



Kevin

Training school

Pupdate 3

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

Chris Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Kevin's arrived at training school



I've been a Guide Dog Trainer for six years and I love my job! I don't like sitting still, so working with the dogs is great as I'm always on the move. It's very rewarding to see the progress that the dogs make from when they first come in to when they qualify as a guide dog or buddy dog and knowing that I've been a part of that journey is wonderful.

Welcoming Kevin

Kevin has arrived at training school and I have started working with him on a daily basis. Many dogs can find the move to training school quite challenging, unsurprisingly – it is a big change, but Kevin adapted amazingly well! His Puppy Raiser, Kay, sent him with a bag full of his toys to help him feel comfortable. He's also got his favourite blanket, which he's had since he was a young puppy, at his fosterers' home where he stays during the evenings and weekends. Having this helped him to feel at home right away.

Kevin spent a couple of days settling into his new home with his fosterers before coming into training school just for a few hours. On his first day he was re-united with Denny, a black Labrador cross and a fellow guide dog in training who he'd met whilst living with Kay. They were very happy to see each other! Denny is one of the other dogs that I'm training so he and Kevin will be spending lots of time together.

“
**Hello, it's
Steph here,
Kevin's
trainer.**
”

Daily routine

Kevin is dropped off at training school by his fosterers in the morning and usually enjoys a frozen bone to help him settle in. Then we work on some skills such as platform training, which involves walking between two low platforms and stopping with all four paws on one platform. Platform training helps to teach the dogs to walk in a straight line whilst providing tension in the lead or harness. Kevin absolutely loves the platforms; if he is working off lead, he will run and dive on them – he can be a little over-excited at times!

After a short training session, Kevin settles with an interactive toy and has a rest. In the afternoon, we usually go out for a training walk in the local area and practise some other skills such as avoiding distractions and stopping at kerbs. Kevin can be quite strong on the lead, and I currently walk him in a TTouch harness, which allows for multiple points of contact with the lead. This helps to relieve pressure from Kevin's neck and encourages him to move in a balanced way.

In between training sessions, we always ensure there is time for some play and free running. Kevin loves a game of tug and enjoys free running with his furry friends!



Discover the skills that Kevin is learning at training school by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



Looking ahead

Kevin is an intelligent and affectionate boy and never fails to make everyone smile! He's just got such a lovely face – how could you not smile when you look at him? I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Kevin and teach him the skills that he will need for his future role. Look out for your next Pupdate in February to find out how he's getting on.





Thanks to your amazing support, you are helping puppies like Kevin move to training school and learn from our guide dog trainers, who will teach them the specialist skills they need for their future role. **Your sponsorship donations contribute towards our guide dog and buddy dog services, costs which can include:**

£8 could support a guide dog partnership for a day.

£16 could buy a coat for one of our puppies in training.

£25 could fund an hour's training for a guide dog.

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