



Grace

**A match made
in heaven**

Pupdate 6

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Hello, it's Clare here,
Grace's owner.

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My sight loss journey began in 2016, when I was diagnosed with a hereditary neurological disease after having surgery. After the surgery, I lost a lot of weight, which, alongside my hereditary disease, caused my sight loss.

I have some residual vision, but everything looks pixelated, so I trip over things really easily. I can only see things in front of me if there's lots of contrast – if there was a bollard in the middle of the road, then I'd probably not realise it was there.

I've always lived in a rural area, so having a car was my lifeline. But since losing my sight, I'm not able to drive anymore. I felt like everything in my life was coming to a standstill; I'd lost all control.



I was referred to a local sensory needs team, and the lovely lady there taught me how to get out and about again. I was really reluctant to use a cane at first because I didn't want people to know that I couldn't see properly. But I knew I had to get out because I was feeling more and more isolated. With my kids at school and my partner at work all day, I felt so lonely.

Meeting Grace

The lady from the sensory needs team told me that her father had a visual impairment and that he'd previously had several guide dogs. She suggested I apply as she thought a guide dog could change my life, so I applied.

I started training with my first guide dog, Blae, but the partnership didn't work out. He's a lovely, playful boy, but he didn't want to guide, so I lost a little bit of hope. Then Grace walked into my life, and it was like a miracle. I couldn't believe how well we worked together, it just seemed perfect. I had to pinch myself!

Amazing Grace

Every day with her has been amazing. She's just so sweet! Each morning, she's so excited to see me that she presents me with her teddy. She won't let me have it, but she'll always bring it to me and then run off with it to play.

Grace is not just a guide though, we're a real team. Sometimes I get very fatigued, and I have to lie down and close my eyes. I guarantee when I open them that Grace has laid down on the floor next to me. She never leaves my side.

Our life together

Life is so different now. I can just put Grace's harness on, and we can walk out and go wherever we need to go. It's wonderful! One of the biggest differences about walking with Grace is how smooth it is. With a cane, if there's uneven pavement, you end up with a bruise because if it hits something, it jars and it can hurt. Grace keeps me safe and already seems to know our routes. And when we go to cafés, she'll sit on my feet there too! We've bonded very well together, and it's a pleasure to catch up with our Guide Dog Mobility Specialist, Ben, during aftercare appointments.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Grace. I can't believe how perfectly suited we are to each other, and how she's changed my life.



Join Clare and Grace as they head out
and about by scanning the QR code
with your smartphone or going to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-grace



Scan me



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Clare, Grace's partner

Where is Grace
on her Pupdate
journey?



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Thank you so much for sponsoring Grace!

We believe that visual impairment shouldn't stop people from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs to those affected by sight loss, helping them to live their lives exactly as they choose. This wouldn't be possible without kind people like you, and we can't thank you enough for your incredible support. Together, we can continue to train more pups like Grace and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Clare.



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