



Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Rupert

Out and  
about!

Pupdate 2

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**I hope that you and your family are well  
and had an enjoyable start to the year.**

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. At any one time, we're responsible for over 8,000 puppies and dogs, and are one of the only organisations worldwide that breeds and nurtures them throughout their lifetime. Without you, we couldn't train life-changing dogs like your sponsored pup – you truly are making a huge difference.

Did you know that one in five people will live with significant sight loss in their lifetime? We're committed to providing the support needed to ensure that everyone with sight loss can live their life exactly as they choose. By sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

*Steph*

**Steph Potter**  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

for sponsoring Rupert



“

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

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Rupert is a superb puppy! He has such a friendly personality and is always willing to learn. From the start, nothing has really fazed him - he's just so adaptable. My husband, Les, and I have been working on transport with Rupert, and he's had no problems. When travelling in the car, he settles really well in the boot. There is a harbour close to where we live, so we've been introducing Rupert to boats as well and even taking trips across the river on a ferry. Although his future owner might not need to travel on a ferry, creating a positive association with new and unusual environments is important to ensure that Rupert isn't anxious when encountering new experiences in the future.

## **New skills**

I've also been teaching Rupert the cue 'under', where I sit on a seat and Rupert goes under my legs and lies down. We have built this up slowly using lots of treats and fuss, evolving the skill as Rupert has grasped each part. At first, I just asked Rupert to

lie under my legs. Once he understood that, I asked him to stay and now I can get up from my seat and he'll stay lying down until I give the cue to follow. This skill will be really helpful in the future if Rupert's owner needs to travel on a busy bus or train where there isn't much space; going underneath his owner's legs will keep Rupert safe and out of the way.



## New people

Les and I are volunteer fundraisers for Guide Dogs too, so we take Rupert along with us whenever we go to events. He's very good and people love to see him and say hello! We've been teaching Rupert how to greet people calmly without jumping. He picked this up quickly and will now sit by my side until we say he can say hello. This is a great skill to have, especially in tight or busy spaces. People can't believe how well-behaved he is!



Rupert also joins us when we go to the local gym; he comes to yoga on Saturdays and a kids' jujitsu class on Wednesdays. These are very different experiences, but Rupert doesn't bat an eye – he understands that sometimes the gym can be quiet and calm and sometimes chaotic and loud, but he will sit and watch happily regardless.



Find out more about the new skills Rupert is learning by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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



## Cheeky quirk

Recently, Rupert started taking an interest in our tea towels! We used to hang them on the front of the cooker and he began to pull them off. He was never destructive or naughty, he would just drop them on the floor. We've stopped hanging them there for now, but I'll put them back on again before he leaves us – he's learnt now that there are much better toys than tea towels! Rupert is such a willing pup and I'm really enjoying sharing his journey with you.

**Thank you for sponsoring Rupert. I hope that you have enjoyed his Pupdate, and I look forward to updating you on his progress in June!**





## 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](https://www.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](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.