



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Walter

New adventures

Pupdate 2

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steph".

Steph Potter
Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Walter



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

Since your last Pupdate, Walter's had his first birthday. I can't believe how quickly time has gone. It doesn't feel like it was that long ago when this little bundle of fur arrived in my home, and now he's fully grown! Walter's still as laid-back as ever, such a happy pup, and loves to be the centre of attention.

Learning the ropes

Walter's been learning quite a few new cues since your last Pupdate. One cue that Walter's been working on is called 'under'. To demonstrate this, I will sit on a bench with my legs stretched slightly further than usual. I'll then give Walter the cue 'under' which means that he should walk under my legs and lie down. He'll be rewarded with tasty treats or praise when he does this. This cue is great for keeping Walter safe in busier environments, such as on the bus or in a busy restaurant.

Walter's been fantastic at travelling. He's not fazed at all by the noises and movements of buses or cars. I even took him on a boat, and we walked along some pontoons, which could have been quite unsettling for him due to the movement, but he took it all in his stride. I was so proud of him!

I've also been working on Walter's recall and loose lead walking over the last few months. At the beginning of a walk, Walter can sometimes pull a little on the lead, but he quickly remembers and stops pulling. Walter's entered his teenage phase and can be a bit cheeky and not come back straight away when I call him on a free run. This is something we're working on.

Puppy classes

One of Walter's biggest challenges is being calm during puppy classes. As there are lots of other pups and people around, he can become quite chatty and struggles to keep his attention on me. He wants to greet everyone and play with the other pups in training. We're working on this by taking him outside and waiting until he's calm before returning to the puppy class. This is a work in progress, but he's not as distracted in other environments, so I'll continue to work on this to help him overcome it.

New adventures

Walter's been exploring parts of England with my husband, our pet dog Cora and me during the summer. We went to St Ives, where Walter and Cora spent lots of time playing on the beach.



See how well Walter is doing on public transport by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-walter



Scan me

Walter also went to a city farm and met lots of farm animals. He wasn't fazed at all by the new environments or wildlife. He's accompanied me to the hospital and the dentist, and was very relaxed despite the bustling environments and strange noises.

Looking ahead

Over the next few months, I'll continue to work on Walter's distraction during puppy classes. I'll also continue to practise the cues that Walter's been learning, and I'll keep taking him to new places to help him get used to any environment.

**Thank you for sponsoring Walter. I'm loving raising him.
Find out how he's doing in your next Pupdate in February!**



Where is Walter
on his Pupdate
journey?



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What is Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs?

Puppy Raising for Guide Dogs is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. It 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. We treat each pup as an individual and help to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.

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