

A white dog, identified as Spirit, is running towards the camera on a green lawn. The dog has a happy expression with its mouth open and tongue out. In the background, there is a blurred city street scene with buildings and a few people.

Spirit

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 2

Growing up

Spirit is building confidence

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





Hello, it's Jacki here, Spirit's Puppy Walker. Welcome to his second Pupdate!

It has been an absolute pleasure watching Spirit mature over the last few months. His confidence has come on leaps and bounds and he continues to live up to his name as he's extremely spirited; making me laugh lots with his cheeky personality.



Cuddly boy

The biggest change I've seen in Spirit is how much more affectionate he has become. He used to do anything for food but now he's more responsive to cuddles, which works well for me as I love to give them to him!

Spirit still adores his green, fluffy monkey but now has another favourite, a cuddly elephant that he carries around with him everywhere. I adore his big dog 'smile' and wagging tail, the only thing I would change about him is his inability to have a 'lie in'; he's up and ready for action at 6am, even on a Sunday!

Perfecting skills

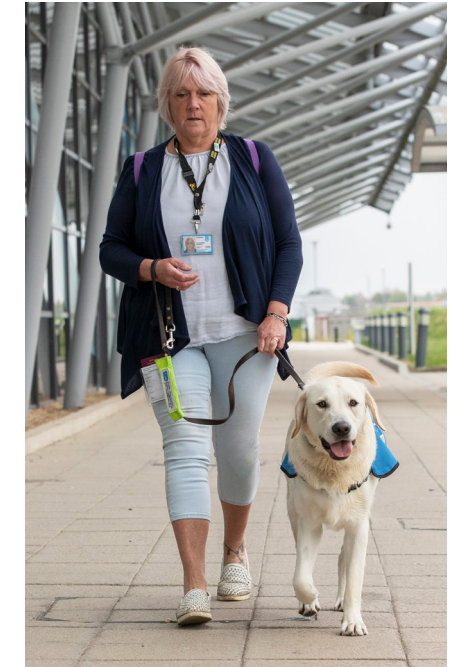
The moment his blue training coat goes on, Spirit knows



it's time to work. His focus has greatly improved and it has been rewarding to see him mastering his basic obedience skills. He recently performed the perfect 'down stay' in his puppy class which made me very proud, as it's a skill he took a little longer to get the hang of.

Pigeon problem

We have spent a lot of time working on Spirit's



pigeon distraction as they were making him lose focus whilst out and about. Thanks to my efforts he has learnt that he will be rewarded if he remains focused on me instead.

(Continued overleaf)



I am currently teaching Spirit to be patient, as he likes to be the centre of attention and can become vocal if I leave him for any short period of time.

I am looking forward to seeing him become more patient over the coming months.

Travel companion

Spirit has become quite the travel companion. He recently enjoyed a trip on a ferry to the Isle of Wight and was as good as gold. He loved sitting on the top deck with the wind blowing his ears!

Our Puppy Training Supervisor also organised a trip to a local airport to introduce Spirit to an environment he may come across with his future owner. He took it all in his stride and wasn't bothered at all by the loud plane noises. I am confident that he will be able to provide total freedom to his future owner, no matter how they choose to travel.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Spirit. Look out for your next Pupate in October.

Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog.

The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker.

They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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