



Walter

Walter's just started
his journey!

Pupdate 1

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 Walter



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**Hello, it's
Vicky here,
Walter's
Puppy Raiser.**

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Walter is the first guide dog puppy I'm raising. I've always loved dogs, but I also wanted an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to someone else's life. Knowing that Walter could change the life of a person living with sight loss in the future gives me great motivation. Guide Dogs supports me every step of the way, and I'm learning so much from puppy raising.

Welcoming Walter

I live with my husband, our ten-year-old daughter and our pet dog, Cora, a five-year-old black Labrador. Walter settled quickly into our lively home; there's always a lot to do, and he fits well into our routine.

He's such a cuddly puppy; he follows you from room to room to stay close and have some fuss. He likes to sleep with a teddy bear at night, which he drags with him everywhere – my daughter bought it at a charity shop. It used to be bigger than Walter when he arrived, and now it's just a fraction of his size!

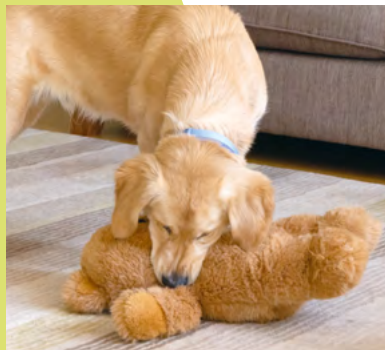
Cora became a “big sister” to Walter. She initially needed a little time to adjust to her new housemate, but now they play nicely together. Having two dogs at home makes me appreciate their different personality traits. Cora was a very active chewer when she was a young puppy, while Walter is very gentle and plays with his toys nicely.

New things to learn

Teaching new cues to a young puppy in training is not too different from raising a pet dog. There are many common cues and skills – the key is consistency. Walter is a brilliant pup and picks up things very quickly. His food manners are fantastic; he’ll sit and wait for the cue ‘okay’ before eating.

Walter’s started puppy classes, where he socialises with other puppies. His trainers are lovely, and he gets very excited when he sees them! He’s learning to settle and not to be too distracted.

He’s also begun learning to walk up and down the stairs, and he’s doing great. He has a fast pace when walking on a lead but he doesn’t tug even when he sees other dogs, although he’s eager to meet new pals of all ages! He also enjoys meeting new people: he loves all my daughter’s friends when they visit, and it’s reciprocated!



Find out how Walter’s settling in with Vicky by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-walter



Scan me

I have lovely walks with Walter in parks and quiet fields around my village. I also take him to the beach, where he has a great time doing zoomies with Cora – surprisingly, he shows no interest in jumping in the water or puddles!

Looking forward

Walter's next steps with me will be exploring busier places and shopping centres, seeing more wildlife in new parks and practising new cues and skills.

Thank you for sponsoring Walter! I'm loving being part of his first adventures. Find out how he's getting on in your next Pupdate in October!



Where is Walter
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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