



“ When Oscar isn’t working, we love to play tug of war or a bit of football together. ”
Wayne, Oscar’s new owner



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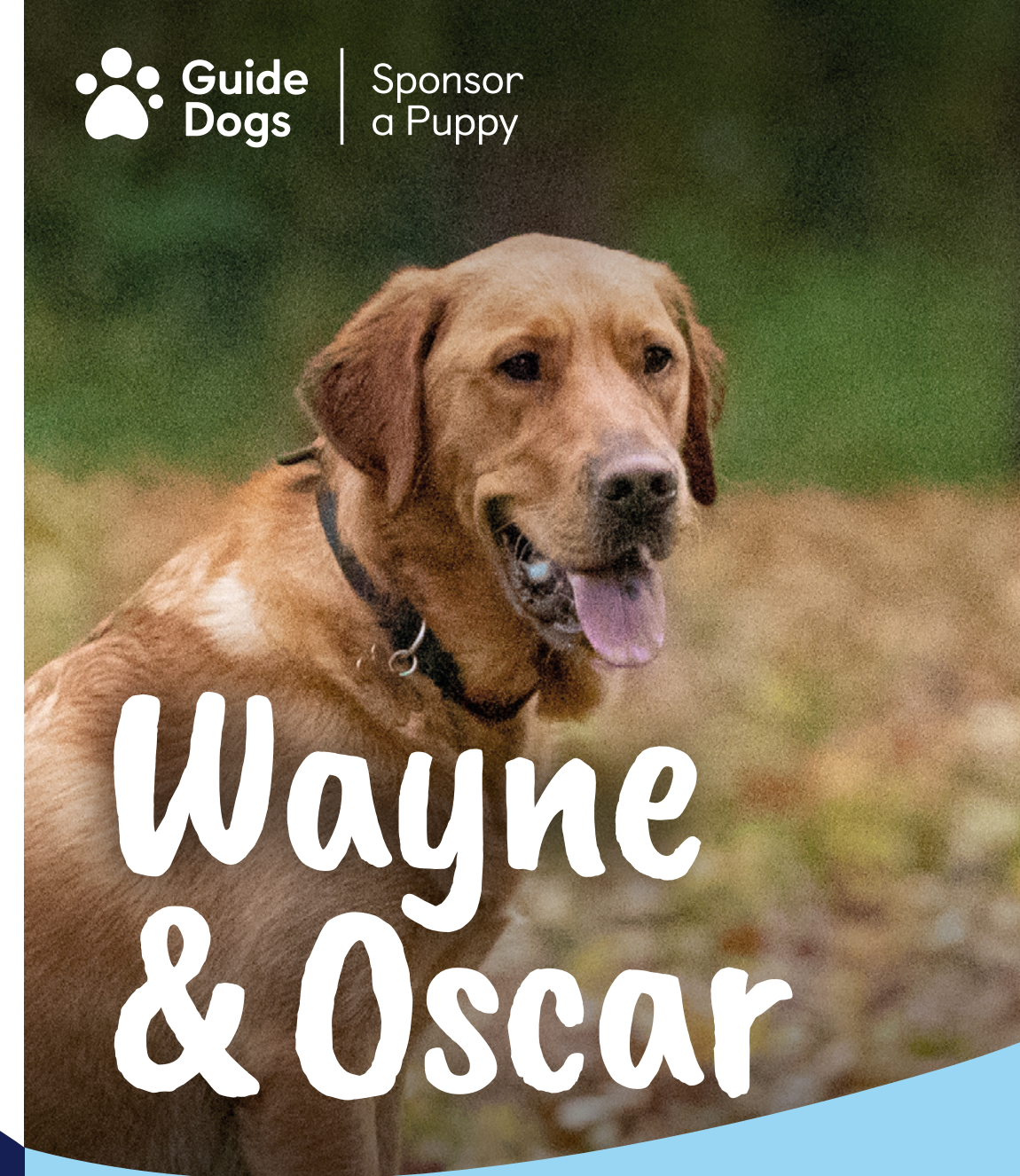


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Wayne & Oscar

The perfect match

Pupdate 6

Thank you for sponsoring Oscar

Hello, it's Wayne here, Oscar's new owner. I can't thank you enough for your support in making our partnership happen.

I have very limited sight; one of my eyes has no sight in it whatsoever and I only have partial vision in the other. It can be very difficult as I can see some things in long distance, but when things are close up it becomes very challenging.

A tough time

When my sight deteriorated, I lost my confidence and independence. I used to be able to drive and to have that taken away from me was horrible. I initially used a white cane, which I absolutely hated; it was very restrictive and isolating. However, it's the complete opposite when walking with Oscar! He attracts attention from everyone, and people come up to me all the time; he's such a poser and loves all the fuss!

Our partnership

Although the training was intense, Oscar and my Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Jo, made it all worthwhile. Oscar was partnered with me a few weeks after I moved into my new bungalow – I wasn't expecting him to arrive so quickly and was worried the building work might be challenging for him to deal with. Luckily, I had nothing to worry about as Oscar settled in with me and my daughter so quickly – nothing phased him! He's a right character and walks into each room before bedtime to check on everyone before he goes to sleep. Sometimes I'll wake up and he'll be sleeping right next to my bed!

Settling into home life

Oscar is a joy to be with in our family. Typically, he'll wake up at around 6am, and is ready for a run in the garden and breakfast straight away! He can tell when I have woken up and will place his paws on my hand prompting me to get up. When he's ready for his breakfast or dinner he'll do a funny gallop like a horse and will jump up and down like he's dancing.

The recent impact of coronavirus has meant I've needed to find new ways of ensuring me and Oscar put our partnership training to practise and learn the new routes around the area. Before the social distancing guidelines were introduced, every morning we'd either visit the shops, walk around town or take a stroll in different parks.

Usually, me and Oscar would walk around 12,000-15,000 steps per day, so it's a shame we've been limited to shorter walks for the time being.

Oscar is great on public transport; before the travel restrictions we'd been on the bus, train and Underground. When we've wanted to use the Tube, it has required a bit of planning to make sure that the station is accessible, but Oscar loves it. When Oscar isn't working, we love to play tug of war or a bit of football together. He loves his walks and free runs; he always tries to play with every dog he can find!

Looking to the future

Once the social distancing restrictions are lifted, I'm hoping to go to Richmond with Oscar and my daughter, as we'd love to walk along the Southbank again. I enjoy taking Oscar to 'touristy' places as people are fascinated with guide dogs; it's a great teaching experience for children, to let them understand that with working dogs you should always ask before touching them and should not distract them while they are working.

I hope you've enjoyed following Oscar's journey and watching him grow from a tiny puppy into an incredible life-changing guide dog. If it wasn't for Oscar, your ongoing support, and Guide Dogs, I wouldn't be able to lead the life I want. Thank you!

(Continued overleaf)



For more photos of Oscar, please visit:
sponsorapuppy.org.uk/puppy-oscar