



Olive

**Olive's started
her journey!**

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; by sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Olive



“
**Hello, it's Liz
and Rob here,
Olive's Puppy
Raisers.**

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Olive is the first puppy we've raised. After Liz retired, we decided to become volunteer puppy raisers. Raising puppies for Guide Dogs is fantastic and our Puppy Development Advisor Hannah is so supportive, we're learning so much. Olive gives us so much joy, and we're loving being part of her journey.

Settling in

When Olive first arrived with us, we wanted to make sure she felt safe and secure. We spent a lot of time playing together and Olive bonded very quickly with us. She settled in perfectly!

Olive is lovely company, she's great fun and such a good girl. She has a gentle and calm personality, but she still has her 'zoomies'! She'll get a sudden burst of energy and just start running in circles in the garden – this is completely natural for any pup and it's so amusing to watch! Sometimes, she can be a little unsure when she encounters something new, but she is brave and stands her ground until she understands what she sees.

Most of the time, she's happy just to sit and watch the birds in the garden, or stop to watch the swans when we're walking in the local park. But it's so funny when something catches Olive's attention; she gets all excited and starts running around. She also loves meeting new people and if someone says hello in the street, she wants to greet them and get cuddles.

Olive loves to play with toys, her favourites are the noisy and squeaky ones, like her squirrel and mouse soft toys. She has a lick mat too, we spread her favourite food on it and she enjoys licking it away! When we play outside, her favourite toy is her squidgy ball on a rope.

Training and puppy classes

Olive is such a clever girl and works things out so quickly. She's started puppy classes, where she learns new skills and socialises with other puppies. It's also a chance for us to meet with other puppy raisers and find out how our pups are progressing. We practise the skills she's learnt at puppy class at home and will continue to work on them as she grows. So far, she's been learning cues like 'sit' and 'down'. We've also been practising recall and loose-lead walking in the garden. All guide dog puppies are trained using positive reinforcement, so we reward Olive with food or fuss when she follows our cues.



Find out how Olive has settled in with Liz and Rob by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-olive



Scan me

Looking ahead

Olive's grown so much since we've had her. We will continue to introduce her to new places, and we can't wait to help her progress. Olive is keen to learn, so we know she will take everything in her stride.

Thank you for sponsoring Olive. We're excited to update you on her new experiences in your next Pupdate in October!



Where is Olive
on her Pupdate
journey?



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Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 7-8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! **To find out more about volunteering, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer.**



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