



Sponsor
a Puppy



Toby

Toby's started
his journey!

Pupdate 1

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 Toby



“
**Hello, it's
Kirstie here,
Toby's Puppy
Raiser.**

”

Toby is the third puppy I've raised. Before him, I raised India in 2012 and Falcon in 2015. I discovered volunteering for Guide Dogs thanks to my mother, she raised five puppies and enjoyed every minute! All pups have their own individual personalities, you never know which pup you'll get, and you're always surprised by how clever they are. Seeing somebody partnered with a guide dog you raised is incredible, I can't describe the feeling.

Settling in at home

Toby was completely fine when he first arrived at home, he settled more quickly than the other pups. Of course, the first day is usually a little confusing, he just needed lots of cuddles and fuss. I tried to make it a positive experience for him and gave him the time to get used to everything while sniffing around. For his first night at home, I organised a cosy bed for him, and left my slippers and blanket close to him so he could feel my presence. He's been such a good boy!

He's the first born and the biggest of the litter. He has a wonderful personality: a really nice mix of cheeky, laid back and playful. Compared to the previous pups I've raised, I think he's the easiest; he's just an absolute joy.

I love to play hide and seek with him in the garden, he gets so excited! His favourite toy is a giant Labrador soft toy, it's almost his size and he likes to bring it to me every morning, and then drag it around with him everywhere.

Training and puppy classes

Toby's not massively food motivated but his favourite treats are salmon strips. He started puppy classes and he's doing very well, especially with dog distraction: he's very good at ignoring the other pups during his walks. He's also been practising cues like 'sit', 'down' and 'stand'. He's learnt to touch my fist with his nose when I say 'touch' too.

Lately I've also been working on his recall, which generally is very good, but can be a challenge when there are distractions; it's a work in progress. I'm usually quite spontaneous with Toby and I like to keep him used to doing lots of different things at different times, which is helping him learn to be adaptable. I hope this will be helpful as he continues his training.



Learn more about Toby's personality by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-toby



Scan me

New sights and smells

Recently we had a walk along the seaside, and he had the best time ever! At first, Toby was a little unsure about the sea, but he met another older golden retriever which gave him more confidence to play in the water.

Toby's a great puppy, he enjoys training, and I can't wait for him to make someone with a visual impairment as happy as he makes me!

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



Where is Toby
on his Pupdate
journey?



1

2

3

4

5

6



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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