



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Judy

Training school

Pupdate 4

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and enjoying these beautiful autumn months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Considering the current economic challenges, we are so grateful for your continued commitment; you form an integral part of the Guide Dogs family. Your generosity is helping children and adults living with sight loss to live independent and confident lives.

Every day 250 more people join the two million already living with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050. Our services are needed now more than ever. Our guide dogs and buddy dogs really do change lives, and we couldn't breed and train these incredible dogs without you. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Judy has arrived at training school



“
**Hello, it’s
Sam here, I’m
training Judy
alongside
Roberto.**
”

I joined the Guide Dogs Academy in January this year and I’m currently training to become a qualified Guide Dog Mobility Specialist. The Guide Dogs Academy provides specialist ‘on the job’ training for Guide Dog Trainers and Guide Dog Mobility Specialists. My mentor is Roberto, who started his career as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor in Italy in 2009 and moved to the UK in 2018; he’s got 13 years of experience so is the perfect coach for me and Judy!

Judy’s settled in well

Judy has adapted well to training school. Some dogs can find the change quite challenging, but Judy has taken it all in her stride. Her puppy raisers, Sally and Mike, sent her with a bag packed full of toys and treats so she had lots of familiar scents to help her settle. When she first arrived, we spent a lot of time showing her around the centre and letting her investigate the new environment. We were very impressed with her confidence; she hasn’t barked once which is amazing for a new dog!

Judy has a lovely fun personality; she absolutely adores people and is always demanding cuddles! She never fails to make us laugh; she’s really flexible and will get herself into some very strange sleeping positions!

New skills

Judy's already got a really strong foundation thanks to Sally and Mike. She's especially good at food manners; we could drop a whole bag of food in front of her and she wouldn't touch it without permission!

We've introduced Judy to platform training, which tends to be one of the first skills that we teach dogs as it can then be used to teach more advanced skills like obstacle avoidance. Judy quickly learnt that by moving towards the platform and standing with all four paws on it, she would get rewarded. After we had created that association, we were able to introduce an obstacle in between us and the platform. The platform acts as a target for Judy and she will naturally move around the obstacle to get to it; we then use our body positioning and collar cues to direct her back onto a straight path, simulating what she would be doing if she were guiding. Judy's making great progress with this, and we will continue to increase the distance and number of obstacles as she becomes more confident.



Discover how Judy locates a crossing box by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-Judy



Looking ahead

Sometimes Judy can get a bit distracted when she's out on a training walk; she struggles to keep focused for the entirety of the session. When her mind is on other things, she will often pull to one side, usually hugging a wall or fence that runs alongside the pavement. When this happens, we take a break and let her have a sniff around until she's ready to continue. We'll continue to work on her focus over the next few months.

We are very proud of Judy's progress so far. She's such a lovely dog and her affectionate personality never fails to bring smiles to all the staff. We're excited to update you on her progress in your February 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.



/SponsorAPuppy



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