're each given a snack, they take it into a separate room, and you can hear them crunching it; they're so funny! Grace's favourite toys are a teddy bear and of course her octopus soft toy, which she'll take to training school when the time comes.

Apart from her 'Grace-fulness', she's always playing in the sandpit and exploring the part of the garden where the strawberries grow - Elsie taught her that's where the best smells are!

Grace has a strong personality. She's independent and knows what she wants to do. She's very food driven and loves to get the food out of her Kong toy, especially when it's her favourite kibble.

Skills and experiences

Grace loves children. Since her last Pupdate, I've been working on improving her distraction while meeting them. I work in a school, and it's the ideal environment for her to meet lots of kids of all ages. She behaves very well. It's great to teach children when they can approach qualified guide dogs or dogs in training, always asking for permission from the owner first. I took her to sports day to help improve her distraction; she was amazing and settled so well.

My wife Mandy and I have visited many different places with Grace: we've been to restaurants, cafés and a large shopping centre. We've been practising walking up and down the stairs and stopping at the top and bottom. I also travelled by train with Grace and she wasn't fazed at all.

Grace and I meet other puppy raisers and their pups regularly, and it's great for her to socialise. She also had the chance to sleep over at my daughter's house. I thought she'd miss me, but on the contrary, all was well; surprisingly, she also got along well with the cat!



Find out how Grace is mastering the skills she needs for training school by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-grace



Scan me

The future

In the next few months, I'll practice what Grace's already learnt, and I'll focus on her distraction with dogs when we go for a walk, and during her free runs. She also needs to learn that she shouldn't move my slippers around the house, as this could cause a future owner some confusion. I know she does this because it's her way of showing me she can't wait to see me after I finish working; it's a work in progress.

Mandy and I think that Grace would be a great companion. She loves cuddles, and she's great around children too. We'll miss her when she goes to training school. We'd like to raise another puppy in the future, and I'm sure Elsie would be happy about that too!

Thank you for sponsoring Grace. Find out how she's progressing in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Grace
on her Pupdate
journey?



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Our breeds

Labradors and golden retrievers are the most common pure breeds in our training programme, and historically crossing these two breeds has produced the most successful guide dogs. But did you know that we also breed and train German shepherds, poodles and curly coated retrievers? These dogs often become successful guides and also provide secondary benefits, such as longer strides for faster walkers, or shedding less hair which is very important for guide dog owners with allergies to dog hair!



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