



# Moose

**Grand adventures**

**Pupdate 6**

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Hello, it's Derek here,  
Moose's partner.

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## Life with Moose

Since your last Pupdate, we've enjoyed lots of family activities bonding together. Moose settled in really well with my wife Anita, my retired guide dog Zelda, and me, and our bond has grown from strength to strength. Before I had Moose, I had a long list of tasks I wanted to complete and places I wanted to go, which I couldn't do without support. Now we're together, I'm always busy making my way through my now shrinking list.

Zelda and Moose have built a lovely friendship, and it's been wonderful to witness. As Zelda is a lot older, Moose plays gently with her. He's great at reading her cues and when she's had enough, he lets her rest. Although he usually tries to entice her to chase him around the garden one more time!



One of my hobbies is to go on walks. Where I live is quite rural and I'm lucky to have so many public walks through peaceful, beautiful countryside and farmland. One of my favourite walks is 5 miles long, and it's been so wonderful to be able to do this again with Moose after Zelda retired.

Before my sight loss, I really enjoyed participating in motorsports. Although I'm not able to drive anymore, I still have the passion. With Moose and Anita I was able to rejoin a motoring group to enjoy a popular motorcycle route, the North Coast 500! There were 8 cars on a 4-day trip and we had the best time. Moose was great at travelling in the car. The staff in the hotel we stayed in loved him and couldn't believe how quickly he learnt the way to our room.

## **Dog training**

I really enjoy STEP (standardised training for excellent partnerships), which is the name of the training that is used for all guide dogs. It champions positive reinforcement throughout the training. Before I lost my sight, I used to train dogs in agility so this awoke my desire to get involved in training again.

My Guide Dog Mobility Specialist, Nicola, arranged for me to join guide dogs training sessions with their professional trainers. These sessions were really beneficial for both me and Moose. I was able to learn more about the STEP training structure and what I could do with

Moose to keep improving upon his incredible guiding skills.

One skill I learnt was how to help Moose when he encounters something new and is a little unsure. I'm now able to give Moose the confidence to overcome these situations and build a positive association with unusual experiences. We were able to put this into practice when Moose spotted a stag through the hotel window in Scotland during our holiday. Initially he was nervous and gave one big deep bark, as if to warn the stag, and then he watched it wandering around the grounds. I gave him lots of praise whenever he displayed calm and confident behaviour so the next time we encounter one, he'll be less wary.

Another skill I'm working on with both Moose and Zelda is having them walk calmly and close by me when off lead. This can be quite a challenge with lots of distractions, especially when Moose wants to play with Zelda. But it will give me the confidence to know where they both are when Anita and I are out on family walks. So far this is going well, but I'll continue to work on it.

## **Our future**

I'm looking forward to finding out what the future holds for us both and planning our next adventures together as a family. Without your support I wouldn't have got my independence back, so thank you!





Join Derek and Moose's day out at Warwick Castle by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-moose](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-moose)**



**Scan me**



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**Moose has given me my confidence back and this is growing every day. I'm so thankful to you all for sponsoring Moose and allowing me to have this incredible guide dog.**

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**Derek, Moose's partner**



## Where is Moose on his Pupdate journey?



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## Thank you so much for sponsoring Moose!

We believe that visual impairment shouldn't stop people from doing the things they love. That's why we're here to provide life-changing support, skills and dogs to those affected by sight loss, helping them to live their lives exactly as they choose. This wouldn't be possible without kind people like you, and we can't thank you enough for your incredible support. Together, we can continue to train more pups like Moose and make a difference to the lives of even more people like Derek.



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