



Toby

Out and about

Pupdate 2

# Welcome to your February Pupdate

**We're excited to share your sponsored pup's recent news!**

We can't thank you enough for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring one of our incredible dogs. Did you know that nearly three quarters of people of working age who are registered blind or partially sighted are unemployed? At Guide Dogs, we are determined to support the independence of people with sight loss by providing them with the skills and services they need to pursue the life they choose. It's because of kind people like you that we're able to continue doing this. Your support really does make a huge difference!

In 2022, we supported over 4,060 guide dog partnerships and nearly 700 My Sighted Guide partnerships, a service which connects a locally trained volunteer with a person with sight loss. Our fantastically trained dogs and our wonderfully dedicated volunteers help people get out and about while also boosting their confidence. We couldn't provide these services without supporters like you – thank you.

I can't wait for you to read your puppy's latest Pupdate, and I hope you enjoy finding out what they've been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



**Steph Potter**

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



# Thank you

## for sponsoring Toby



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

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Since your last Pupdate, Toby has been busy growing and maturing. Our bond has strengthened, and he's also formed fantastic relationships with my family. He still has his puppy ways about him that I love. Toby enjoys playing hide and seek with me in the garden; it's his favourite game. He loves cuddles, and before bed, he'll say goodnight to everyone individually by carrying his giant soft toy Labrador over to me and my family, one by one, to get a bit of fuss - it's very cute!

He's an inquisitive dog and is fascinated by nature programmes on TV. He likes to look out the window and watch the birds and squirrels in the garden.

I'm thoroughly enjoying raising Toby. He's just so happy all the time and never fails to brighten up my day. He's such a lovable dog and has the most amazing temperament.

### **Toby's progress**

Toby's making huge progress in his puppy classes. He's a fast-paced dog, especially when he's got lots of energy, so I'm working on his loose lead walking. We do this by walking around chairs in puppy classes and along pavements when out and about.

I'm also focusing on Toby's patience. He's doing well with this, and he'll follow the cues 'sit' and 'stay' whilst I walk away and around him. He's very good at following cues. As he is getting older, he's more interested in other dogs, which can be quite distracting during training walks and free runs. I'm teaching him that I'm much more interesting by rewarding him when he looks at me.

Toby's recall is improving. One of my friends has a retired guide dog and we take them on free runs together. They have a wonderful time playing. He sets a great example for Toby to learn from.

## New places

I'm taking Toby to lots of new places to introduce him to a range of different environments. He often comes with me to the local supermarket and is just fabulous. They all love him there, and he's a regular now! He's been clothes shopping with me and was a star as I browsed and tried on some outfits. He's very easy going and doesn't mind where you take him. He just likes to be in your company, which is so special.

I've also taken Toby on a train numerous times. He loves the train and takes all the hustle and bustle in his stride. He was incredible when navigating the busy platforms.



Hear more about the cues Toby's learning with Kirstie by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:  
**[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-toby](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-toby)**



Scan me



He comes to restaurants, pubs and cafés with my family and me. He settles in all of them really well. Recently, he joined us when we went out for dinner, and he had a little nap whilst we ate and talked. There were even young children playing near us, and he didn't get distracted by them.

## Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I'll be taking Toby to as many new locations as possible, along with introducing him to more public transport, such as buses. He will continue to attend puppy classes with me, focusing on his loose lead walking and his dog distraction.

**Thank you for sponsoring Toby. He's a great dog, and I'm enjoying raising him. Find out how he's getting on in your next Pupdate in June!**



Where is Toby  
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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