



Shaun and Kevin

**Kevin has qualified
as a guide dog!**

Pupdate 6

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Hello, I'm Shaun and I'm very happy I've been partnered with Kevin.

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About me

I'm passionate about many things: I'm a singer, songwriter, a musician, and I work in recording studios. I do ballroom and Latin American dancing and I was awarded third place in my category in the UK finals at Blackpool this year.

When I was about three years old, my grandad noticed that there was something wrong with my eyes. After a visit to the doctor, they discovered I have a congenital and rare eye condition called retinitis pigmentosa. As it progresses, it can lead to significant vision impairment. I also have Charles Bonnet syndrome, which causes hallucinations as the visual cortex tries to fill in information that you can't see. Sometimes this can be very scary.

Growing up, my life felt normal because I had partial sight; it was good enough for me to ride a bike. As I got older my sight deteriorated and now I have no vision at all. The things I miss the most are people's faces, seeing their smiles and looking in their eyes.



But when I dance, I forget about my condition. I love to play music and I write songs about things that happen. My lyrics are about emotions. It makes me realise you should never ever stop believing. We get one shot, so give it your best and enjoy the journey.

Discovering Kevin

Kevin and I are just at the very beginning of our journey together. I like it when guide dogs show their personalities and Kevin's shines, he's so funny and energetic. It's almost like he has two personalities: when he wears the guiding harness, he's a professional but as soon as he takes it off, he's all fun and games. He's exceptional!

Before Kevin, I had another guide dog, Alfie. He's 7 years old and retired last year: he's very happy in his new home. I can't wait to visit him with Kevin, I think they'll get on so well together. With Alfie, I travelled to Tenerife and many other countries; I can't wait to do the same with Kevin.

New adventures

Kevin and I go on the bus together and he settles perfectly under my seat. We also go to the shopping centre, and I bring him to my dance classes. He's doing so well! He loves to listen to my music, when I play the guitar or the piano he settles and relaxes; when I beatbox, he gets so excited and loves the energy!

It's great that dogs enjoy your hobbies, for thousands of years they have always had this special bond with humans. Dogs are fantastic for mental health. Having a dog comes with responsibility – you have to challenge yourself, and they help you to be active every day. They're always positive and they remind you to enjoy the moment.

Gentle giant

Kevin is also great with kids he meets out and about, he's so good at saying 'hello' to them as he is so gentle and friendly. They find him magical and see him like a super hero when they hear how he helps me. Meeting Kevin is very helpful for children that are afraid of dogs, I always suggest that they close their eyes and touch his head. Just feeling the dog with their eyes closed changes the children's perception. Slowly they'll understand that there's no need to be scared.

Kevin is a fantastic companion, I'm building a whole new story with him. He's very loving and he enjoys working; he's enriching my life! Thank you for supporting him on his journey.



Meet Shaun and hear how Kevin has changed his life by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to: guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-kevin



Scan me



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'Kevin is a fantastic companion, I'm building a whole new story with him. He's very loving and he enjoys working; he's enriching my life!

”

Shaun, Kevin's owner

Where is Kevin
on his Pupdate
journey?



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Thank you so much for sponsoring Kevin!

We believe that sight loss shouldn't stop anyone from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs for people with sight loss, helping them to live their lives 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 Kevin, and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Shaun.

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