

# Moose

**Moose has arrived  
at training school!**

**Pupdate 3**

# Welcome to your October Pupdate

**I hope you're enjoying these beautiful autumnal months.**

Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide our incredible life-changing services. It's estimated that six million people in the UK live with sight-threatening eye conditions, and more than two million of these are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. At Guide Dogs, we want to support as many people as possible through these life-altering changes, providing the right services to help everyone.

Did you know that training and partnering our wonderful guide dogs isn't all we offer? We also provide support to adults through our My Sighted Guide service which partners trained volunteer guides with a person with a visual impairment. For children and young people, we offer a fantastic range of support, from companion dogs via our buddy dogs scheme to personalised, large print books through CustomEyes Books. Our expertise means we can make life-changing differences to those affected by sight loss, enabling them to live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. Thank you for helping us to do this with your generous support.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Steph Potter**  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Moose



“

**Hello, it's  
Zoey here,  
Moose's  
trainer.**

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I've been at Guide Dogs for almost three years and I really enjoy working here. I love working with dogs to help them progress, and overcome any challenges they have to become qualified guide dogs. Witnessing the bond they create with their new owner is extremely rewarding. Moose is lovely and we're developing a strong relationship. He can be a bit cheeky, but he's also very smart. He's so affectionate and loves a cuddle, which is great because who could resist cuddling this gorgeous boy?

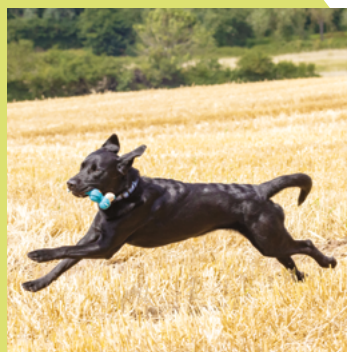
## Welcoming Moose

Moose settled in both here and with his fosterers seamlessly. Before his first day at training school, he had a long weekend with them. Moose adapted to his new routine quickly, which is wonderful. When he's not at training school, his fosterers take him on lots of lovely free runs, and he has a great time running around in the woods. He can get a bit distracted by other dogs, this is something we're working on. We've recently introduced a squeaky toy to help with his recall so he has this to focus on rather than other dogs. When he arrived at training school, he found his feet quickly and I'm enjoying working with him.

## New skills

I've introduced Moose to the brown training harness. Initially, Moose was a bit hesitant towards the harness and uncertain about putting his head through it, so I made it a positive experience by rewarding him with tasty treats. He's made great progress and is now comfortable wearing it.

Moose took to the skill platforms well and quickly picked it up. Platform training helps teach a pup to walk in a straight line while providing guiding tension. Guiding tension refers to the tension created through the harness handle that a person with sight loss will be holding. It's important this is right so a future owner feels safe and comfortable with Moose guiding them. Moose quickly got the hang of this, and we've now moved onto introducing guiding skills during walks around quiet areas.



## Moose's routine

Moose comes into training at 8am, and I give him a cuddle and some fuss to greet him. A typical morning usually consists of a harness walk in a quiet area in a nearby town where we focus on Moose's guiding tension. Then he'll have some downtime relaxing with a Kong toy or playing with one of the other pups in the training school. In the afternoon, we focus on new behaviours and introduce new skills.



Hear how Moose is settling into training school by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



**Scan me**



We're currently working on locating objects such as crossing boxes, benches and cash points. We're also practising chin rest, this is used for health checks on the ears and eyes, or to help administer medication. He'll then enjoy a free run before his lovely fosterers come to pick him up around 4pm.

## Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I'll introduce Moose to more guiding behaviours, such as obstacle avoidance, which teaches Moose how to safely guide a future owner around anything that could be blocking their way. I'll also focus on improving his dog distraction. I'm really proud of his progress so far.

**Thank you for sponsoring Moose. I've loved building a bond with him. Find out how he's getting on in your next Pupdate in February!**



## Where is Moose on his Pupdate journey?



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### The training harness

After around 12-16 months with their puppy raiser, our pups move to training school to learn more specific tasks related to their future career. Introducing a young dog to their brown training harness is one of the first milestones at training school. Most dogs have previously worn their puppy coat, meaning they're familiar with the body sensation. With this as a foundation, we build up to placing the harness on the dog's back and fastening it. Once a dog is partnered, they will wear the iconic white guiding harness.



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