



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Niko

Niko's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

Thank you

for sponsoring Niko



“ Hello, it’s
Karen here,
Niko’s Puppy
Raiser. ”

Niko is the seventh puppy that I’ve raised. I’ve been volunteering for Guide Dogs for thirteen years now, as I started off as a Fosterer. I really like puppy raising because I feel like I’m giving something back. Plus, it’s very social, and I learn a lot about dogs and puppies!

All the puppies I’ve raised have been quite calm, and Niko is the same. He has a lovely personality. We give each of our new puppies a special monkey toy, and Niko carries it first thing in the morning to greet me. He’s a very friendly and loving dog!

Niko is a confident pup

Niko is not fazed by anything. We were surprised at how mesmerised he was by the vacuum cleaner and didn’t mind the noise at all. He has settled in well, and it helps that we have a withdrawn guide dog, Idris, who is older than him. Niko will often play with Idris, and then snuggle up to him afterwards. Although we do things separately with them, they have bonded nicely. If Niko sees that Idris has been rewarded for good behaviour, he then thinks ‘Oh, I can do that too!’ and will try to show off!

There is a fellow puppy in training, Gorby, who lives nearby, and Niko gets on wonderfully with him. We visit garden centres, supermarkets and let them have free runs together. He's quite a social pup and is also very gentle around children.

Niko's training

Although puppy training classes were delayed because of Covid-19, Niko's basic obedience is progressing well. We have practised his 'wait' for food, and Niko is very patient. He's confident when going up and down the stairs and walks very nicely on a loose lead. Something he has been practising since day one is the verbal cue 'under'. If I'm sitting on a chair, Niko will lie down nicely under my legs.

Niko has a calm presence about him. When we visited a shopping centre I took him inside a lift for the first time – and he wasn't anxious at all! He's already managed to experience lots of different places, including visiting outdoor restaurants, stepping in and out of shops, and popping into the supermarket. Niko has taken everything in his stride.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Niko has grown in his own video:
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-niko](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-niko)

New sights and smells

We have been into town on the bus, and Niko has also experienced sitting in different cars. He is coping really well with travelling. I have also taken him to the beach with Gorby and two other dogs, and Niko loved it. In his down time, he loves his free runs in the park, going to the moor, and doing lots of woodland walking. He settles in any situation, and what's really great, is that he doesn't mind the weather—rain or shine!

Niko is coming on leaps and bounds already and I can't wait to update you on his progress in your next Pupdate.



See how much Niko has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Niko since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed. To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-niko and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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