



Lyn & Hope

The perfect match

Pupdate 6

Thank you for sponsoring Hope

Hello, it's Lyn here, Hope's new owner. I can't thank you enough for your support in making our partnership happen.

I have very limited sight; one of my eyes has no sight whatsoever and I only have 6% vision in the other. When I lost my sight, I didn't go out at all. Now, Hope is my eyes and she's been just amazing.

Losing my sight

I woke up one morning about four years ago and my sight had gone. I thought it must be a temporary thing initially, but when my sight didn't improve, I went to the hospital.

I was told that due to my Diabetes, blood hadn't been getting to the back of my eyes and the damage was permanent.

Life before Hope

I'm a fairly positive person, so I started using a white cane. However, I had to ask for help all the time; so much so that I didn't think the cane was working. Around this time, my daughter contacted Guide Dogs, but then COVID-19 struck. I thought I'd be waiting forever when I received a call to say Guide Dogs had found me a possible match; I couldn't believe it!



Meeting Hope

When I met Hope, she opened a whole new world to me. My local doctors offered to take me and Hope on a VIP tour and meet all the staff to ensure they'd all be ready for us when we next turned up. Attitudes of people changed towards me too – people would offer to help before I even needed it!

Hope is my first guide dog. Partnership training took around five weeks and initially I had to show Karen, my Guide Dogs Mobility Specialist, the regular routes I took and things I do. We then practised these with Hope. I was pretty scared at first, as I was relying on a dog and yet trying to concentrate on Karen's instructions too. Karen was lovely though and patiently taught me all the verbal cues such as 'forward', 'stop', 'left over', 'keep in' and 'keep right'.

Settling into home life

I had to adjust to having a dog around, but Hope made herself at home so quickly! She had a good look around and then just settled. She's such a chilled dog it's unbelievable! Mind you, when I take her on a free run, she's like a racehorse!

Hope is very intelligent too; when we stop at traffic lights, she knows I carry biscuits in my pocket and sometimes she'll nudge me to give her one for being good.

Sometimes I challenge her and say, "Show me three steps", and after each step she'll look at me, but knows she'll only get a biscuit at the third step!

Hope has brought me hope

I was always happy to be on my own before, but Hope gives me a reason to get up and out the house. I go to my friend's house quite often who has two pet dogs, and Hope is so calm walking there wearing her harness. As soon as she's at the front door, she gets so excited to see her friends!

Before I had Hope, if it was raining or dark, I wouldn't go out. I couldn't see at all, so I would wait until it got lighter. I can go anywhere now – Hope is my purpose in life. I like to take her out and look after her, and I can go out at 7am if I want because she is my eyes. That trust when she's walking with me is just amazing!

I hope you've enjoyed following Hope's journey and watching her grow from a tiny puppy into an incredible life-changing guide dog. I can't thank you enough for your support in making our partnership possible.



**“ When I met Hope, she opened
a whole new world to me. ”**
Lyn, Hope’s new owner



For more photos of Hope, please visit:
sponsorapuppy.org.uk/puppy-hope



Your sponsor a puppy journey doesn't end here

Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. Of those, around 180,000 rarely leave their homes alone and lead lonely, isolated lives. Our aim is to help people with sight loss feel part of life.

Your support makes this possible and we do hope you can continue helping our life-changing work. Your new puppy's amazing adventure to become a guide dog awaits!



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