



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Theo

Theo is
growing up!

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these beautiful autumnal months.

Thanks to supporters like you, we can provide our incredible life-changing services. It's estimated that six million people in the UK live with sight-threatening eye conditions, and more than two million of these are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. At Guide Dogs, we want to support as many people as possible through these life-altering changes, providing the right services to help everyone.

Did you know that training and partnering our wonderful guide dogs isn't all we offer? We also provide support to adults through our My Sighted Guide service which partners trained volunteer guides with a person with a visual impairment. For children and young people, we offer a fantastic range of support, from companion dogs via our buddy dogs scheme to personalised, large print books through CustomEyes Books. Our expertise means we can make life-changing differences to those affected by sight loss, enabling them to live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. Thank you for helping us to do this with your generous support.

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

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Theo



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

Many things have changed since Theo's first Pupdate. He's got a lot bigger!

What's more, his play pal Maple went to training school. We prepared Theo for this change by slowly increasing the time they spent apart, so he was used to not having her around. He was a little sad at first, but now he's loving all the extra attention he gets!

Theo's growing up

In Theo's first Pupdate I mentioned his personality was very calm, but now he's living his teenage years and he's changing a little, getting more confident and active. His favourite toy is a long soft toy snake but he adores rope toys too; Theo and I love to play tug together! Although Theo's becoming more independent, he's still very affectionate, he likes to have cuddles and asks for more with his paw.

New skills, people and places

Overall, Theo's progressing well, nothing really fazes him. He's still very food motivated and would do anything for a tasty treat. Sometimes it takes him a little time to process what I ask him to do, so I need to put in a little effort and repeat the cue a few times.

He can struggle to stay still so he's practising lying down and settling. He's learnt to walk on my left side and sometimes I try to test him and let him walk on my right side, but he doesn't like it, he usually comes back to the left! This will be helpful when he goes to training school as most dogs are taught to guide on the left.

After some hard work, Theo's recall is now pretty good and even if another dog is there, it only takes Theo a few seconds to come back. Theo doesn't know his own strength, so I'm working on making him more aware of it as he can be a little bit boisterous at times. He also started to be a little vocal especially when he sees other dogs on walks, so I'm working on this too. I'm not too worried as he's still very young and most dogs go through this 'teenage' phase!

Theo's been to many places like supermarkets, cafés, pubs, and new outdoor areas where we can have a nice walk. I've also travelled on buses with him. Our next challenge is to go on trains more regularly, so Theo can get to know new sounds and situations.



Learn more about Theo's new experiences by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-theo



Scan me

I went on holiday with my family in our motorhome and Theo enjoyed this new experience. He slept in the main area, and once or twice he woke my daughter up with his little wet tongue! He also saw the beach for the first time, discovering the sand and the sea. He didn't really like to get wet, but he enjoyed digging a nice big hole in the sand.

Looking to the future

I really enjoy having a young dog around the house, Theo's such good company. It's great to be out of the house for a walk every day, it gives you exercise and fresh air.

When Theo goes to training school, I'm sure I'll miss him so much, but he will go on to do something amazing. I'll have the pleasure of raising another puppy, and this will help me too.

Thank you for sponsoring Theo. Find out how he's progressing in your next Pupdate in February!



Where is Theo on his Pupdate journey?



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What is PREP?

Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. PREP was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. PREP treats each pup as an individual and helps to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.



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