



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy

A close-up photograph of a German Shepherd puppy named Monty. The puppy has tan and black fur, large pointed ears, and is looking directly at the camera with its mouth open and tongue hanging out. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Monty

Training commences

Pupdate 4

Monty

has started training school!



I've worked at Guide Dogs now for 23 years, in a variety of different roles. Over the last eight years I've been a Guide Dog Trainer, and I think I must have trained somewhere in the region of 60 dogs so far! The thing I enjoy the most is developing a bond with each individual dog, and teaching them to perform a role with confidence that wouldn't normally come naturally to them.

Monty is a charismatic pup

Due to delays caused by COVID-19, Monty started training school a bit later than he usually would. This meant that Monty got to stay with Puppy Walkers Joanna and Antony during the summer months! Monty is a very charismatic pup and he definitely took fellow pup Barrett under his wing during his time with Joanna and Antony.

“ Hello, it's Jon here and I am Monty's new Trainer. ”

Monty continues to learn new skills

During lockdown Monty and Barrett had a lot of fun practising basic training at home in the garden. During a particularly warm day, Monty joined Joanna and Antony for a picnic and practised his food manners. Monty was brilliantly behaved and had a great time. He even joined Antony for a sunbathe!

When lockdown began to ease Monty was able to visit lots of new places. He even went for a day out at a National Trust property in Devon. This gave him the opportunity to practise his lead work and dog distraction ability. Monty has come so far during this time and has mastered his skills when visiting public places. Not only is Monty perfectly behaved when visiting cafés or shops, but he is also completely comfortable with loud noises such as traffic or building construction. This confidence will help Monty when adapting to new situations.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Monty has grown in his own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-monty

Introduction to training school

Monty is now at training school and is learning all the skills needed to become a life-changer. During his time here, he will be introduced to the training harness which he'll wear when practising his guiding. To test how well Monty deals with distractions, I will train his basic obedience both on and off site. This will also help Monty adapt to new locations. Over the next few months Monty will also be introduced to obstacle courses; this will help Monty guide his future owner safely around obstacles in the street. I'm sure Monty will pick up all of these new skills with ease.

I look forward to updating you on how Monty has progressed in training school in his 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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