



Niko

**Niko's preparing
for training school**

Pupdate 3

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



Thank you

for sponsoring Niko



Home life

Niko's got a wonderful, funny personality; he's always making me laugh. He can often be found sitting halfway up the stairs – it doesn't look very comfy but he seems to like it!

Now that summer has arrived, Niko loves to sunbathe in the garden, either on his elevated outdoor bed or on the decking. He will often bring out his favourite toy monkey to relax with him. The paddling pool has come out again this year and he enjoys cooling off by splashing around in it. He entertains himself by splashing with his paws and then trying to catch the water in his mouth!

Niko is now a big brother! A golden retriever guide dog puppy called Tex has joined our household. Niko is so patient with Tex, he loves to play with him and keep him entertained. It's like having a live-in puppy sitter! Tex often takes Niko's favourite toys to play with and Niko will look at me as if to say, 'Mum he's got my toy!' He's learning that being a good big brother means sharing. He even lets Tex curl up with him in his bed.

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

Niko's progress

Since your last Pupdate, I've been working hard on improving Niko's dog distraction and I'm pleased to say that it's much better. He's a lot calmer around other dogs now but still loves to say hello – his sociable nature is part of his personality. He can still get excited on the lead when we first go out but calms down quickly.

We recently visited the beach with fellow guide dog in training, Gorby. Niko and Gorby had so much fun racing around together and Niko entertained himself with his favourite pastime – digging in the sand! We visited the beach café and Niko settled happily with a chew. There were lots of other dogs around, but he wasn't distracted at all.

I have been continuing to consolidate the essential puppy skills that Niko has already learnt. He's confident on all forms of transport and happy to accompany me to busy environments. I'm really pleased with his progress.



Discover how Niko is handling different environments.
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to:
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-niko](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-niko)



Looking to the future

Although I will miss Niko when he leaves to go to training school, I think he'll do well and I'm looking forward to seeing how he gets on. Everyone that meets Niko falls in love with him, so I don't think he'll have any trouble making friends! He's such a sweet natured boy and is a joy to have around the home.

I think Niko would suit an owner that matches his affectionate personality. Niko loves a cuddle and fuss so it would be nice to see him with someone that wants to give him that affection. He'd also suit someone with an active lifestyle as Niko loves to be out and about.

Look out for your next Pupdate to find out how Niko is doing at training school!



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



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