



Sponsor
a Puppy



Lily

Lily's new career

Pupdate 5

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 Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Lily's new journey



“
**Hello, it's
Natalie here,
and I am a
Canine Assisted
Partnerships
Specialist at
Guide Dogs.**
”

In your last Pupdate, Lily's trainer Kirsty talked about the new skills she was working on with Lily to help progress her guide dog training. She also described the ongoing challenges that Lily was experiencing, including body sensitivity and a lack of motivation when learning new skills. Whilst Kirsty worked hard to help Lily overcome these challenges, it was eventually decided that, with Lily's welfare and the safety of a potential guide dog owner in mind, Lily would be better suited to a career as a buddy dog.

Buddy dogs

Buddy dogs are life-changing companions for children and young people with visual impairments. They provide valuable emotional support and help to increase confidence and independence. Buddy dogs do not aid mobility in the same way that guide dogs do, but the impact that they have on the families that they partner with is incredible.

Although buddy dogs often wear a coat to identify them as a buddy dog, this is not essential to their role in the same way that a guiding harness would be to a guide dog.

Assessing Lily

Before accepting Lily into the buddy dog programme, it was important to ensure that she would be comfortable, be happy and thrive in this role. Lily attended an experience session with me so that I could assess how she interacts with children. During the session, a family on our applicant list visited the centre. They were introduced to Lily and given the opportunity to spend some time playing with her as well as learning about dog care.

I'm pleased to share that Lily was a super star! Her affectionate personality and calm temperament will make her a perfect buddy dog. During the experience session, she engaged well with the children, and when they threw her ball for her, she retrieved it and returned it directly to them. She was incredibly gentle when taking treats from them and not too boisterous when playing. I was also impressed with how well Lily seemed to be able to read the situation and respond appropriately; she knew when it was time to play, and when it was time to settle.



Learn more about Lily's career change by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



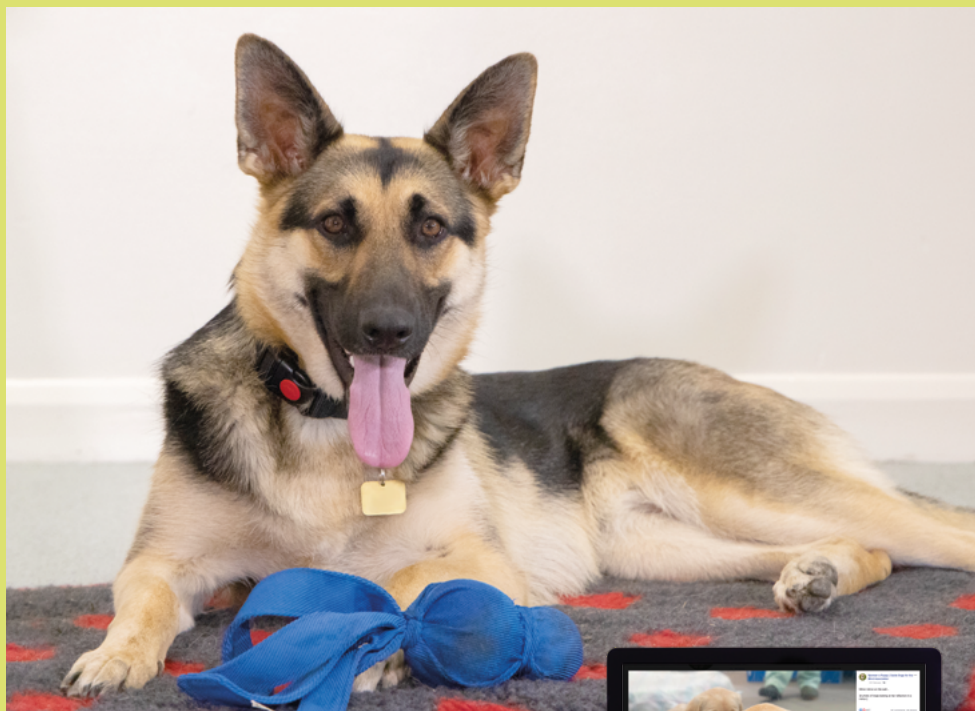
A future family

Although Lily struggled in our training van, she travels well in cars. This means that it will be easy for her future family to take her on new adventures! I think Lily would be suited to a playful child, as she loves to retrieve her toys and enjoys a good game of tug!

What's next?

I'm now working to find the perfect family to match with Lily. Each potential family will have a home check to ensure the environment is suitable for a buddy dog, and they will attend experience sessions and online webinars to ensure that they are prepared for a dog to join their family. Lily will be introduced to her potential match and, if successful, she will begin a four-week trial period to ensure that there are no concerns, after which Lily will officially qualify as a buddy dog. I'm confident that Lily will thrive in her new role and I can't wait to update you in your February Pupdate.





Don't forget, you can find even more exciting updates by joining Lily's exclusive Facebook group.

Visit www.facebook.com/groups/puppy.lily



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at [guidedogs.org.uk/privacy](https://www.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.