



Henry

Settling in

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Welcome to your June Pupdate

We hope you've been enjoying the longer days and warmer weather that June brings. We're so excited to share what your sponsored pup has been getting up to!

Did you know that we breed and train more dogs than any other organisation internationally? We have a world-class breeding and training programme which focuses on dog health, behaviour and genetic merit. This helps us set our pups up for careers as future life changers. But none of this would be possible without kind people like you! By sponsoring one of our special puppies, you're helping us support the 1 in 5 people affected by sight loss in their lifetime.

Beyond our wonderful dogs, we also provide a range of services for people of all ages. From mobility skills to children's large print books, we're here for anyone who needs us. Your donations make this possible!

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Henry



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**Hello, it's
Jo here,
Henry's
Puppy Raiser.**

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I've been raising guide dog puppies for about three years, and Henry is the fourth puppy I've had. I previously raised Theo, a yellow Labrador and also a sponsored pup, who recently qualified as a buddy dog.

It didn't take long for Henry to settle in with me. I'm also raising a black golden retriever cross German shepherd called Ulla; she's older than Henry, but they share a dad, so she's actually his half-sister! The two of them sleep in the same room at night, and I think this helped Henry to feel comfortable straight away.

Henry is very laid back and intelligent – he picks things up quickly. He's also very affectionate, and his whole bottom wiggles whenever you pet him.

Favourite things

Henry loves lots of toys, but his favourite is his teddy bear. Sometimes he can get a little over-enthusiastic with it, so it's been to 'teddy bear hospital' a few times for some stitches, but he loves it just the same! Even though Henry is young, he's already learnt how to share and always makes sure that Ulla has time with his teddy too. It's very sweet!

Although Henry shares his toys, he hasn't always been so generous with food. When he first arrived, he'd scoff down his own dinner with his tail wagging, and then he'd turn to Ulla and try to finish hers! Ulla is so patient that she just let him eat it, so we had to teach Henry to let her finish her own dinner. We did this by encouraging him to leave Ulla alone while she finished her food and rewarding him when he did so. He's bright, so he picked this up quickly.

Another of Henry's favourite things is shoes – the smellier, the better! We have to remember to put our shoes away, or else we have to go on a shoe hunt every time we want to leave the house. My teenagers always forget, so I usually find their shoes scattered around the house after Henry's pinched them! He doesn't chew them; he just likes to move them around, and sometimes he'll curl up and cuddle with them. It's a funny quirk but I'm teaching him it's more fun to play with his toys than our shoes.



See what Henry is learning with Puppy Raiser Jo by going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-henry

Learning skills

Henry has already mastered basic cues like 'sit', 'down' and 'wait'. He'll wait while I go through a door in front of him, and he'll also lie waiting if I drop his lead and walk around him. He's very good with his food manners now too – I can drop kibble on the floor, and he knows not to go for it until I pick it up and hand it to him. He also waits until I give the 'okay' cue before eating his dinner, even after I've put his bowl on the floor. He's such a clever pup.

When we go for free runs, Henry loves making friends with the other dogs he meets, and he has pretty good recall too. He's such a sweet boy and just wants everyone (human and dog) to love him!

Find out how Henry's training is going in your next Pupdate in October. Thank you so much for sponsoring him.





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 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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