



Pudding

Time for school!

Pupdate 3

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope that you and your family are well and enjoying these beautiful autumn months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Considering the current economic challenges, we are so grateful for your continued commitment; you form an integral part of the Guide Dogs family. Your generosity is helping children and adults living with sight loss to live independent and confident lives.

Every day 250 more people join the two million already living with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050. Our services are needed now more than ever. Our guide dogs and buddy dogs really do change lives, and we couldn't breed and train these incredible dogs without you. Thank you.

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

Yours sincerely,



Chris Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Pudding's arrived at training school



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**Hi, it's
Lauren here,
Pudding's
trainer.**
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I've been a Guide Dog Trainer for about three years and absolutely love my job. I get to work outside with dogs every day – what's not to love? I've currently got a group of three dogs that I'm training: a golden retriever called Clara, a yellow Labrador called Malvern, and now Pudding!

Pudding's first week

Pudding settled into the new environment of training school really well. During her first week, we spent a lot of time playing and relaxing. It was important for me to take the time to form a strong bond with Pudding before attempting to teach her new skills. Pudding is a very affectionate, cuddly girl and she's a lovely dog to be around. I introduced Pudding to Clara and Malvern as she'll be spending a lot of time with them. They took to each other straight away and one of Pudding's favourite things to do now is to curl up for a snooze with Clara!

Daily routine

Pudding stays with her fosterers during the evenings and weekends and attends training school during the weekdays. Her fosterers drop her off at school in the morning around 8:30am and she'll usually settle with a Kong or chew toy. I begin the day by walking the dogs one by one, and I change the order each day.

Pudding is already familiar with the area as she lived locally with her Puppy Raiser, Eddie. We often walk to the Tesco that she used to visit with Eddie and the staff still love to see her! During the morning walk, I encourage Pudding to walk in a nice straight line and we'll also do some kerb work: Pudding is learning to stop at the kerb and wait for a cue to proceed.

Pudding and I will then do a short training session working on specific skills such as platform training. This involves asking Pudding to walk towards a low platform and stop with all four paws on it. Platform training is a great tool to teach the dogs to walk in a straight line and provide tension in the lead by giving them a target to aim for.

Around midday, the dogs have some downtime. The lights go out and we play some classical music to encourage them to have a snooze – Pudding doesn't need much encouragement! After a rest, we'll do another short training session to practise skills such as 'chin rest'. I'll ask Pudding to rest her chin on my lap. This is a great skill as it enables us to perform welfare tasks such as checking ears, eyes and teeth.

At the end of the day, all the dogs enjoy a free run before heading home with their fosterers for a chilled-out evening.



Hear about the skills that Pudding is learning from her trainer by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-pudding



Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I will be focusing on helping Pudding overcome some challenges including distraction around other dogs and wariness around strange sights or sounds. I will also be introducing her to all of the essential skills that she will need for her future role.

Pudding is a pleasure to work with and I am excited to update you on her progress in your next Pupdate in February.





Thanks to your amazing support, you are helping puppies like Pudding move to training school and learn from our guide dog trainers, who will teach them the specialist skills they need for their future role. **Your sponsorship donations contribute towards our guide dog and buddy dog services, costs which can include:**

£8 could support a guide dog partnership for a day.

£16 could buy a coat for one of our puppies in training.

£25 could fund an hour's training for a guide dog.

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