

Spirit

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 3

Developing and maturing

Getting ready for the next chapter

SPONSOR
A PUPPY





Hello, it's Jacki here, Spirit's Puppy Walker. He will soon be going off to Guide Dogs Training School and I've been busy getting him ready.

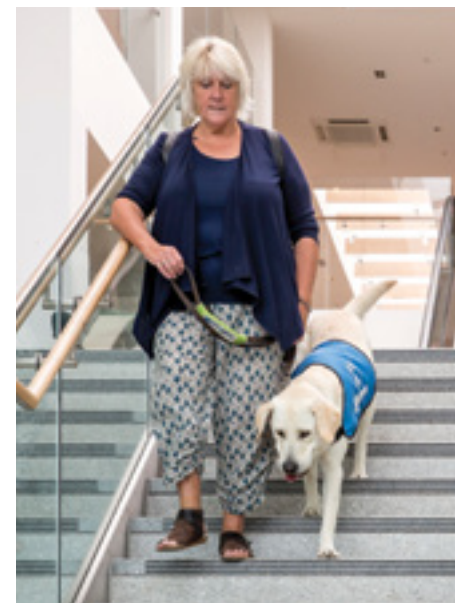
Although puppy walking is not always easy, you get a lot more out of it than what you put in – even if it means sacrificing a bit of sleep! When I meet guide dog owners it's always inspirational and reminds me why what I do is so important. Spirit is ready for the all the

new challenges that training school will bring and I can't wait to see him proudly wearing his training harness.

Practice makes perfect

I've been teaching Spirit skills that will help his future owner. For example, teaching him to 'find the button' in lifts and at pedestrian crossings by pointing with his nose. This way, his future owner will be able to run their hand up his nose and find the button easily.

Spirit can be a little impatient when going through doors or onto public transport. I've been working on teaching him to slow down and take his time and I feel he has started to mature and calm down. It still amazes me how bright he is as it usually



only takes him two or three attempts at something to master it. Practice makes perfect, after all!

Overcoming challenges

Spirit loves getting out and about and exploring different environments. He even went to see Toy Story 4 at the cinema and made me very proud as, even with the loud noise, he settled down and went to sleep. He has also come along to some fundraising events with

me and coped very well; it's safe to say he likes to be the centre of attention and doesn't like being ignored!

Spirit had a bit of a pigeon problem and would get easily distracted by them. Thanks to our training efforts, he now walks past them.

(Continued overleaf)



For more photos of your pup visit: guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-spirit



He's still very interested but I can keep his focus by using treats and verbal distractions. It's so rewarding to see him overcome this challenge.

Playful pup

Unfortunately, Spirit's favourite monkey toy has lost an arm and a leg, so we're waiting patiently for him to be fixed. In the meantime, Spirit has taken a liking to a new snake toy that squeaks all day long – I'm hoping the monkey will be fixed soon so that the squeaking will stop!

Looking to the future

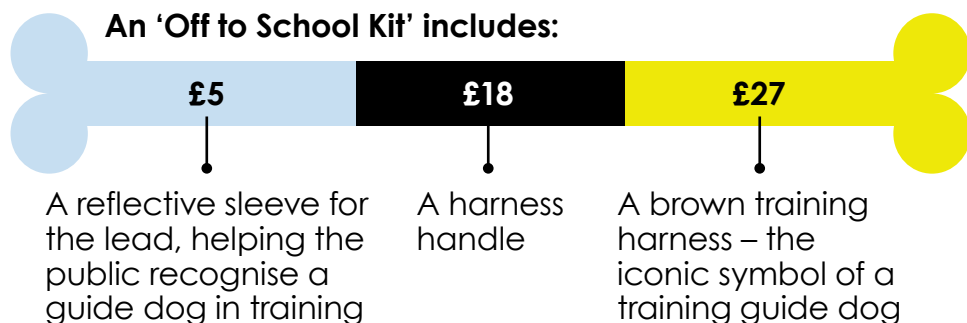
I think Spirit would match perfectly with someone who loves adventures and cuddles as much as he does! He's a real soppy, gentle giant so would suit someone who wants a companion as well as a guide. I'll miss having him follow me around, but I think he'll do so well at training school and will go on make a wonderful guide dog.

Thank you for sponsoring Spirit. Look out for your next Pupdate in February to see how he's getting on at training school!

Next stop for Spirit – training school

Your donations can help to pay for an **'Off to School Kit'**, which costs £50 for a puppy moving into their first stage of training.

An 'Off to School Kit' includes:



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