



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Ruby

Ruby's great
qualities

Pupdate 4

Ruby's potential career



“Hello, it’s Jo here and I am Ruby’s Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.”

In your last Pupdate, Ruby’s Puppy Raiser Bailey mentioned all the important experiences Ruby was having that would help her on her journey towards becoming a guide dog. However, Ruby started to display reluctance to jumping into the boot of a car and wearing her puppy training coat. This meant that Ruby was unlikely to be comfortable wearing a training harness. Ruby’s puppy raisers worked hard at increasing Ruby’s confidence and Ruby was soon able to travel in the backseat of a car with no problems, but still tended to shy away from travelling in the boot. Every dog is unique, and has their own quirks and personalities, but we soon realised that Ruby may be better suited for an alternative career as a buddy dog.

Buddy dogs

Buddy dogs are dogs that have been given a career change because life as a guide dog wasn’t quite right for them. Buddy dogs bring a new friend into the lives of children with sight loss. They have a hugely positive effect on a child’s wellbeing, by helping with their physical activity, building their confidence, and helping them to create better relationships with others. Unlike guide dogs, buddy dogs are not used as a mobility aid, and instead help children with sight loss gain confidence.

Ruby's skills and experiences

I've been visiting Ruby at her Puppy Raiser Bailey's home where she continues to learn a lot of vital skills and experiences that will help her if she progresses into a career as a buddy dog. Ruby is great around children and adults of all ages – she is a very sociable pup which is an important quality to have as a buddy dog. Ruby loves spending time with her puppy raiser's dog Tommy and mixes very well with dogs in public spaces. This will help her adapt to a family that might have a pet dog or when visiting busier environments.

Ruby also experienced staying with a different puppy raiser for a week. This was to see how she coped with staying in a different home on her own with no other pets in the house. Ruby settled well into her new home and wasn't fazed at all by staying in a new place. This shows Ruby's high level of confidence, which is lovely to see, and should help her if she trials living with a potential family as a buddy dog.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Ruby has grown in her own video:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby

Next steps

I will now be assessing Ruby to see if she responds well to all the potential scenarios that a buddy dog might experience. If Ruby checks all the boxes, I will then find a potential family that she could be matched with. During the matching process I will try and find a child and family that are best suited for Ruby and vice versa. I'm sure that Ruby will be suited for a career as a buddy dog and will help provide confidence to a child with a visual impairment.

I look forward to updating you on how Ruby has progressed in her next Pupdate.



Buddy dogs

Our buddy dogs bring a new friend into the lives of children with sight loss. By helping to develop their self-confidence, improve relationships and build a greater sense of trust, these dogs can have a hugely positive effect on a child's wellbeing – and their family too.



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