



Sponsor  
a Puppy

A close-up portrait of a black puppy with floppy ears, looking directly at the camera. The puppy is wearing a dark collar with a gold tag. The background is a blurred green and brown foliage.

# Millie

Millie's journey  
has begun!

Pupdate 1

# 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



# Thank you

for sponsoring Millie



**“Hello, it’s  
Alison here,  
Millie’s Puppy  
Raiser.”**

Millie is the seventh pup I have raised for Guide Dogs. Raising Millie is really special because I also raised her mum, Zion and her grandmother, Beattie! Growing up, my parents raised puppies for Guide Dogs and I loved it. I was able to learn the crucial difference they can make to a person living with sight loss. I wasn’t able to have a dog when I was working full time but as soon as I retired, becoming a puppy raiser was first on my to do list!

## **A day in Millie’s life**

When Millie first arrived, I had prepared myself for some sleepless nights while she settled in. It’s normal for new puppies to wake during the night while they adjust to a new home. However, Millie completely surprised me and settled in superbly! She stirred once during the first night and since then she has slept through until 7am – she’s been fantastic!

As Millie is very young, I like to keep her to a routine. Every day she has a little play in the garden before breakfast. At around 8am I will find her patiently waiting in the kitchen for me to serve her breakfast.

It's then off for a walk which is really important to get her used to the village, cars and people. Millie is a huge fan of a lunchtime nap and I find it helps her focus on our training for the rest of the day.

Each afternoon we go out for another walk which can vary from walking in busier areas to going to the park to meet other dogs. Here we work on recall and how to socialise with other dogs. Before dinner Millie usually has another nap, as running around with her friends really tires her out. Millie and I play lots in the evening with her favourite toy - a squeaky chicken - then it's off to bed!

## Millie's personality

Anyone who meets Millie comments on what a happy pup she is. She loves meeting new people and always wants to play. She is such a polite and smart pup. She just loves to learn and picks up new skills really quickly!

One of my favourite things about Millie is how fascinated she is by new experiences. We saw a duck on a walk recently and she stood very calmly beside me looking at it. She didn't bark or want to play with the duck, she just watched it and took it all in. After a few minutes she wasn't interested anymore, and we carried on with our walk.



Hear how Millie has settled in with Alison.  
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie)**



## Exploring new places

Millie loves to venture to new places with me. Although she is wary when we encounter something new, she doesn't turn away, she watches until she understands. We recently met a cat who wasn't the friendliest, which confused her as all she wanted to do was play!

We have met other puppies in training, and although this can be a really intimidating experience for some puppies when they're so young, she really held her own. She also loves playing with children in the park and is so good with them.

**I'm looking forward to updating you on Millie's progress 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](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser)**



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