



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Jennifer & Ruby

Ruby has qualified  
as a buddy dog!

Pupdate 5

# Ruby

is on her way to becoming a guide dog



**“Hello, it’s Iwona here, Jennifer’s mother. Ruby has recently qualified as a buddy dog and has been partnered with my daughter, Jennifer.”**

Jennifer was born prematurely with Cerebral Palsy and is a wheelchair user. A couple of years ago during a visit to the opticians they noticed her sight was getting worse. When Jennifer was eight years old, she was diagnosed with vision impairment.

## First steps

Once we received the vision impairment certificate, I did some research and came across Guide Dogs, so I gave them a call to ask about the type of help they offer for children like Jennifer. It wasn’t long before we received an invitation to attend a family event in London where we had the opportunity to meet other parents and children with sight loss. A few days later I had another call from Guide Dogs who advised that Jennifer is too young for a guide dog but would be a great applicant for a buddy dog instead – and the rest is history!

Due to COVID-19 it took some time to complete Jennifer and Ruby’s partnership, but the whole process was explained to us very well. Buddy dogs are dogs that have

been given a career change because guiding wasn't quite right for them. They are like a friend to children with vision impairments and Ruby has helped Jennifer build a sense of fun and trust. When Ruby first arrived in our home, she was a little restless, but after a week, she had fully settled in. Now she refuses to sleep anywhere else but in her big doggy bed in Jennifer's bedroom – they are inseparable!

## Life with Ruby

Jennifer and Ruby make a fantastic team. They are both so funny and good with each other – it makes me very happy. Ruby encourages Jennifer to increase her physical activity. They both love playing fetch together and going to the park. The biggest change I've noticed in Jennifer is how much more she likes to be outdoors. Previously, she'd spent a lot of time on her computer but now she likes to remind me when it's time to walk Ruby!

Jennifer's confidence around other animals has increased massively too. She used to be a little anxious, but since she's been with Ruby, she even held a cat for the first time. Ruby is protective of Jennifer too.

(Continued overleaf)



See how much Ruby has grown in her own video:  
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby)



When she was getting her haircut, Ruby sat next to Jennifer's wheelchair without moving. They both like to take care of each other.

Once a week, I take Ruby with me to pick up Jennifer from school – everybody loves her there! Ruby is a very friendly girl, so in that sense, she helps Jennifer create better relationships with others. We travel in a taxi and Ruby always sits like a passenger on the seat with her head resting in Jennifer's lap, enjoying the cuddles.

**Thank you so much for sponsoring Ruby and bringing her into our family. Look out for your next Pupdate to hear about Jennifer and Ruby's adventures!**

## See how much Ruby has grown

We have been taking pictures of Ruby since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed. Please visit [guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-ruby) and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



Find out more about how we manage and respect your data at [guidedogs.org.uk/privacy](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/privacy) or call **freephone 0800 953 0113** to request a printed copy. Please use this number to tell us if you have changed your mind about how we contact you; including telling us that you do not wish to receive occasional direct mail about Guide Dogs.