



Sponsor
a Puppy



Rupert

Rupert's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

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

Chris Allum
Puppy Sponsorship
Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Rupert



“

**Hello, it's
Jean here,
Rupert's
Puppy Raiser.**

”

My husband, Les, and I have been fundraising for Guide Dogs for over 25 years. When we first started, we met lots of people living with sight loss and it was incredible to see the difference that a guide dog had made to their lives. It was these relationships that inspired us to become puppy raisers and we have not looked back since; we've now raised over 20 puppies and boarded several more!

We really enjoy the challenge of puppy raising; each pup is unique so we always make sure to adapt to their needs. It's incredibly rewarding to watch the pups grow in confidence and to know that we've been a part of their training journey.

Rupert's personality

Rupert is a lovely, sweet-natured pup. He's very energetic so we make sure that we give him ample opportunity to use that energy! We've got an agility tunnel in the garden which he absolutely loves to charge through. Some pups are nervous of the tunnel at first, but Rupert had no fear!

Rupert loves to use his mind; it's important that we keep him mentally stimulated, so we've got a variety of toys which we rotate to ensure that he never gets bored. We usually give him lunch in his snuffle mat – he loves this, and it's a great way to keep him stimulated and use up excess energy!

Settling in

Rupert didn't take long to settle into his new home. He's a confident chap and has been sleeping through the night since he arrived (which is unusual for a young pup!).

We rehomed Thomas, our three-year-old pet dog, after he had to leave the guide dog training programme for health reasons. Thomas has since proven to be a wonderful mentor to the pups we've raised, and Rupert has already learnt a lot from him. Thomas is very laid back and has a lovely calming effect on those around him.

New skills

Rupert is an extremely bright pup and is already confident with many basic skills including 'sit' and 'down'. He's great to work with as he's always eager to learn! Rupert's food manners are brilliant; if we place treats on the ground, he won't pick them up until he's told that he can do so.



Hear how Rupert is mastering loose lead walking by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-rupert](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-rupert)



Rupert is also very good at 'self-settle'. This is a really important skill as Rupert will need to be able to accompany his future owner to public environments where settling will be essential. Wherever we are, if we put his mat down, he will lie on it and relax with a tasty chew.

We are really enjoying our time with Rupert; he is an amazing pup and a delight to teach. We're already so proud of his progress and we're sure that he's got a bright future ahead of him. We can't wait to update you again in your next Pupdate in February.





See how much Rupert has grown

We have been taking pictures and videos of Rupert since he was born so you can see just how much he's changed.

To watch your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-rupert 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 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.