



Kevin

Getting out
and about

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you are well and enjoying the start of summer. I'm sure you are looking forward to finding out the latest update from your sponsored puppy.

Your support is vital to help our future life changers complete their training and support a person with sight loss. We're proud to create so many partnerships through our guide dog and buddy dog schemes, and to be continuing this throughout 2022.

We really appreciate that the past few months have been really challenging in lots of ways, so we are so grateful that you have continued to support us by sponsoring a puppy. On behalf of everyone at Guide Dogs, I'd like to say a huge thank you.

Because of you and your amazing ongoing support, we can continue to make life-changing partnerships possible!

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Kevin continues his journey



“Hello, its Kay here, Kevin’s Puppy Raiser. I’m excited to update you on his journey.”

Kevin has grown up so much since your last Pupdate, but his personality hasn’t changed. He is still an extremely lovable, cheeky, and confident boy, just a lot bigger! People often comment on what a beautiful boy he is – who am I to disagree?

Kevin loves being busy

I work for a local sight loss charity, and Kevin comes to work with me. Everyone loves having him in the office! We have a good walk before my working day begins, at lunchtime and after work. Kevin really enjoys being in the office, especially when he comes to my meetings. Some of my colleagues have been partnered with guide dogs, so during the meetings they all relax together. It’s as if they have their own daily meetings too!

When I am not working, I take Kevin everywhere with me. He really enjoys going food shopping, going to the post office and to the café. He also enjoys a very long free run and to get as muddy or messy as possible. Thankfully these warmer months mean Kevin can’t roll in as many puddles!

Kevin loves to play with his toys. One of his newest quirks is to bring me a soft toy and place it on my lap. If I don’t play with him immediately, he trots off and finds another.

Bless him – he thinks I don't want to play with the first toy he has given me! Kevin has a sensitive stomach so I have had to be inventive with his favourite treats, as he can't have the usual dog treats. I have found that soaking some of Kevin's food in water, stuffing it into a bone and freezing it works really well. I can give him it as a treat and he is the happiest boy!

New experiences

Since Kevin was a puppy, I have introduced him to lots of places. Part of being a Puppy Raiser means ensuring that as he grows up, I continue to try new places as well as revisiting old ones. I took Kevin to the beach, and he absolutely loved it! I don't live close to one, so it involved a long car journey, but he loves the car and handled the travelling fantastically. He was fascinated by the sand and spent lots of time digging and 'nose surfing'. This is when he puts his nose in the sand and uses his back legs to push himself around. It's such a funny sight to see!



Find out how Kevin is learning to settle in different situations. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-kevin



Looking forward

My role as a Puppy Raiser is to build upon the foundation training he has been learning since he was a tiny pup. I will continue to bring him to work, the bank, and supermarkets along with many new places. As he grows older and enters his 'teenager phase', he might become more distracted by things he previously wasn't before, such as other dogs and cats. So far this hasn't been a problem at all – he is doing superbly! I'm confident he will continue to do so. As the saying goes – practice makes perfect!

I am excited to update you with Kevin's progress in your next Pupdate.



Behind them every step of the way

A guide dog puppy's training journey could not have been possible without our fantastic volunteer puppy raisers. They do an incredible job of building the best foundation for our puppies before they head off to Guide Dogs Training School. One of the best parts of puppy raising is knowing that when the pup moves to training school, they will hopefully go on to change the life of someone with sight loss.

To find out what a day in the life of a Puppy Raiser is like, listen to Kirsty and Phil's experience at guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser



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