



**Guide
Dogs**

Sponsor
a Puppy

A close-up portrait of a dark brown dog, Marley, looking directly at the camera. The dog has floppy ears and a white patch on its muzzle. It is wearing a dark collar with a small green tag. The background is a solid light green.

Marley

**Continuing to
progress**

Pupdate 2

Marley continues his journey



“ Hello, it’s Linda here, Marley’s Puppy Raiser. I’m excited to update you on his progress. ”

Marley has grown a lot bigger in the past few months. He’s a really nice dog to puppy raise and has been lovely to have around. People tend to think that guide dogs are all perfect dogs, but just like humans each have their own quirks and personality. Marley’s quirk is that he loves to chew on things! Most of his fleece blankets now have holes in them which can be funny to watch.

Life at home

Marley loves playing with my pet dog Grace. He doesn’t have a favourite toy in particular, but he loves playing tug of war most mornings with Grace when they get up. Marley is quite food-oriented and loves a kong toy stuffed with food. Kongs are good toys for excitable pups as it encourages them to spend time concentrating on getting the food out.

Marley has now reached a place in his training where he automatically does things, which is great to see. When Marley approaches the steps, he ~~automatically~~ sits at the top of the step without being asked.

Due to lockdown, I've been taking Marley on similar walking routes around the village. Marley is very intuitive and has started to hesitate when we go a different way to usual. You can tell he's starting to think for himself ~~about things.~~

Visiting new places

Whenever I take Marley anywhere, he's always well behaved. Due to lockdown, we haven't been to indoor cafés, but when restrictions are eased, I'm looking forward to taking Marley out to the village café and doing a fair bit of training. When I take Marley with me to church, he always behaves impeccably well and doesn't need entertaining at all.

Marley is a lovely, sociable pup who does really well around new people and animals. He was able to meet a retired racehorse called Archie when out and about on a walk. Marley wasn't quite sure what to make of him when he first met Archie, but now he loves walking down the road to say hello to Archie. He also has a keen eye for cats, and I actually have plans to get a kitten in a couple of months so it will be interesting to see how they get along.

Looking ahead


Marley travels really well in the car and anticipates when he needs to jump into the car. He's now learning to wait to be invited to get in and out of the boot.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Marley has grown in his own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-marley

This is important for future guide dogs as they will need to respond to their owner when getting out of the car. Although we haven't been able to travel on public transport, I'm looking forward to introducing Marley when it is safe to do so. 

I am going to continue to train Marley on being better when passing other dogs as he can be a bit distracted ~~and want to say hello~~ – especially if the other dog has a waggy tail! This is to be expected following lockdown restrictions, as pups had less opportunity to practise with other dogs. However, I have no doubt he will continue to progress nicely in his training.



I can't wait to see Marley progress further in his journey to becoming a qualified guide dog. Look out for your next Pupdate in October!

Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic commands 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.

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