



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Judy & Alicia

The greatest
partnership

Pupdate 6

Changing direction

In Judy's last Pupdate, her trainer Sam explained how she had struggled with the training programme. Although Sam worked hard to reintroduce Judy's training gradually, with the welfare and safety of both Judy and a future owner in mind, we decided a career as a guide dog was simply not right for her. However, Judy was assessed as a buddy dog and passed with flying colours – well done Judy! Buddy dogs are companions for children and young people with vision impairment. Although they do not aid mobility as a guide dog does, they help to develop self-confidence, build trust and improve relationships.

“

**Hello, I'm Kim,
and I'm pleased
to tell you that
Judy has been
partnered with
my daughter
Alicia as a
buddy dog.**

”

Alicia's life before Judy

Alicia is 13 years old. She has an eye condition called nystagmus, which causes involuntary movement of the eyes and makes depth perception difficult. Because of this, Alicia finds it hard to judge distance and space around objects. She also struggles with sunlight and wears tinted glasses to reduce discomfort caused by the brightness. It's difficult for her to read too, this is why she uses a magnifying glass when looking at books, and sits close to the board at school.



Meeting Guide Dogs

I first made contact with Guide Dogs when we applied for an iPad for Alicia as part of the Tech for All scheme. The iPad is fantastic as it allows Alicia to use accessibility features such as screen magnification to make activities easier. We got more information about other initiatives from the charity, including the buddy dog programme. Alicia loves dogs so I thought a buddy dog would be perfect to build her confidence and help her through difficult days.

Guide Dogs invited us to an experience day to give Alicia the chance to meet a buddy dog. She was a little nervous at first because it was a new experience for her, especially being in a new place. She spent some time with the dog, they had a walk together and she gave him treats. Alicia loved it, and it was wonderful to see her come out of her shell.

A couple of days after Alicia's birthday, we had a phone call from Guide Dogs. Alicia had been matched! She's been so happy ever since.

Welcoming Judy

When Judy first arrived, she was so confident and settled really well. Judy's a happy dog, she loves free runs in the park. She always has her five-minute energy burst – it's so funny! She's happy to play with any toy that makes a sound, she has got so many squeaky ones, you can hear her all around the house!

A great partnership

Judy's so loving and caring, she is Alicia's best friend! They're getting closer and closer every day. Alicia talks to her all the time, especially when she strokes her – I think this will help her open up more to people around her. Judy's helping her to cope with anxiety and feel more positive. Alicia feels safer with her, especially when going out. If she's having a down day, she cuddles her new furry friend and it makes her feel so much better. Judy adores her cuddles and belly rubs are her favourite!

Looking ahead

We're currently planning our summer holiday. There's lots to prepare and we can't wait to see Judy swimming in the water! Holidays with Judy will be a whole new experience for all of us, and we're so excited to share them with her!

Thank you!

Judy's company is incredible for Alicia, they're building a strong bond. She's a very special part of our family and we couldn't be more grateful for her. Thank you so much for sponsoring Judy, it means the world to us!



Meet Kim and hear how Judy has settled in with Alicia by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to: **guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-judy**



Scan me



“

Judy and Alicia love playing games together and they've such a strong bond. Judy's so loving and caring, she is Alicia's best friend!

”

Kim, Alicia's mum

Where is Judy on her Pupdate journey?



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Thank you so much for sponsoring Judy!

We believe that visual impairment shouldn't stop people from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs to those affected by sight loss, helping them to live their lives exactly as they choose. This wouldn't be possible without kind people like you, and we can't thank you enough for your incredible support. Together, we can continue to train more pups like Judy and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Alicia.



/SponsorAPuppy



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