



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy

A close-up photograph of a light-colored dog, Molly, looking directly at the camera. The dog has a white face with some light tan markings around its eyes and ears. It has a dark nose and a dark collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field.

# Molly

has started training school!

Pupdate 4

# Molly

is on her way to  
become a guide dog



**“ Hello, I’m Paul,  
a trainer at  
Guide Dogs. I’m  
pleased to say  
Molly has made  
it to training  
school! ”**

I’ve been a guide dog trainer for the last 12 years. The most rewarding part of my job is having the opportunity to meet different dog personalities. You get such an incredible sense of achievement when you see the dogs you’ve trained progress to the next stage of training and eventually qualify with their guide dog owner.

## **Starting school**

It has taken Molly a bit of time to settle into the training school, which is understandable as coming into a new environment can be tricky for any pup. Molly quickly bonded with another pup in training called Quincey – they absolutely adore each other! The girls like to keep each other company and enjoy some playful rough and tumble.

Molly is quite an excitable pup and likes to vocalise her opinions sometimes around other dogs. I’m glad to see that Molly is already improving on this and settling down much quicker than when she first arrived.

I will continue building a strong bond with Molly through lots of playing and grooming which should help her feel more relaxed.

## Developing new skills

Molly is such a lovely and willing pup; she just wants to get on with her training and seems to be enjoying the work. The recent impact of coronavirus has meant I've needed to find new ways of ensuring Molly has continued to progress in her training, given that travelling to public places hasn't been possible. Before the social distancing guidelines were set, I introduced Molly to the training harness, and I'm delighted to say she was very responsive. We practised our harness walks in a quiet residential area, which Molly was already familiar with and she simply took it all in her stride.

We were also able to carry on with her basic obedience training both on site and off site to see how she handled various levels of distractions.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Molly has grown in her own video:

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



This included practising tasks such as locating the box step on a pedestrian crossing and walking nicely on the lead.

In new environments Molly sometimes gets a little tense but once we revisit the route a few times, she becomes a lot more confident.

Over the coming months, I will be introducing Molly to the obstacle course at the training school, a short course made up of everyday obstacles she may come across whilst guiding, such as traffic signs and cones. I am looking forward to seeing Molly progress in her training and become an invaluable companion to someone living with sight loss.



**Thank you for sponsoring Molly.  
Look out for her 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.

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