



Margo

**Margo's journey
has started!**

Pupdate 1

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



Thank you

for sponsoring Margo



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**Hello, it's
Richard here,
Margo's
Puppy Raiser.**

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Margo is the sixth puppy that I have raised for Guide Dogs. When I retired, I found myself looking for an activity that would help me stay active. I happened to stumble across a Guide Dogs display in my local shopping centre. I started talking with the staff, and by the end of the conversation, I could not wait to sign up to become a puppy raiser. That was nine years ago and I haven't looked back since! I'm also part of a local fundraising group and, so far this year, we have raised over £14,000 for Guide Dogs. It's lovely to be part of the Guide Dogs community - I've met countless wonderful people (and dogs)!

Welcoming Margo

Margo settled into her new home fairly quickly. Her personality shone through from the moment I met her; she's feisty and outgoing and has so much energy! She doesn't seem to stop moving unless she's asleep. We rehomed Vinny, our three-year-old pet dog, after he was taken out of the guide dog training programme for health reasons. Vinny is still a part of the Guide Dogs family and now helps me to raise future life changers and attends fundraising events with me.

Vinny is a wonderful big brother to Margo; he likes to think he's in charge, but Margo gives him a run for his money!

Margo will live with me for around 12-16 months, and during this time, I will teach her basic skills which she will then build upon when she starts training school. I will introduce Margo to as many new experiences as possible while also helping to familiarise her with places we visit regularly. The aim is to build up a 'bank' of positive associations for Margo in both new and familiar places, which will help her remain calm when she experiences something different.

New experiences

We recently came across some horses, and Margo was very calm. She just sat down, watched for a bit and then, once she'd taken it all in, she was happy to move on. This is how she handles all new situations, and it's fascinating to watch her. Margo has accompanied me to so many different environments including restaurants, fundraising events, garden centres and even the local cinema!



Find out how Margo has settled in with Richard by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-margo



Everyone who meets Margo instantly loves her and comments on how great she is at focusing on me and my cues.

Over the next few months, I will continue working with Margo to grow her 'bank' of positive experiences. I'm hoping to visit the beach with her soon; I think she'll love it! We'll be working on skills such as loose-lead walking, recall and travel. Margo has been a pleasure to work with so far and I'm excited to see her progress further. I can't wait to update you in your next Pupdate in February!





See how much Margo has grown

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

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



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