

Spirit

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 1

The adventure begins

Spirit settles in

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





Hello, I'm Jacki, Spirit's Puppy Walker. Welcome to his first Pupdate!

My aunt became isolated when she lost her sight. It was a hard time but she contacted Guide Dogs and they turned things around. I was inspired to become a puppy walker and give back to the community that helped her.

Spirit is the 10th puppy I've raised for Guide Dogs and he will live with me for around 12 months before moving on to Guide Dogs



Training School. Spirit is confident, bold and full of mischief and I think his name suits him perfectly as he is very spirited!

Making himself at home

Spirit arrived in the summer last year when we had another trainee guide dog living with us called Alice. Spirit walked straight up to Alice and stole her bone toy with such confidence! Alice didn't mind and they soon became the best of friends, curling up together each night to go to sleep.

Spirit has a play house and slide in the garden which he loves. If you can't find something of his, it's usually stashed away in there amongst his toys. He has a green fluffy monkey that he drags around and he



enjoys a game of tug of war. He makes me laugh, as he sometimes confuses his tail with his toys and runs around in circles holding onto it!

Learning skills

Over the last few months I've been taking Spirit to puppy classes to learn basic obedience commands such as 'sit' and 'wait'. He is very motivated by food which means he is easy to train and I'm very proud of his progress so far.

I've also been teaching Spirit to have good food manners, asking him to sit and wait for the whistle noise before he eats his food. He's very patient and well behaved, not taking food or treats until he is told to do so.

(Continued overleaf)



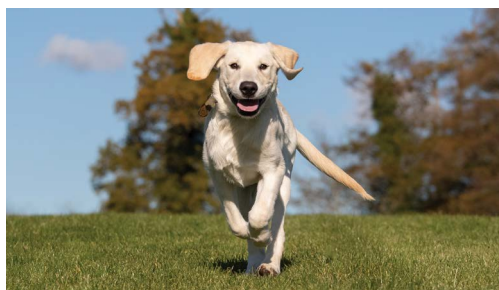
Experiencing the world

It's my job to introduce Spirit to lots of sights and smells to build his confidence – not that he needs any more of that! We call this 'socialisation', these experiences will prepare him for his future as a guide dog, as he will be calm and focused when visiting new environments for the first time. Spirit has been to the beach, explored the New Forest and visited various public places such as supermarkets and busy high streets.

Last year I abseiled down Spinnaker Tower to raise money for Guide Dogs and Spirit came

with me to represent Guide Dogs. We've also visited schools to talk about the incredible journey that Spirit is on, he was so well behaved and of course, loved all the attention!

Thank you so much for sponsoring Spirit, he truly is one of a kind! Look out for your next Pupdate in June.



See how much Spirit has grown

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

To see your exclusive video, please visit

sponsorapuppy.org.uk/puppy-spirit

and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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