



**Guide
Dogs**

Sponsor
a Puppy



Spirit

**Final stages
of training**

Pupdate 6

Spirit is getting ready for partnership training!



“ Hello, it’s Anne-Marie here, Spirit’s Trainer. I’m preparing Spirit to be matched with his new owner. ”

Once lockdown restrictions were eased, Spirit resumed training whilst staying with his Boarder Hannah during the evenings and weekends. Spirit is a very willing dog and doesn’t shy away from learning new things. He didn’t hesitate to return to training as he’s so eager to learn!

Completing training

During lockdown Spirit practised his lead work with Hannah and was given plenty of opportunities to practise his recall when exploring the local fields. During this time Hannah focused on fine tuning Spirit’s ability to not get distracted by other dogs playing in the park, as sometimes Spirit would see another pups’ toy and want to play with it himself. To combat this, she took some of Spirit’s toys and food with her and would reward him when he didn’t get distracted. Spirit improved massively and behaves brilliantly on free runs.

I also took Spirit to a café to see how he would deal with some of the noises that he might not have experienced during lockdown. Spirit wasn't fazed at all by other customers and didn't take any notice of people wearing facemasks. Instead, he relaxed underneath the table and had a quick snooze.



Onwards and upwards

I have taken Spirit on walks into town and to navigate through busier areas where it was safe to do so. I'm pleased to say that Spirit has mastered lots of skills and is brilliant at everything he does. Spirit can work in both busy and quieter areas and isn't concerned by large crowds. He particularly enjoys guiding towards pelican crossings! The only area he'd hesitate at is when he comes across a few other dogs while in his harness. This wouldn't stop him though, and he'd always shake off any apprehensions he had.

(Continued overleaf)



See how much Spirit has grown:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-spirit

I'm delighted that Spirit's hard work has paid off and he has now finished his training. Spirit will shortly begin the process of partnership training with his potential new owner. This will take place in their home environment and the surrounding local area, where they will practise regular routes as well as spend time getting to know each other.

Thank you so much so much for sponsoring Spirit. He is a truly lovely dog and I have no doubt he'll be a perfect match for his future owner.



Your sponsor a puppy journey doesn't end here

Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. Of those, around 180,000 rarely leave their homes alone and lead lonely, isolated lives. Our aim is to help people with sight loss feel part of life.

Your support makes this possible and we do hope you can continue helping our life-changing work. Your new puppy's amazing adventure to become a guide dog awaits!



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