



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Lily

Training School

Pupdate 4

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



Lily has arrived at training school



**“Hello, it’s
Kirsty here,
Lily’s trainer.
Lily has settled
in to training
school well. ”**

Lily is a lovely, affectionate dog and has a naturally calm personality. She’s adjusted well to both the training school environment and her fosterer’s home, where she stays during the evenings and weekends.

New friends

Lily is a very sociable pup, both with dogs and humans! When she’s not out with me, she rests in her kennel with German shepherd cross, Lottie. They absolutely adore each other. Lily is so relaxed in the kennel environment; she loves to stretch herself out for a nice snooze in between activities. Lily thrives on attention and loves being fussed by the kennel staff, who equally love fussing her!

New skills

One of the skills that we teach puppies when they first arrive at training school is ‘touch’. This involves holding out a closed fist with the cue ‘touch’ and the dog touches their nose to the fist. Lily learned this skill quickly, and I can now build on this and teach Lily to find targets, such as a crossing box.

Another skill that Lily is learning is platform training. This involves walking between two platforms and stopping with all four paws on the platform. Because the platform shows the dogs where to stop and gives them a target to focus on, it teaches dogs to provide guiding tension on the lead Lily is doing well with this.

Challenges

In your previous Pupdate, Puppy Raiser Carole mentioned that Lily was struggling with body sensitivity when wearing her puppy coat. Now that I have started to introduce her to the guiding harness, this sensitivity has become more challenging. Lily is happy to approach the harness and put her head through but is uncomfortable with it resting on her back. I'm taking things slowly and trying to ensure that the harness experience is positive for her.

Lily is also having some difficulty travelling in our training van. Carole did some good work with Lily to get her comfortable travelling in the car, so she had a great foundation when she arrived. I introduced her to the van slowly as we often find that dogs are more apprehensive around the training van compared to a car.



Discover how Lily is learning to navigate obstacles at training school. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-lily



She was initially happy to jump in and out and sit in the back, but unfortunately when I tried her on a short journey she was unsettled by the noises and motions. I've taken things back a few steps and have started to re-introduce her to the van in a positive way.

Lily is not very food orientated, which can make the training process slower than usual as it's hard to keep her engaged with an activity. She will repeat an action 3 or 4 times and then go and lie down as if to say 'I've had enough now'. This is my cue to give her a break and allow her time either to rest or to do something fun.

I will continue working with Lily over the new few months. I'll be using short training sessions interspersed with plenty of free running, playtime and affection. My priority is to ensure that Lily is comfortable and happy. She's such a sweet-natured girl and is a pleasure to work with.

I look forward to updating you 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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