



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Skye

Training commences

Pupdate 4

Skye

has started training school



I have been a guide dog Trainer here at Redbridge for around 13 years now, although I've worked at Guide Dogs for 16 years! During this time, I have trained around 153 dogs altogether, which has been amazing. My favourite part about being a puppy Trainer is getting to know each dog's individual personality when they first come in for training - every dog has their own lovable quirks. I'm really looking forward to teaching Skye new things and watching her confidence continue to grow.

Skye is a loving pup

Skye had to start training school a little bit later than she normally would, due to travel and safety restrictions of COVID-19. This meant that she got to stay with Puppy Walker Glyn for a bit longer. Skye is a very loving pup, so it was a joy for Glyn to keep puppy walking Skye during lockdown.

“ Hello, it's Kim here and I am Skye's new Trainer. ”

Preparing for training school

Although there were restrictions on where Skye could visit during lockdown, she had a wide array of experiences that will be helpful for her on her journey towards becoming a guide dog. Glyn and Skye went on lots of free runs in the park which meant Skye could fine tune her recall skills. During the sunnier days there were lots more people visiting the parks than usual, which gave Skye a great opportunity to practise her lead work and dog distraction ability. Skye's progressed brilliantly and has a strong willingness to learn new things.

As lockdown began to ease, Skye helped Glyn move to a new house! Moving house was a great experience for Skye, to see her confidence when dealing with new situations and challenges – Skye was not fazed at all and settled into the new house with ease. She even enjoyed a delicious treat in the garden!

(Continued overleaf)



See how Skye has grown in her own video:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-skye

Introduction to training school

Now Skye is settling into life at training school and has a lot to look forward to during her time here. I'm most excited to teach Skye how to avoid obstacles as this is always a really fun technique to teach the pups. I will also introduce Skye to her harness and will help her learn how to stop at kerbs and understand how to lead someone with a visual impairment. Skye will also visit a variety of different locations, and where it is safe to do so, will travel on public transport.

I look forward to updating you on how Skye has progressed in training school in her next Pupdate.



The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made, our trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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