



Jack

New adventures unfolding

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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 Jack



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

Growing up

Jack is growing up well, and I'm seeing the typical 'teenage' traits emerge in him. He's still his energetic and lovable self, with a bit of extra cheekiness. His favourite soft toys, the apple, tomato, and broccoli, are still a big hit! Jack always plays with my pet dog, yellow Labrador cross golden retriever, Sam. Darcy, the black Labrador in training I was fostering, has recently left my home to become a guide dog.

Ongoing learning

Jack is a very confident pup, and new environments don't seem to faze him. He's had a lot of varied experiences out and about, from shops and garden centres to fundraising events. We've also been to town fayres at historical sites and taken trips to the theatre. He's done so well in these busy places, unconcerned by the noise, or the smell of food. He's even accompanied me to a sports massage session, where he settled perfectly despite all the new scents of the ointments and oils!

Puppy classes are ongoing, and I'm working on Jack entering them calmly, waiting with me at the doorway without rushing in. I'm also helping him ignore distractions from people wanting to pet him when we're out and about. He's excellent on public transport; when I say the cue 'under' he settles perfectly between my legs and my seat, finding a comfortable spot to travel safely.

Recall is a challenge for Jack at this stage as his curiosity grows. He's great when I take him on a solo free run, but when other dogs are around, it takes a little longer to get his attention – it's typical for pups his age. I'm confident that as he matures, he'll learn to come back straight away when I call him. We're also working on distractions like cats and pigeons, using positive reinforcement: every time he focuses on me instead of them, I'll reward him with praise and kibble. I'll expose him more and more to all types of animals so he can get used to them and learn to observe them calmly.

As a future guide dog, Jack will likely accompany his potential owner to cafés; this is why it's essential for him to learn to find a comfortable space on his mat beside a table and relax.



See how Jack is doing with Puppy Raiser Andy by going to:

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

So far, he prefers to sit rather than lie down on his mat; I'm working on teaching him to settle comfortably by giving him a snack to nibble. When he's finished it, he tends to bark to get my attention. With time, he'll learn that if he barks for attention, he won't get a fuss, but when he's calm and quiet, he will.

What's next?

Jack's still very young and I'm really pleased with his progress so far; we'll take the next steps of his journey at his pace. I'm planning a cinema trip when he's a few months older and more comfortable in dark environments.

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





What is Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs?

Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. It was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. We treat each pup as an individual and help to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.

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