



Moose

The perfect pairing

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're well and enjoying the longer days and warmer weather as we begin to welcome summer!

We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. Because of supporters like you, we've been able to create over 36,000 life-changing partnerships to date. That's more than 400 lives transformed each year for 93 years - and counting!

Did you know that 2 million people live with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050? We're committed to providing support to as many people as possible, for as long as that support is needed. With the cost of living continuing to rise, we appreciate your help now more than ever. Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs.

I'm excited to share that Moose has been partnered with a wonderful gentleman called Derek. I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager

P.S. Even though Moose is partnered, we will send you one more Pupdate in October so you can hear how they've been getting on together!



Thank you

for sponsoring Moose



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**Hello, it's
Derek here,
Moose's
owner.**

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My sight loss story started 20 years ago after my second heart attack. Clots in my blood vessels meant that my eyes were starved of oxygen, so I woke up with no central vision. My life completely changed overnight. I'm a motorsport enthusiast. I love rally cars and used to drive them. Not only did my loss of vision mean I had to leave my job, but I also wasn't able to do some of my favourite hobbies.

It took me a long time to accept my sight loss. Adapting to my new way of life was a challenge, as I lost most of my independence. Ten years after losing my central vision, my wife, Anita, and friends finally convinced me to go to an open day at a Guide Dogs centre. It was only then that I learnt how a guide dog can help change your life. This is where my Guide Dogs journey began.

Meeting Moose

Moose is my second guide dog. My first was a golden retriever/German shepherd called Zelda. Before I had her, I learnt how to use a white cane. I didn't feel confident going out with it, so I only used it when I had to. Zelda opened my world back up.

I used to hate going out, but with a guide dog, I was going out even if I had nowhere to go. It was amazing to feel confident enough to go out by myself again. Zelda is now retired; Moose has some big paws to fill!

Moose and I clicked instantly; Nicola, Moose's trainer, did a fantastic job of matching us. He's such a happy and affectionate dog. I couldn't have asked for a better match to follow Zelda. Partnership training with Moose was great. The training has changed since getting Zelda, and I enjoy the new programme; I find it interesting and can tell the difference when working with Moose. Nicola has been incredible and provided me with lots of guidance. When I'm at home, I work on things Nicola has taught me with Moose, and it's fulfilling to notice the improvements when we're on walks; I'm so proud of him. I used to have pet dogs and trained them in agility. Being able to work with Moose reminds me of this hobby, which is lovely.

Life now

Moose settled in quickly, we have a fantastic bond. He always follows me around; I can tell because I hear his tail wagging behind me tapping the walls. We all love him and his friendship with Zelda is heartwarming, however the toy box is always empty now!



Learn more about Moose and Derek's partnership by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-moose



Scan me

Confidence is key for me, and I have complete confidence in Moose to keep me safe when we venture out. He fits my lifestyle perfectly and gives me joyful energy when we're out; we bounce off one another. He's so adaptable to new situations, which makes me excited to explore new places with him by my side. I'm looking forward to finding out how my partnership with Moose develops.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Moose. He's made such a big difference to my life.



**Find out how
we're getting on in
your next Pupdate
in October!**

Where is Moose
on his Pupdate
journey?



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Creating new partnerships

Matching our dogs with their future owners is the final stage in the guide dog journey and a very important one! This task is completed by a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist (GDMS) who will take the dog's personality and preferences into account, the volume of work that the dog is comfortable doing, and at what pace. They will look to partner the dog with someone whose needs match the dog's. It's almost like creating a dating profile!



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