

# Oscar

GUIDE  
DOGS



## Pupdate 4

A new chapter

Oscar has started training school!

SPONSOR  
A PUPPY





**Hello, I'm Frankie, a trainer at Guide Dogs. I'm pleased to say Oscar has made it to training school!**

I've been working at Guide Dogs for around thirteen years and I love getting to know all the dogs' different personalities. It is so rewarding seeing your hard work pay off when the puppies qualify, knowing they are going on to change someone's life for the better. I'm really looking forward to getting to know Oscar better

and develop our relationship as dog and handler.

## **Mr Popular**

Oscar is very affectionate and playful and has taken to training school like a duck to water! He loves being around the other dogs and is thriving in the kennel environment. His best bud is Humphrey, another trainee guide dog who started on the same day. Every time they see each other they greet each other like it has been years – they are kindred spirits!

He really is Mr Popular and is loved by people as well as dogs, becoming a firm favourite among the staff at Redbridge Training School in no time. He is such a lovely dog to work with and Glyn, his Puppy Walker, has done an amazing job preparing him for this new chapter.



## **Introducing the harness**

I'm delighted to say that Oscar has taken to his training harness well and is a natural! Oscar is very bright and has lots of initiative for obstacle avoidance. I'm gradually giving him more to think about whilst on our harness walks, for example, routes with overhanging bushes or narrow pavements that he needs to manoeuvre around. This way he will learn to make enough room for

himself and his handler, a vital skill to master to become a qualified guide dog.

I'm currently working with Oscar on some complex skills such as 'find the van', finding self-checkouts in supermarkets and locating pedestrian crossings.

(Continued overleaf)



He's progressing nicely, but he does get a bit too excited to find the van with his chin and so he needs to learn to slow down!

### **Focused and calm**

Oscar has been visiting new places as part of his training. I took him to a busy market, which tested his focus and confidence as there were so many different smells and obstacles to navigate. He ignored all the food smells and remained completely unfazed

by the hustle and bustle, even when we came across some donkeys!

Someone could be getting a life changing gift for Christmas as there is a good chance Oscar may be partnered with his new owner by the end of this year! I know his gentle and playful personality is going to bring someone so much joy.

Thank you for sponsoring Oscar. Look out for your next Pupdate in February.

## **The matching process**

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a persons needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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