



**Guide  
Dogs**

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Hope

**Hope's started  
training school**

*Pupdate 4*

# Hope is on her way to becoming a guide dog



“ Hello, it’s Laura here and I am Hope’s new trainer. ”

I have been a Guide Dog Trainer for twelve years. The best part of my job is interacting with the dogs. I love all the dogs I work with, and it’s rewarding knowing you’re playing a part in helping give independence to someone’s life.

## Hope is a sociable dog

Hope has been great from the get-go. She’s settled in really quickly. We mixed Hope with some of the other dogs at training school which she loved as she is a very sociable pup.

When Hope arrived at training school she travelled with fellow pup in training Jances. They love each other, and even bump into each other in the local park sometimes! It can be helpful to introduce the new dogs in training to some of the older pups as they can often pick up good behaviours – which we’ve definitely seen with Hope.

## Learning new skills

I've introduced Hope to her training harness, and she has been great with this straight away. Some dogs need some time to get used to the feeling of the harness against their fur, but I had no problems with Hope. Now I am teaching her to stop at curb edges and to wait for instructions. I am also hoping to introduce her to obstacle avoidance in the future.

Although we haven't been on public transport due to Covid-19, I'm planning to take Hope when it is safe to do so. I have no doubts that she'll be fine as Hope is confident with everything she puts her mind to.

## Hope has a loving personality

Hope is a very sweet dog and has a loving personality. She likes interacting with humans and animals! I've been really impressed at how good Hope is at travelling in a van, which is a testament to her puppy raisers who have a similar set up in their car. This has helped us progress through training nicely as I haven't had to worry about her being anxious in the van.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Hope has grown in her own video:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-hope](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-hope)



The only issue with Hope's sociable personality is that she can be a bit distracted if I take her to busier places – she wants to say hello to people, and stop and have a sniff of new scents. Especially if Hope sees another dog, she can get a bit excitable and she loves to play! To combat this I've been taking Hope to quieter environments to begin with, and then gradually introducing her to busier places. I'm sure she'll learn not to be distracted in no time at all.

**I look forward to updating you on how Hope has progressed at training school in her next Pupdate.**



## The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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