



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Lola

Growing up

Pupdate 2

# Lola continues her journey



**“ Hello, it’s  
Dianne here,  
Lola’s Puppy  
Raiser. I’m  
excited to  
update you on  
her progress. ”**

Lola has grown into a bright, happy girl. One thing that hasn’t changed is that she knows exactly when mealtime is — I don’t have to tell her; she will tell me! Though Lola can have her teenage moments I consider myself lucky to play a little part into her journey, and I enjoy the challenge of each puppy that I get to raise.

## **Life at home**

Lola has a playful and energetic nature. She still loves playing with my daughter’s pet dog Sam, he is such a good role model for her. Sometimes Lola will have that look in her eye and before you know it, she will zoom at 90mph, running around and around!

One of her favourite things to do is to roll around in wet grass. She also particularly likes playing with squeaky toys, which are pretty much all the ones she owns! There are two special teddies that Lola sleeps with and keeps them only for night-time. She loves her cuddles too.

## Visiting new places

Lola's training is progressing very well. Due to COVID-19, we couldn't go out as much as I'd have liked, so we practised lots of walks and obedience skills. Now she will 'sit' and 'lay down' when she is asked and will 'wait' until she is told to go. It's really great!

Lola's confidence has increased; she is comfortable wearing a headcollar when walking on the lead, and she is also great now at jumping in and out of the car. I have taken her to the supermarket and to the local garden centre to experience different sights and surroundings on our walks. She has been good with all these experiences and takes it all in her stride.

Lola has had some new transport experiences too. I have taken her on the bus a couple of times when going into town to build her confidence. I have also walked Lola to the train station a couple of times so she could experience the sights and sounds before travelling on the train. The sounds at the station did not bother her at all. She was well behaved when stepping onto the train and travelling. I will be taking her on another trip soon to see how she progresses.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Lola has grown in her own video:  
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-lola](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-lola)



## Future plans

Lola is very respectful of other dogs and is generally very good when meeting them. I haven't really got any concerns about her at this stage, other than her jumping up to say 'hello' if somebody stops to speak to her. This makes it difficult if sitting in a café as Lola can be a little bit fidgety. Some days she gets it, other days she doesn't get it quite right. Looking ahead, this is something that I'm hoping she will grow out of, and I am working with her to help improve on this in the future.

**Lola is just a joy to have, and I can't wait to see how she progresses. Look out for your next Pupdate!**



## Training – puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic skills and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Raiser. They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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