



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Hazel

The journey
continues

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying the start of the new season, as the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisper again.

Did you know that every day, 250 people in the UK start to lose their sight, four of which are estimated to be children? Nearly half report feeling isolated and cut off from the world around them. Together, we can change that.

Your support goes beyond helping puppies become life changers; you're also making a multitude of vital services possible. We're dedicated to breaking down barriers by providing information, advice and support for adults, children and families. None of this would be possible without supporters like you.

Thank you for your invaluable and continued support of Guide Dogs. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of people with sight loss, ensuring everyone can live actively, independently, and well. You are making a massive difference!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Steph".

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Hazel



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

”

Hazel is still beautiful, independent and gentle. She's got a really good nature and hasn't changed much since she first arrived – she's just got leggier! Those legs mean that she runs really fast, starting every morning with 'zoomies' in the garden. Hazel loves long grass and hops and jumps for a while before whizzing around wildly. It's fantastic to watch!

New skills and experiences

Hazel and I have been to many new places together, from theatres to castles! We've also been visiting more everyday places, such as supermarkets and libraries. While we're there, I've been working on dropping the lead and taking a few steps away from Hazel while I look at what's on the shelves. I'm encouraging her to stay put until I come back and give the signal that we're going to move on. When I first tried this, she was a little confused! But she's happy with it now and doesn't move until I come back.

I've also been to give talks at local events, and I brought Hazel with me. It's a great way to promote Sponsor a Puppy and gives Hazel experience in different environments. She was a star and wasn't fazed at all by the new people or locations.

Hazel is fantastic and takes to anything. I've found that pups pick up on how you're feeling more than anything, so I try to remain positive and confident, and Hazel seems to reflect this back to me.

Playtime

Hazel has lots of canine pals who she sees regularly. She often meets up with my son's Staffordshire bull terrier, Peggy. They love to play together, but Peggy is a bit older than Hazel and gets tired faster. When she's had enough, she walks away, and then Hazel looks at me as if she's asking why she's left! It's important for Hazel to learn that not all dogs want to play all the time, and although I think Hazel would prefer to keep playing, she's very respectful of Peggy.

Hazel's best friend is Orwell, a golden retriever who is also in training. Orwell loves water, and the two of them enjoy exploring parks and woodlands together. Hazel likes to swim too, so they're a perfect pair!

Hazel can sometimes have trouble settling when we're out with other dogs. She's never distracted by other dogs we pass on the street, but she's started to associate her puppy pals with playtime, so she finds it challenging to focus when they're around.



Join Hazel and Noreen on a trip to the library by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-hazel



Scan me

To help with this, I've been taking her on lead walks with dogs she knows but not ending the walk with the usual playing session. This will help her to learn that seeing other dogs isn't always about play and encourage her to remain focused.

Looking ahead

The main things Hazel and I will be working on over the next few months are recall and dog distraction. Hazel has fantastic recall when we're alone, but if other dogs or people are around, she becomes a bit distracted. In these situations, I've been using a high-value treat, like cheese, to reward Hazel when she focuses on me. She's already made great progress!

Thank you so much for sponsoring Hazel. Look out for her next Pupdate in February!



Where is Hazel
on her Pupdate
journey?



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What is Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs?

Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. It 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. We treat each pup as an individual and help to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.

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