



Sponsor
a Puppy



Hope

Developing skills

Pupdate 2

Hope experiences the world



“ Hello, it’s Helen here, Hope’s Puppy Walker. I’m excited to update you on her progress! ”

Hope has been living with us since last summer, but over the past few months, it’s been quite different for her due to the impact of coronavirus and social distancing guidelines. Luckily for Hope, she has been sharing the house with three other dogs recently, so life has never been boring for her! She’s still particularly fond of our pet dog Barney who she likes to follow around and play with.

Hope’s confidence grows

Throughout the time we’ve had Hope I’ve seen her confidence soar. She is so confident now and is a real thinker; she really likes to think things through which may mean she is sometimes slower in accepting new situations or environments. But this cautiousness is a positive as I know she will never put her future owner into any situation she is unsure of.

Hope is very good at her basic commands of ‘sit’, ‘down’, ‘stay’ and ‘wait’.

She can still be quite excitable when on the lead, so I like to give her a few minutes to calm down before we start walking. She's just so eager and willing to work! Hope also practises whistle feeding with her friends; it's quite amusing to watch four dogs all wait for the whistle before they rush to their food bowls!



New sights and smells

Before the social distancing guidelines were put in place, we took Hope to Blackpool Tower where she spent a lot of time travelling on trams and experienced buses, trains and cars. Lately we've had to overcome the challenges of the travel restrictions and adapt our training routine. We're lucky that we live near a friend's paddock, so Hope has been able to have free runs in a beautiful enclosed area. She loves running around on her own or with other dogs. One of her favourite places is a nearby country park which has a mixture of terrain for her to experience.



(Continued overleaf)



See how much Hope has grown:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-hope

Future plans

Once we're allowed out and about again, we're hoping to take Hope to visit a beach and since she loves watching children's rides, we thought we'd take her to Skegness for the day so she can experience lots of different sights and sounds – including the amusement arcades!

I'm looking forward to updating you on Hope's adventures in the next Pupdate!



Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker. They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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