



Rupert

**Rupert's
exciting news!**

Pupdate 5

Welcome to your February Pupdate

We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I'm excited to share that Rupert has been partnered with a wonderful lady called Jane. I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager

P.S. Even though Rupert is partnered, we will send you one more Pupdate in June so you can hear how they've been getting on together!



Thank you

for sponsoring Rupert



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**Hi, I'm Jane, and
I'm partnered
with Rupert.**

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A little bit about me

I'm 54 years old, and I volunteer with associations alongside Guide Dogs to make the world more accessible for people with sight loss like me. Growing up with macular degeneration, I was registered blind at the age of seven. I have very little sight today, and bright light leaves me with no vision at all outside.

I used to be a competitive paralympic swimmer, and I came to know about Guide Dogs thanks to fellow athletes. They brought their assistance dogs along, and I noticed how their lives were easier with their canine companions. They inspired me, and I thought having a guide dog would be fantastic.

I studied Law at university in the late '80s; during this time, I used a white cane while I waited for a guide dog. The cane is great on rough terrains but can make you feel a bit isolated and lonely, whereas when you're guided by a dog, people tend to connect more with you.

Getting to know Rupert

Rupert is my fourth guide dog, and we're building a wonderful bond. After a few days of adjusting to one another, he's settled down and is confident while guiding me.

The matching process with him has been easy and enjoyable. He adapted immediately to the new environment when he arrived at my house. I think the presence of Ruby, my retired guide dog who's living with me, made everything easier. She's a 10-year-old black border collie/golden retriever cross; it's great to see how well they get along and play together.

Rupert's such a funny boy, he always makes me laugh! He loves having zoomies and free runs in the countryside. It's great to relax in the living room, with Rupert and Ruby by my side.

A new beginning

A partnership with a new guide dog requires building a brand new connection and full trust. Sometimes, it can be challenging; however, everything went smoothly with Rupert! With Ruby, sometimes I didn't even need to speak as she would understand me straight away. Now, I'm building the same bond with Rupert. He has a faster pace than Ruby so I can visit places quicker – I feel very energised.



Find out what Rupert and Jane have been getting up to by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-rupert



Scan me

I've been all over with Rupert: the dentist, hairdresser, and theatre, and he's been fantastic. We've travelled by bus and train, and he never fails to find me a seat and to settle safely close to me. He's excellent at locating doors, kerbs and obstacles on the road too; he's so clever.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Rupert. He's filling my life with joy! He's an incredible guide dog; he takes me wherever I need to go, and I feel safe with him.



**Find out how
we're getting on
in your next
Pupdate in June!**

Where is Rupert on his Pupdate journey?



1

2

3

4

5

6



Creating new partnerships

Matching our dogs with their future owners is the final stage in the guide dog journey and a very important one! This task is completed by a Guide Dog Mobility Specialist (GDMS) who will take the dog's personality and preferences into account, the volume of work that the dog is comfortable doing, and at what pace. They will look to partner the dog with someone whose needs match the dog's. It's almost like creating a dating profile!



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