



Olive

**Olive's
progress**

Pupdate 3

Welcome to your February Pupdate

We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I can't wait for you to read your puppy's latest Pupdate, and I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Olive



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

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Olive's been making great progress since her last Pupdate. She's a very gentle and loving dog who loves a cuddle. Olive still adores her soft toy knitted scarecrow and has a soft toy mouse she also likes. She'll greet us in the morning holding one of them in her mouth and wagging her tail. It's incredible thinking back to how small Olive was when we first got her; she could barely get up a step! Watching her grow and develop into the lovely dog that she is now has been an amazing experience.

Olive's skills

We're focusing on reinforcing all the skills Olive's already learnt and getting her ready for training school. This includes practising her loose lead walking and waiting before walking through doorways.

We take Olive to as many new places as we can, to make sure she is comfortable in unfamiliar environments, as she'll encounter many places in her potential future role. She does very well in all the locations we visit as part of our weekly routine, such as supermarkets and shops. We've also been practising self-settling with Olive by taking her to cafés and restaurants. She settles nicely everywhere we go.

Recently, Olive joined Rob on a trip to the opticians, and she was relaxed and very patient while he had his check-up.

Olive also joins us when we visit friends, and she settles well in other people's houses too. She's a clever pup and takes everything in her stride.

New experiences

Olive is fantastic travelling in the car, and we've also been practising public transport with her. She's brilliant on the bus; because she's a big dog it's harder to stay tucked away but she's great at it! She's always very calm, even when it's busy. Recently, we've started introducing Olive to other smaller spaces; this could be anything from a changing room to a public toilet cubicle, as these are areas she might need to deal with in the future. Despite her big size, she adapts well to any setting, finding a comfortable place to lie down quietly.

Olive is making progress with her dog distraction too. When we're out in town and she has her puppy coat on, she's awesome and if we're in a café she won't try to greet other people or dogs. She struggles a bit more when she's on a free run and other dogs are nearby. Olive has a tendency to find them more interesting than she finds me! This is something we're working on.



Find out more about Olive's adventures by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-olive



Scan me

Looking ahead

Over the next few months, we'll continue consolidating all the cues and skills that Olive has learnt in her time with us to prepare her for training school. We'll focus on her recall and dog distraction.

Raising Olive is a wonderful experience, having a dog in the house has been lovely. We've learnt lots about dogs and their development through the e-learning and training that Guide Dogs have provided us. It's been fantastic meeting many other puppy raisers too. We hope Olive will go on to make a fabulous companion for someone with sight loss.

Thank you for sponsoring Olive. She's an excellent dog, and we're enjoying raising her. Find out how she's getting on in your next Pupdate in June!



Where is Olive on her Pupdate journey?



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Our breeds

Labradors and golden retrievers are the most common pure breeds in our training programme. But did you know that we also breed and train poodles and curly coated retrievers, along with German shepherds? These dogs also provide secondary benefits, such as longer strides for faster walkers, or shedding less hair which is very important for guide dog owners with allergies to dog hair!



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