



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Rosie

Growing up

Pupdate 2

Rosie continues her journey



“ Hello, it’s Edith here, Rosie’s Puppy Walker. I’m excited to update you on her progress. ”

Even though the last few months have been a challenge due to coronavirus restrictions, I’ve enjoyed watching Rosie grow and develop. Her affectionate side has come out even more; she always likes to be beside me whatever I do. When we watch TV in the evenings, Rosie lies by my feet, occasionally lifting her head up for a cuddle.

Life at home

Rosie is a very people-orientated dog, but she can also be a bit stubborn at times. When my husband asks her to jump into the car boot, she refuses to do so without a tasty treat, but as soon as she sees me coming, she gets in within seconds!

Rosie is a big food lover, so it comes as no surprise that her favourite toys are still the ones with treats inside. She particularly likes to play fetch with her Kong Wobbler toy in the garden. Rosie has learnt to let go of her end of the toy but always gives it a big shake beforehand. Another favourite is a frozen bone which she chews on before going to sleep.

Developing skills

I've adapted Rosie's training to better suit the home environment and she's been absolutely brilliant! I've set up some traffic cones in the garden for her to practise navigating around as she would with obstacles in the street. We've worked on commands such as 'leave' for food, rubbish and even birds which she's really good at completely ignoring. I've also been training Rosie to be comfortable around people wearing face masks by wearing one at home and taking her into the town centre to see how she reacted. I'm very pleased to say that she wasn't bothered by them at all!

Rosie loves her free runs and playing with other young dogs. She sometimes gets a little too excited and wants to greet them on her two back legs, but I've been working on keeping her calm and she's making great progress. Because we haven't had many visitors come to the house since lockdown, Rosie gets very enthusiastic when she sees someone walk through the front door. This is an area I'll be focusing on improving with Rosie and I'm confident she'll become more patient once she's witnessed enough people come in.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Rosie has grown in her own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-rosie

Looking ahead

I'm looking forward to slowly reintroducing Rosie to busier public environments, such as shopping centres and cafés. We are all excited about celebrating a second Christmas with Rosie and hopefully visiting my son and daughter during the festive period. Last year Rosie was just a little pup and now she has grown into a lovely dog who is a joy to be around.

I can't wait to see Rosie progress further in her journey to becoming a qualified guide dog. Look out for your next Pupdate in February!



Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog. The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker. They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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