



Toby

Toby's news

Pupdate 3

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're well and enjoying the longer days and warmer weather as we begin to welcome summer!

We can't thank you enough for your continued commitment and support. Because of supporters like you, we've been able to create over 36,000 life-changing partnerships to date. That's more than 400 lives transformed each year for 93 years – and counting!

Did you know that 2 million people live with sight loss in the UK, and this number is set to double by 2050? We're committed to providing support to as many people as possible, for as long as that support is needed. With the cost of living continuing to rise, we appreciate your help now more than ever. Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs.

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

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Toby



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

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A little break

Since your last update, Toby has been facing some challenges. I noticed his appetite wasn't quite the same, and his skin was showing signs of irritation. Working with his Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) and his vet, we decided the best course of action was for Toby to rest while undergoing some medical checks; he took a break from puppy classes for a while. The results of the vet checks found he has a skin condition called atopic dermatitis: this means his skin can be a bit itchy and some of his fur is a little thinner. However, this health issue is manageable and won't prevent him from living a happy life, meeting other dogs and becoming a life changer. With the medication and after changing his kibble, he's showing signs of improvement.

I'm impressed by how enthusiastic Toby always is, no matter the situation. He never misses the chance to greet me with a loving face every morning, dragging his yellow soft toy dog around! During this training break, I maintained a calm and consistent routine for Toby.

We went out and about for walks in quiet areas, visited shops, and enjoyed relaxing in cafés with my family. The food shop is still his favourite! He's fantastic, settling perfectly everywhere I go. He still enjoys travelling by car, observing the route with curiosity while securely fastened.

Getting back on track

Toby's PDA has been working closely with his Dog Health and Wellbeing Specialist, Clare. They've assessed him to ensure he's healthy and ready to return to puppy classes. I'm working with them to prepare Toby for his return to his usual routine, where he'll continue learning and exploring new surroundings with me. I will slowly reintroduce some of the cues Toby had previously learnt and monitor how he copes. It's important to follow Toby's lead to ensure he's comfortable.

To encourage him to keep a nice pace while on walks, I introduced him to a gentle leader, and he's making progress. This kind of harness is used alongside his lead and collar, and helps him walk calmly and sensibly without pulling.



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

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-toby



Scan me

Thinking about the future

Raising Toby makes me realise the impact I'm having – my work with him could grant someone with sight loss more confidence and freedom. Toby is an amazing pup, and I really enjoy raising him. I'm sure I will miss him very much when he starts training school. I will especially miss his quirks, like seeing him watching a football match on TV, and following the ball with his nose! He also recognises animals in documentaries and he seems charmed by them, which is hilarious.

Given his energy and fast pace, he could suit someone with an active lifestyle; he's very sweet with children, and I'm sure he'd be great in a large family. Puppy raising is giving me so much on a personal level and I wouldn't rule out raising another puppy after Toby. I'm also very interested in volunteering in other areas across Guide Dogs.

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



Where is Toby on his Pupdate journey?



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Our breeds

Labradors and golden retrievers are the most common pure breeds in our training programme, and historically crossing these two breeds has produced the most successful guide dogs. But did you know that we also breed and train German shepherds, poodle crosses and curly coated retriever crosses? These dogs often become successful guides and also provide secondary benefits, such as longer strides for faster walkers, or shedding less hair which is very important for guide dog owners with allergies to dog hair!



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