



# Millie

Millie takes everything  
in her stride

Pupdate 2

# Welcome to your October Pupdate

**I hope that you and your family are well and enjoying these beautiful autumn months.**

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Considering the current economic challenges, we are so grateful for your continued commitment; you form an integral part of the Guide Dogs family. Your generosity is helping children and adults living with sight loss to live independent and confident lives.

Every day 250 more people join the two million already living with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050. Our services are needed now more than ever. Our guide dogs and buddy dogs really do change lives, and we couldn't breed and train these incredible dogs without you. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

*Chris*

**Chris Allum**  
Puppy Sponsorship  
Manager



# Millie continues her journey



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

”

Millie has grown so much since your last Pupdate, but she is still the same lovable girl! She still enjoys snuggling with her favourite soft toy lion and is always eager to explore new environments.

## **Staycations**

Since your last Pupdate, Millie and I have enjoyed two 'staycations' in Yorkshire and Wales. Some pups can become unsettled in a new environment, but Millie was fantastic and not worried at all. She had a wonderful time and loved playing in the sea and rolling in the sand; she had so much fun that she didn't want to come home!

We also took Millie to see a steam train to help her learn how to handle unusual experiences. I was so proud of Millie; she didn't back away when the train made loud noises. Instead, she stood beside me, calmly watched, and took it all in. It was amazing to see!

## **Millie's progress**

Millie is a great learner, especially when there are tasty treats involved! Over the past few months, I've been working hard to ensure that Millie is really comfortable travelling in the car. I began by allowing her to spend time in the car relaxing with a frozen Kong or chew toy; this helped to build up a positive association.

Next, we progressed to short journeys, usually with a free run at the other end. Again, this helped Millie to view the car as a positive place to be. Millie took to car travel really well and now happily jumps in and out of the boot with a wagging tail!

Now that Millie is completely comfortable travelling in the car, I've started to take her on taxi journeys. Many guide dog owners rely on taxi travel, and therefore it's important that Millie is comfortable with this. Travelling in a taxi is slightly different to usual car travel as the pup may have to travel in the backseat with their owner as opposed to the boot, where they would usually travel. So far, Millie has not been fazed by this at all and will happily settle in the back with me!



## Looking ahead

Over the coming months, Millie will continue to accompany me to a variety of different environments. She's already become confident in places such as, the swimming pool, a local university and the library, so I've got no doubt that she'll continue to take it all in her stride.



Join Millie on a visit to the library by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie)**





One area that I will be focusing on with Millie is helping her to not get distracted when walking on grass. I often find that when we walk over grassy areas, she can become excited and pull on the lead; probably because she thinks it is time for a free run! I will be encouraging her to walk on a loose lead over grass by rewarding her with her favourite tasty chicken treats when she is calm or when she focuses on me.

I'm greatly enjoying working with Millie and seeing her progress; look out for your next Pupdate in February to hear how she's getting on!





## Training – puppy to qualified guide dog

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