



Murphy

Murphy's
personality

Pupdate 4

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you are well and enjoying the start of summer. I'm sure you are looking forward to finding out the latest update from your sponsored puppy.

Your support is vital to help our future life changers complete their training and support a person with sight loss. We're proud to create so many partnerships through our guide dog and buddy dog schemes, and to be continuing this throughout 2022.

We really appreciate that the past few months have been really challenging in lots of ways, so we are so grateful that you have continued to support us by sponsoring a puppy. On behalf of everyone at Guide Dogs, I'd like to say a huge thank you.

Because of you and your amazing ongoing support, we can continue to make life-changing partnerships possible!

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Murphy's potential career



I've been working at Guide Dogs for around 30 years. I started working in dog care, which helped me develop a really good understanding of the basics of dog welfare and behaviour before I moved onto training, which I've been doing for the last 26 years. I really enjoy my job! Every dog has a different personality with different challenges and I love getting to know each of them and their quirks.

Murphy's move to training school

Murphy was making excellent progress with his puppy raisers and advanced onto training school, but unfortunately he didn't adapt well to this change. Murphy is a very sensitive boy and the new environment brought out some anxiety in him that he had not previously shown. He started struggling with skills that he was previously comfortable with. For example, he developed a strong aversion to car travel and would also become distracted by unfamiliar noises or movements.

I spent time with Murphy building up a good relationship with him and worked hard to help him overcome these challenges.

Unfortunately, I did not see the improvements that I was hoping for and, after discussions with the team, the decision was made for Murphy to pursue an alternative career as a buddy dog. This decision has been made with Murphy's welfare and the safety of a future owner in mind.

“ Hello, it's Kim here, Murphy's trainer. ”

Buddy dogs

A career as a guide dog might not be quite right for every dog, and some will undergo a career change to become a buddy dog for a child living with sight loss. Buddy dogs can significantly improve a child's wellbeing, like helping with exercise and building confidence, which in turn helps them to become more independent and create better relationships with others. Although a buddy dog doesn't help with mobility in the same way as a guide dog, they can certainly have an incredible impact on the lives of the children with sight loss that they are matched with!



Murphy's qualities

Murphy is a really lovely and affectionate boy. He absolutely loves a fuss and a play. We have a play area in our training centre and Murphy loves running around the sandpit and climbing on the apparatus. He gets so excited and plays like a small pup; its lovely to see him so happy! I think his affectionate personality would make him a wonderful companion for a child with sight loss.



Learn more about Murphy's potential career change.
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-murphy](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-murphy)



The skills that Murphy has learnt during his training would be beneficial to his buddy dog career. He's got great recall and is excellent at walking calmly on a loose lead. I hope that these skills combined with his personality will help him to thrive in a buddy dog role.

Next Steps

Murphy will be assessed to see if he is suitable for a career as a buddy dog. If successful, the search will start to find the perfect family for him to be matched with.

Look out for your next Pupdate to hear how Murphy's getting on.



Behind them every step of the way

A guide dog puppy's training journey could not have been possible without our fantastic volunteer puppy raisers. They do an incredible job of building the best foundation for our puppies before they head off to Guide Dogs Training School. One of the best parts of puppy raising is knowing that when the pup moves to training school, they will hopefully go on to change the life of someone with sight loss.

To find out what a day in the life of a Puppy Raiser is like, listen to Kirsty and Phil's experience at [guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser)



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