



Guide
Dogs

Sponsor
a Puppy



Willow

Willow's journey
has started!

Pupdate 1

Thank you

for sponsoring Willow



**“ Hello, it’s
Christine here,
Willow’s Puppy
Walker. ”**

I have been a Puppy Walker for 17 years. Puppy walking is a great thing to do during retirement as it gives you a sense of purpose after giving up work. It’s lovely to give back to the community and make a difference. Puppy walking combines this with a social side of meeting up with other Puppy Walkers and going to puppy classes.

Willow is the 15th pup I’ve had and is a lot calmer than previous labradoodles I’ve looked after. She was very relaxed when she first came to us and is easy to live with – although she does have her cheeky moments like most pups!

Willow’s training

Willow is a very responsive pup; she knows when it’s the time we usually go out for walks in the morning. When she was younger Willow used to nudge her head at us when she wanted to play,

but now she communicates in a more affectionate way, and rests her head on our laps – we can see her maturing as she gets a bit older.

Although we don't have any other pets, our neighbours have a dog and three cats. Willow loves to watch the cats and can sense when they've been in our garden! Willow has improved a lot with her dog distraction when walking in town; at the start she was very excited to see other dogs, now she knows when to turn away. We often go free running with a retired guide dog called Ulric.

Overall, Willow's basic obedience is progressing well. Her recall is excellent and it's lovely to see her running back to us. When we give Willow the 'wait' command she is fantastic and will wait patiently at one end of the garden while we move to the other end. Willow is very quick at picking up new commands; you can tell she likes learning and retains new information well.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Willow has grown in her own video:
guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-willow

New sights and sounds

Although we are restricted on where we can visit due to COVID-19, we've taken Willow to a variety of different places. We've visited a train station so Willow can listen to and watch the trains. We have deliberately walked near roadworks to see how she would react to the noise – so far, she has been brilliant and wasn't fazed at all.

Willow has been great at walking in our local town centre. We recently took her for a walk around the shops and she took it all in her stride. She doesn't take any notice of face masks at all. So far, her favourite place to visit was the dog treat aisle in the garden centre!



We love watching Willow take everything in her stride and can't wait to update you on her progress in your February Pupdate.

See how much Willow has grown

We have been taking pictures of Willow since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed.

To see your exclusive video, please visit **guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-willow** and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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