



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Jack

The journey starts!

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Welcome to your February Pupdate

The colder months are nearly behind us and spring is just around the corner.

The UK's first guide dog partnership qualified in 1931. Since then, we have matched over 37,500 people with a guide dog – that's at least one new partnership every day for the last 94 years. Our dogs help people with sight loss to get out and about safely, providing life-changing support every single day. They help people with visual impairments to enjoy the freedom and independence many of us take for granted.

1 in 5 people will live with sight loss in their lifetime. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping us provide vital services, from mobility training to assistive technology and more, that enrich the lives of adults and children with visual impairments. None of this would be possible without supporters like you!

I hope you enjoy reading the latest news from your sponsored puppy. Thank you for being a part of their journey.

Yours sincerely,

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

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Jack



“
**Hello, it's
Andreina
here, Jack's
Puppy Raiser**
”

I've known about Guide Dogs since I was very young, when I used to collect milk bottle tops for them. I've always loved dogs, and I became a puppy raiser six years ago; it all started when I saw an advert in the local paper. Puppy raising is the perfect fit for my life; it's a fulfilling experience and a way to do something I love, giving back to the community.

A pup's life

Jack is the sixth pup I've raised. He's a bundle of energy and mischief who has completely conquered my heart, especially with his love for cuddles. He's settled very well into our home, partly thanks to the companionship of his fellow Guide Dogs housemates: Darcy, a 1-year-old black Labrador who I'm fostering, and Sam, a 6-year-old yellow Labrador cross golden retriever I rehomed. Jack is learning lots from them, including how to communicate, and how to overcome his youthful exuberance and play gently. Jack has a particular fondness for his litter sister Isha, who is also a puppy in training. I often meet her puppy raiser for coffee. Their playdates are filled with so much puppy energy!

I never get bored with Jack. He loves to play, chasing his big apple, tomato, and broccoli soft toys, not to mention anything that squeaks. He's also a big fan of enrichment toys like his snuffle mat and Kong; he gets so excited when he finds the kibble or tasty treats hidden inside them! A funny quirk of his is that he always 'helps me' do the housework by chasing the broom and the vacuum cleaner – I find it so funny!

First experiences

Jack and I have recently started puppy classes. He can't wait to get in and meet the other puppies; he's learning to settle in their presence after an initial wave of enthusiasm. I've been introducing him to a variety of cues and he's now mastered 'sit', 'wait', and 'down' – he's such a quick learner! I'm working on his food manners too, teaching him to wait until I give him the cue 'okay' before eating his food.

His recall is great, except when something particularly enticing catches his attention, such as other dogs or wildlife! I'll be working on this in the future to help him build focus and overcome dog distraction. Jack is a fearless little pup, unfazed by loud noises and new experiences. He's incredible! Even when the bin lorry passes by, he just wags his tail happily; his confidence will serve him well in his future whenever he encounters something new.



Watch what Jack is learning with Puppy Raiser Andreina by going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-jack

What's next

I'm planning to visit more places with Jack, from cafés, supermarkets and shopping centres to more unusual environments like museums and sea life centres. The cinema will have to wait until he's a bit older and better at settling down. It's incredibly rewarding to see Jack grow up; he brings so much joy and laughter into my life, and I cherish every moment with him.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Jack! I'm excited to update you on what he's learnt in your next Pupdate in June.





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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