



Marley

**Marley is doing well
at training school**

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you are well and enjoying the start of summer. I'm sure you are looking forward to finding out the latest update from your sponsored puppy.

Your support is vital to help our future life changers complete their training and support a person with sight loss. We're proud to create so many partnerships through our guide dog and buddy dog schemes, and to be continuing this throughout 2022.

We really appreciate that the past few months have been really challenging in lots of ways, so we are so grateful that you have continued to support us by sponsoring a puppy. On behalf of everyone at Guide Dogs, I'd like to say a huge thank you.

Because of you and your amazing ongoing support, we can continue to make life-changing partnerships possible!

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



An absolute star



“Hello, it’s Emily here, Marley’s trainer. I’m continuing to work with Marley and I’m really pleased with his progress.”

Marley’s training

Over the past few months, Marley has continued to develop his guiding skills; he is an absolute star and a pleasure to work with. Marley has matured into a happy and confident young dog, and I’ve really enjoyed watching him thrive in his training.

As mentioned in your last Pupdate, Marley is a little bit body sensitive and was having some challenges feeling comfortable in his harness. Although he made great progress, he was still not confident putting his head through the traditional style harness to get it on. He now wears a different style harness that fastens around the front and underneath, meaning Marley doesn’t have to put his head through at all. He’s so much more comfortable with this style of harness.

Guiding skills

Now that I’ve found a harness style that works for Marley, I’ve been able to teach him to step ahead and take more of an active role whilst guiding, as opposed to relying on my cues. We began indoors and I encouraged him to step out in front of me whilst on the lead to retrieve a treat.

Once he was comfortable stepping out in front, we progressed to outdoor routes in harness. By stepping forwards and creating tension in harness, Marley is able to actively guide his handler.

Marley works at dual speed which means that he can guide at two different speeds. He is most comfortable guiding at his faster speed which is an energetic trot – he’s the fastest guide dog that many of our trainers have seen!

The matching process

I am confident in Marley’s ability to safely guide a person with sight loss and I’m delighted to let you know that I have now begun the matching process. When I find a potential match for Marley, we’ll start off by doing a matching walk. This will be a chance for Marley to guide his potential owner on a familiar route so that they can both get a feel for how they would work together.

If I’m happy that the match is appropriate for both of them then we’ll begin partnership training.



Learn how Marley has been guiding Emily around town.
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-marley



This begins with a 10-day stay in accommodation close to our regional centre. Marley will stay with his new owner so that they have time to get to know each other and form a strong bond. During the day, I will work with them and teach the new owner different handling techniques.

Once Marley is living with his new owner, I'll visit him regularly in his new home and provide ongoing support. This includes helping Marley to learn his new owner's regular routes and providing them with the skills to teach him new routes independently.

I am so proud of Marley, and I am confident that he will go on to become a life-changing companion for someone living with sight loss. I'm excited to update you in your next Pupdate.



Behind them every step of the way

A guide dog puppy's training journey could not have been possible without our fantastic volunteer puppy raisers. They do an incredible job of building the best foundation for our puppies before they head off to Guide Dogs Training School. One of the best parts of puppy raising is knowing that when the pup moves to training school, they will hopefully go on to change the life of someone with sight loss.

To find out what a day in the life of a Puppy Raiser is like, listen to Kirsty and Phil's experience at guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser



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