



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Ruby

Ruby is a
lovable pup

Pupdate 2

Ruby continues her journey



“ Hello, it’s Scout here, Ruby’s Puppy Walker. Welcome to her second Pupdate! ”

It has been great seeing Ruby grow and mature over the past few months. When she first came to us, she was very energetic – she has now calmed down a bit, but is still a lovable pup! When you walk into a room, she is still keen to greet you with cuddles and strokes which is definitely just her personality. Having Tommy, a retired guide dog, with her seems to help Ruby with her training. During their free time they get all their excess energy out chasing each other, but when they get home, they love to have a snooze together.

Life at home

Ruby has continued to practise her lead work. Guide dogs are trained to walk on the left side of their owner, so they have their right hand free and Ruby’s now mastered walking on the left side – it has become second nature to her!

Due to COVID-19, most of the family have been staying at home which means Ruby gets lots of attention and cuddles.

When she was a smaller pup her favourite toy was a blue dinosaur. Unfortunately, Ruby and Tommy got a bit carried away with playing tug of war, so the dinosaur got destroyed! Now her favourite toy is a multicoloured giraffe that she always carries with her. Hopefully the giraffe will withstand any future tug of war games!



Getting out and about

Lately we've been taking Ruby for lots of free runs in the fields. This has given us the opportunity to focus on fine-tuning her recall. When she was younger, Ruby would often run up to other people as she wanted to play, so now we're focusing on keeping her to heel and rewarding her with treats when she does well.



Although COVID-19 has limited the variety of places we could take Ruby to, her skills have not been impacted at all. Ruby still behaves brilliantly in supermarkets and shops; she can sit patiently without getting distracted by loud noises.



(Continued overleaf)



See how Ruby has grown in her own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby

Plans for the future

This Christmas we're hoping to travel to Dorset and will be taking Ruby and Tommy with us. There are some lovely walking spaces there which Ruby will enjoy. We also have younger cousins who will love to see Ruby again. One of my cousins is two years old, and Ruby behaves fantastically around her – she is so calm and gentle and has a great temperament.

We can't wait to see Ruby progress on her journey to become a guide dog. Look out for her 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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