

Oscar

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 5

Oscar prepares for his new owner

Perfecting skills

SPONSOR
A PUPPY





Hi, I'm Joanne, Oscar's trainer. I'm preparing him to be matched with a new owner!

I've been training guide dogs for around twenty years and it's my job to match a dog to a new owner and ensure they make a successful partnership. Watching a bond form between the dog and owner makes the hard work worthwhile and I'm so excited to see Oscar give someone back their freedom and independence.

Perfecting skills

Oscar is coming towards the end of training school and has now learnt all the skills required to become a successful guide dog. I've been taking Oscar out for a harness walk each day to perfect his guiding skills, visiting busier areas where he needs to concentrate and make decisions himself when manoeuvring around people and obstacles.

One challenge I faced with Oscar is that he often thought I was as small as him and would try to guide me through tiny gaps. I've been teaching him to leave space for his handler and he has become much more aware of leaving space for the two of us. He's such a bright boy and it doesn't take long for him to master new commands.



Traffic training

A final part of guide dog training is traffic training, in which we teach our dogs to be aware of moving vehicles and stop if one approaches. This is an invaluable skill to Oscar's future owner as he will signal to them when a road is not safe to cross. We tested Oscar's ability by

asking him to move forward whilst a car approached. He was brilliant, choosing to disobey the command until the car had passed. (Continued overleaf)



A true test

I recently completed a blindfolded walk with Oscar which was a true test of his guiding skills. Sometimes, as his handler, I give off subtle body language that gives him an indication of what to do next, but when I was blindfolded, Oscar needed to make decisions unaided. He did so well, and this test helped me to note any areas that we should continue working on to make sure he is completely ready for his new owner.

Looking to the future

Oscar is brilliant on public transport and settles quickly in busy environments, so we are looking to find him an owner who is fairly active and can really make the most of his exceptional skills. He has such a gentle soul and is very affectionate so will make an amazing companion as well as a guide.

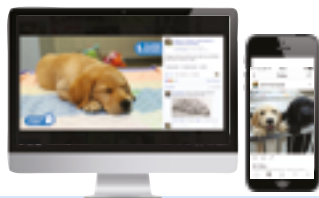
Thank you for sponsoring Oscar, it has been a pleasure to have been part of his journey. Look out for his final Pupdate in June!

See how much Oscar has grown

We have been taking pictures of Oscar since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed.

To see your exclusive video, please visit **guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-oscar**

and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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