



Hazel

**Hazel's just started
her journey!**

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're well and enjoying the longer days and warmer weather as we begin to welcome summer!

We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. Because of supporters like you, we've been able to create over 36,000 life-changing partnerships to date. That's more than 400 lives transformed each year for 93 years - and counting!

Did you know that 2 million people live with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050? We're committed to providing support to as many people as possible, for as long as that support is needed. With the cost of living continuing to rise, we appreciate your help now more than ever. Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs.

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

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Hazel



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**Hello, it's
Noreen here,
Hazel's Puppy
Raiser.**

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I'm very much a dog person; I've had many pet dogs in the past, and Hazel is my second guide dog puppy. I'm semi-retired, and having a puppy around gives me some extra company. Puppy raising adds so much to my life. It gives me a purpose and allows me to meet very nice people.

Settling in

Hazel's growing up fast; she's very tall and leggy! She's the first girl pup I've had. She's very sweet-natured; her personality is so calm compared to my previous pups at her age.

Hazel settled in at home quickly: I slept on the sofa close to her bed for the first two nights. Now she's settled, she sleeps very comfortably. Hazel adapted to the new routine straight away. She wakes up eager to play with her favourite toys - Pinkity Pink, a cuddly pink dragon, and Wonky Donk, a soft grey donkey. Then, it's breakfast time! We enjoy a training walk around lunchtime, followed by some downtime in the afternoon. I usually work from home, but if I need to go to the office, she comes with me - she's such a good girl!

Hazel's first experiences

Hazel's a little lady with manners that make everyone smile – people often think she's older than she really is! She's been busy learning all sorts of interesting things in puppy classes. Hazel's mastering new cues like 'sit' and 'down'; she's learning to focus on what she's asked, even when there are distractions like loud noises in busy places or dogs playing nearby. Hazel's starting to master the art of maintaining her position after each cue; she stays still even when I drop her lead and take a few steps back. It's important for her to learn this, so that her future owner is able to let go of her lead or harness and know that she won't have moved away.

Let's not forget to mention Hazel's impeccable food manners! She always waits politely for her bowl to be placed on the floor and for the cue 'okay' before eating. She's learned to ignore any human food while I'm eating too. She'll just sit on her mat – what a good girl!

Hazel enjoys exploring the world with new sights and smells. She's so friendly and always happy to meet new people and dogs when out and about.



Hear more about the cues that Hazel's learning with Noreen by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-hazel



Scan me

Hazel greets them with a wagging tail; she's confident and respectful of their space. She's making friends of all ages! Hazel particularly loves my 6-year-old grandson, who visits a couple of times a week, and he adores her. They're about the same size and full of energy; they play a lot together! They also enjoy cosy story times and even watch TV together. Hazel always stares at the farm animals on the screen (pigs are her favourite!).

Looking forward

My plan with Hazel is to keep practising what she's already learnt and build her confidence in new places and situations. I'm going to explore more spots with her like restaurants, shopping centres and busier areas.

Thank you for sponsoring Hazel. I hope you enjoyed reading her first Pupdate, and I can't wait to update you on her progress in October!



Where is Hazel
on her Pupdate
journey?



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Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 7-8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are usually spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! **To find out more about volunteering, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer.**



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