



Margo and Joel

Margo's qualified!

Pupdate 6

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Hello, it's Joel here,
Margo's owner.

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I have retinitis pigmentosa; my condition is genetic and is getting progressively worse as I get older. I currently have no night vision and around 10% vision during the day. I've known about Guide Dogs and their work for as long as I can remember. When I was younger, I used to play blind cricket, and some of the players had guide dogs, so it's always something that was on my radar as I got older.

Welcoming Margo

Margo is my first-ever guide dog! I'm 29 years old, and before her, I used a white cane. Sometimes, I relied on the help of other people, like my girlfriend, Grace, and my supportive friends and family. I was reluctant to use a white cane while I was at school, as it wouldn't allow me to keep a natural pace and navigate public areas easily; it was only in my early twenties that I started using it more as my eyesight got worse. As soon as I met the criteria for a guide dog, I applied!



Having Margo by my side has enhanced my life in many ways. Now, with Margo, I can meet Grace for dates at different locations, instead of going there together as we did before. This has been a novelty to us as a young couple, and we really enjoy it.

Since being partnered with Margo, I'm always finding excuses to get out and about, even when I've nowhere to be! More people stop to talk to you, which is lovely. I'll happily go out at night to meet friends at my local pub or walk to my mum's, something I didn't do as often when I had a white cane. I usually work from home, and having Margo close to me is great. After her arrival, my daily steps have increased, making me feel less guilty about my consumption of sweets! Going out is much more enjoyable now as I've got my best friend by my side. Margo follows me everywhere; she adores me, and I adore her.

Margo and I are perfectly matched; she's an amazing character! She's mischievous and energetic, but as soon as the harness goes on, she's in work mode – it's brilliant to witness!

I can't imagine life without her now; my whole family loves her. Having Margo as a guide is priceless thanks to her excellent training, but it's just as wonderful to have her as a loving, affectionate dog who's now part of our family.

Grace and I recently went on holiday to Thailand, and Margo stayed with my parents. I went back to using my white cane and relying on Grace whilst we were away. Being in Thailand highlighted how much independence and confidence Margo has given me. As soon as we got back, she was so happy to see us!

The future

I'm going on holiday with my family to Norfolk soon, and I'm sure Margo will love running along the beach. While we're there, I'm meeting up with her Puppy Raiser, Richard, his family and their pet dog, Vinny; it will be an exciting reunion.

Thank you for sponsoring Margo! Life has certainly evolved now that she's around. I'm so excited to discover what else we can achieve together. She's fantastic!



Find out more about Margo and Joel's partnership by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-margo



Scan me



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Going out is much more enjoyable now, with my best friend by my side. Margo follows me everywhere; she adores me, and I adore her!

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Joel, Margo's owner

Where is Margo
on her Pupdate
journey?



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Thank you so much for sponsoring Margo!

We believe that visual impairment shouldn't stop people from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs to those affected by sight loss, helping them to live their lives exactly 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 Margo and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Joel.



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