



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Murphy

Growing up

Pupdate 2

Murphy continues his journey



“ Hello, it’s Shirley and David here, Murphy’s Puppy Raisers. I’m excited to update you on his progress. ”

Murphy is still as calm as he was before, only now, he has grown very big! We’ve been enjoying getting out and about with Murphy – everyone talks to us, and we’ve made so many new friends!

Life at home

Murphy is going through a bit of a teenage phase at the moment, but he’s still very good. He’s funny with toys as he likes to collect them in his mouth and will sometimes carry three at a time! He’ll wag his tail proudly to show everybody what he can do, and that will go on for quite some time.

We have four dogs at home, and Murphy has lots of fun with them! We meet up with other puppy raisers nearby and Murphy gets on well with the other pups in training. We live on the fringes of a country park where Murphy loves to splash around in the reservoirs and ponds. That, and free running are his favourite things to do.

Visiting new places

Usually, we would take pups in training to carnivals or fairs so that they get used to loud noises, but we've been unable to do that recently due to Covid-19 restrictions. For that reason, we've been focusing on Murphy's loose lead walking skills and visiting new places. Wherever we take Murphy, he is always so relaxed. We've taken Murphy around the supermarkets, and he is so well behaved, especially when we are queuing!

Murphy always has a calm temperament when we are travelling on public transport. We were waiting for a train for thirty minutes once, and Murphy didn't mind at all. He waited patiently lying down under my legs. Murphy is as good as gold on all means of transport: trains, trams, and buses, he is just great.



Looking ahead

Murphy still needs some work with jumping into the car boot as he can be reluctant at times. Previously, we've placed a treat in the back of the car to help motivate him, but now we're practising getting him in because he wants to. We're pleased to see he's improving every time. Murphy used to get distracted around other dogs and cats before too, but he is much better with that now.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Murphy has grown in his own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-murphy

We are concentrating on getting Murphy used to busy environments. He wasn't sure what to make of being in our local town centre at first, as there were a few people out and about. But he's settling down the more that we are doing it and growing in confidence. When he's ready, we may take him to a larger city centre to see how he handles it, but we have no doubt that he will take it all in his stride!

I can't wait to see Murphy progress further in his journey to becoming a qualified guide dog. Look out for your next Pupdate!



Training – puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic skills and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Raiser. They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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