



# Marley

**Training commences**

*Pupdate 4*

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**I do hope you and your family had a lovely Christmas and New Year.**

As we try to return to normality and adapt to the new world that we find ourselves in following the turbulence of the last two years, our wonderful trainers and volunteer puppy raisers have dedicated themselves to helping our puppies on their journeys to become life-changing guide dogs. They continue to learn and progress, and we're so proud of how they have been doing in their training so far, and we're excited to find out where they'll go next. I hope that you enjoy your Pupdate, finding out what your wonderful puppy has been up to for the last few months.

I'd like to thank you so much for supporting us by sponsoring a puppy. We need people like you to be able to change the lives of people with sight loss, and we couldn't be Guide Dogs without you.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Allum**

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Marley

## has started training school



“Hello, it's  
Emily here,  
Marley's  
Trainer.”

I've been working at Guide Dogs for about four years now and have learnt that no two dogs or days are the same. So, coming to work every day is exciting! I love working with Marley, he is so loveable and friendly – there is something really special about him.

### Settling in at training school

Marley has settled in so well at training school! Each morning his fosterer drops him off at the office where he usually starts the day by greeting his best friend, Hope. We have two short training sessions before a lunchtime nap – he loves a midday snooze! Between each session there is lots of time for Marley to play with his favourite stuffed hamburger toy, which he likes to play fetch with. In the afternoon we practice new skills before he is picked up between 5–6pm.

Often, we go to a local forest park for Marley to have a long free run. He loves weaving in and out of the trees, playing in the grass and saying hello to other dogs. He is so friendly; he doesn't quite understand that not every dog he meets wants to be his friend. His confused face and sad eyes whenever he realises makes me love him even more!



## Marley loves to learn

Marley has been a dream to teach because he is a super smart boy and picks up new things very quickly. We have been working on lots of the different skills that Marley will need as a guide dog, and I am so pleased with his progress! One skill we have been working on is platforms, which teaches guiding tension on the lead and tells dogs when to stop. He can successfully walk between two platforms without pulling at all on his loose lead.

I am starting to introduce Marley to the guiding harness and handle. He has been a bit unsure of his harness on his back, so we have been using a towel to get him used to the feeling. As each day passes though, he becomes more confident at putting his head through the harness and letting it rest on his back.



Find out what Marley has been learning at training school:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-marley](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-marley)**

## Looking forward

Once Marley is comfortable wearing his harness, I will start to teach him to step ahead and provide more tension in the harness which is important when he's guiding a person with sight loss. We will also try busier areas, with more obstacles, noise, and distractions. Marley has great focus and I know he will cope well with this next stage of his training.

**Thank you so much for sponsoring Marley. I am excited to update you on his progress in his next Pupdate!**





## The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



/SponsorAPuppy



/SponsorAPuppy



/sponsorapuppygd

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.

Registered charity in England and Wales (209617) and in Scotland (SC038979).GD0629 12/21 Marley PD4