



Sponsor
a Puppy



Theo

Theo's journey
has begun!

Pupdate 1

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; by sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Theo



“
**Hello, it's
Jo here,
Theo's Puppy
Raiser.**
”

I found out about puppy raising while searching for information about volunteering with dogs. I lost my own dog a while ago, and recently I felt ready to have a young pup around again, especially a future life changer! So I contacted Guide Dogs and became a volunteer puppy raiser. Guide Dogs provide a great support network and it's really fun raising Theo.

Settling in at home

Theo settled in really quickly, he was a bit disorientated for the first two nights, but now everything's fine. He loves his crate, which is his bedroom and a safe space to go and relax when he wants to. House training him has been very easy.

I was already raising another pup called Maple when Theo arrived. Maple is a golden retriever cross and is 10 months older than Theo, so she will be going to training school soon. Maple is a brilliant big sister; they play well together and have built a strong bond. She's very patient with him, especially when he plays with a little too much energy! Although Theo has lots of toys, he loves playing with Maple more than any of them. Watching them together, you can easily see that every puppy has a different personality.

Training and puppy classes

Theo settled very well into our family routine, waking up early and learning our daily schedule. He is okay being left home alone for short periods, which is great as a future owner may need to attend an appointment alone.

Theo loves his food, which is very helpful when I'm teaching him new cues like 'sit'. Lately, we've been working on food manners at home and he's doing really well! He sits while I prepare his food, waiting patiently, and then he enjoys his meal.

Theo goes to puppy classes every fortnight with five other pups, they're all adorable and the same age. He's learning more cues, such as 'extended sit' which is when Theo sits down and waits patiently, without moving or standing up, until the release cue 'okay' is given. We're also doing loose-lead walking and improving on distractions. Everything is taught using treats, fuss and praise as positive reinforcement. He loves it!



Learn more about Theo's journey so far by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-theo



Scan me

New sights and smells

We live in a small village in the countryside and have been walking in lots of open areas. We're working on Theo's confidence in new environments. He's really good and full of enthusiasm when he explores the world!

Thank you for sponsoring Theo. I hope you've enjoyed Theo's Pupdate, and I look forward to updating you on his progress in October!



Where is Theo
on his Pupdate
journey?



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Our volunteers

We wouldn't be able to train our life-changing dogs without the help of our volunteer puppy raisers and fosterers. Once our puppies are 7-8 weeks old, they will go to live with a puppy raiser. These wonderful volunteers provide a loving home and the vital foundation needed for the pup's future role. They introduce early training, socialisation, and a variety of new environments. After 12-16 months, our dogs move on to training school, where they learn guiding skills. Evenings and weekends are spent with our fantastic fosterers who care for the dog, reinforce training, and drop them off to training school each day! **To find out more about volunteering, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/GDvolunteer.**

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