



# Millie

**Millie's  
growing up**

**Pupdate 3**

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**I hope that you and your family are well and had an enjoyable start to the year.**

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Steph*

**Steph Potter**  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Millie



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**Hi, it's Alison  
here, Millie's  
Puppy Raiser.**

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Millie is such a confident pup! Since your last Pupdate, we've been continuing to build positive associations in new and busy places. We've taken Millie to a large train station close to where we live. This can sometimes be challenging for a young pup as there are big crowds, regular announcements, and lots of barriers to walk through. However, Millie took it all in her stride!

Millie absolutely loves people and always wants to say hello to them. I think this helped her on our visit to the station, as she now thinks of it as a place filled with potential friends which means she isn't frightened at all.

## **Greeting people**

Although being friendly is a great trait for a future life changer, sometimes Millie's social side can cause some challenges. When Millie meets new people, she wants to go forwards and greet them straight away – sometimes she forgets that not everyone wants to say hello. I've been teaching Millie some self-control when interacting with new people.



This is really important as guide dogs need to stay focused even when there are lots of people around so they can keep their owner safe.

Recently, our neighbours greeted us as we left the house for a walk. I caught Millie's attention with some food, and then asked her to sit. Once she'd brought her focus back to me, I let her know she could say hello to them by saying 'okay'. She was so excited; her tail was wagging back and forth! Practising this sort of self-control will teach Millie to wait for her owner to agree before she greets people.

## Out and about

We've also been trying to explore some new and unusual places so that Millie starts to build a positive association with different environments. Recently, we visited the swimming baths together; we went inside and sat in the viewing area where she could see the pool through the window. A school class was in the pool which made it quite loud and chaotic, but Millie just sat and watched quietly until it was time to go. She didn't seem to mind the unusual sights or smells at all – such a clever girl.



Learn more about Millie's new experiences by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-millie)**



We also went to the little café in the sports centre, where I had a cup of coffee and encouraged Millie to settle on the floor next to me. This was quite different to our usual café trip, as there were lots of people moving around and carrying different equipment in and out. Millie found it quite interesting to watch, but she didn't move from her spot at my feet. She was fantastic!

## **Four legged friends**

I organise a fortnightly meet up for local Guide Dogs volunteers and Millie always comes along with me. This is a great opportunity for her to interact with other pups in training and even qualified guide dogs. Millie used to find other dogs a little distracting but going to these meetups has really helped; she's less interested in other dogs now as she knows that she has a regular get together with her play pals. Millie has matured so much over the last few months and really understands now when it's time to play and when it's time to focus or settle. I'm so proud of her!

**Thank you for sponsoring Millie. You can find out how she is progressing in your next Pupdate in June!**







Thanks to your amazing support, you are helping puppies like Millie move to training school and learn from our guide dog trainers, who will teach them the specialist skills they need for their future role. **Your sponsorship donations contribute towards our guide dog and buddy dog services, costs which can include:**

**£8**

could support a guide dog partnership for a day.

**£16**

could buy a coat for one of our puppies in training.

**£25**

could fund an hour's training for a guide dog.



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