



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Toby

Back from a break

Pupdate 4

Welcome to your October Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying the start of the new season, as the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisper again.

Did you know that every day, 250 people in the UK start to lose their sight, four of which are estimated to be children? Nearly half report feeling isolated and cut off from the world around them. Together, we can change that.

Your support goes beyond helping puppies become life changers; you're also making a multitude of vital services possible. We're dedicated to breaking down barriers by providing information, advice and support for adults, children and families. None of this would be possible without supporters like you.

Thank you for your invaluable and continued support of Guide Dogs. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of people with sight loss, ensuring everyone can live actively, independently, and well. You are making a massive difference!

Yours sincerely,



Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Toby



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

”

Toby's been progressing well over the last few months. He's a ball of energy, as usual, loving life and greeting me every morning with so much happiness, while holding his Labrador soft toy. Toby's always up for games and adventures. He adores playing in the garden, and any toy I can throw for him sends him on an exciting chase.

Toby's health

After the care he received some months ago and the change of diet, his atopic dermatitis has improved; it's not as severe as before, and I barely see any signs of irritation these days. However, he sometimes still stops to scratch himself during walks. I'll keep monitoring him to ensure we keep it under control.

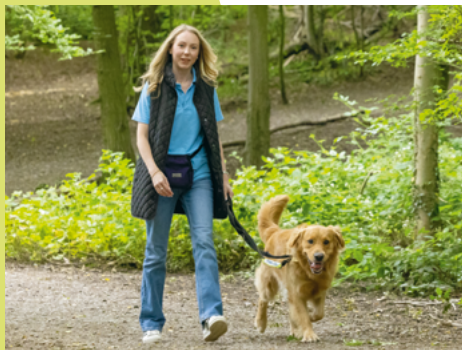
Puppy classes

Toby and I returned to the usual puppy raising routine after his break. He's attending puppy classes again and is thrilled to see his fellow pups in training. As he spent some time without seeing them, he finds settling and containing his enthusiasm a little challenging, so I'm working on his focus. I often meet other volunteer puppy raisers for coffee with their pups, so this will help him get accustomed to their presence again. He's great at practising all the basic cues and he's enjoying being back out with his pup friends.

Toby's mastered the 'chin rest' very well; he rests his chin on a towel on my lap or an empty seat. This is very helpful for everyday checks on his eyes and ears, or at the vet's. It will also be used as a foundation for other skills he'll learn at training school, such as finding a seat.

Out and about

I'm still working on Toby's dog distraction during training. His recall when he free runs in the presence of other dogs has improved, but we've still a long way to go for it to be perfect. Toby's great in shops and indoors too, however, he still gets distracted during training walks. To manage his dog distraction, I tried a new method: I've been keeping a reasonable distance from any approaching pups while walking, ensuring that we're on the opposite side of the road, making sure that we're on the opposite side of the road. It's working! Toby doesn't engage too much with them when he sees another dog, but he might turn his head and lose focus on our walk for a bit. This technique helps us keep moving forward, and we can gradually reduce the distance between us and the other dogs.



Find out how Toby's return to training is going by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-toby



Scan me

Toby's a strong boy and usually bursts with morning energy; having a free run or playing first thing helps him slow his pace while on the lead. He was pulling while loose lead walking; I'm pleased to say this has improved as he's grown up, and I'll continue to work on it with him. I've taken him on all sorts of outings lately: shopping centres, walks by busy roads, train stations and even a trip down to the airport! Toby's great at handling all kinds of environments.

Work in progress

I'll continue working on Toby's focus and dog distraction in the coming months. Overall, he's such a happy dog, and his health is improving. His sweet personality makes me smile every day!

Thank you for sponsoring Toby. Find out how he's progressing in his next Pupdate in February.



Where is Toby 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 usually 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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