



Kevin

Kevin's enjoying
training school

Pupdate 4

Welcome to your February Pupdate

**I hope that you and your family are well
and had an enjoyable start to the year.**

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

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

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Kevin



Kevin is doing really well at training school; he seems to enjoy learning and picks things up very quickly. We've been working on 'chin rest' recently, where I ask him to rest his head on a towel in my lap as I sit in a chair. This is helpful when performing welfare tasks such as health checks and grooming, so it's an excellent skill for Kevin to have mastered. I use treats or kibble as a reward when Kevin rests his chin, so he really loves working on this skill as he's pretty food driven. Sometimes when we stop for a break, he wants to keep going!

Training harness

Since your last Pupdate, I've introduced Kevin to his training harness which he wears alongside his gentle leader on training walks. This helps him to walk with the correct guiding tension. I've been using food to create a positive association with the harness and Kevin has no problem putting it on. Initially, I found he didn't like the metal handle resting on his back, so I've switched to a different harness design with a strap at the bottom of the handle. This lifts the metal slightly, so it sits away from Kevin's back. When Kevin moves to wearing a guiding harness, we will stick with this style so that he won't have to get used to a new design.

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

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New friends

Kevin is a very playful dog; he's always looking for new playmates. I'm training three other dogs at the same time as Kevin: Beauty (golden retriever), Nell (Labrador) and Denny (golden retriever/Labrador). Beauty is fast, so Kevin loves to chase her, and Nell will happily play with anyone. Kevin has a wonderful personality, but we are working on his playfulness with other dogs as he needs to learn that not everyone wants to play all the time!

What's next?

Kevin has a fantastic memory and loves learning new walking routes, so he already has quite a few under his belt. He's also very adaptable - if we change the route he'll happily carry on, whereas less confident dogs might struggle with this.

Kevin is usually spot-on while guiding too. Sometimes he can be a little distracted but if he knows what to focus on then he's okay. His biggest challenge is learning how to sit still. He's very clever, so he's always trying to work out how to get his next treat; this is great for training but trickier when I want him to settle. Over the next few months, we'll spend some time visiting cafés and places where Kevin can practise this skill.



Learn more about how Kevin is getting on 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)



Future owner

Kevin is not short of personality, so he would be well matched to someone with a good sense of humour who can appreciate all his quirks. He's very bright and capable of completing lots of tasks in a day; this would make him the perfect match for someone with very little vision. It's such a delight training Kevin, and I'm so glad to share his journey with you!

Thank you for sponsoring Kevin. I hope that you have enjoyed his Pupdate, and I look forward to updating you on his progress in June!





See how much Kevin has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Kevin since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed.

To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-kevin and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at guidedogs.org.uk/privacy or call **freephone 0800 953 0113** to request a printed copy. Please use this number to tell us if you have changed your mind about how we contact you; including telling us that you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail about Guide Dogs.