



Guide  
Dogs

Sponsor  
a Puppy



# Willow

Preparing for  
training school

Pupdate 3

# Thank you

## for sponsoring Willow



**“ Hello, it’s  
Christine here,  
Willow’s Puppy  
Raiser. I’ve been  
preparing  
Willow for Guide  
Dogs Training  
School. ”**

Puppy raising Willow has given me a sense of purpose. It’s lovely being a part of the community. It’s always difficult when the pups move on to training school, but it does give you an opportunity to clean your house! Many people think labradoodles don’t moult, but they do!

### **Willow loves free running**

Willow is excellent in the house; she is a really easy dog to live with and isn’t demanding at all. She’s quite happy to settle down and hasn’t caused any problems in the house. My last dog before Willow ate five TV remotes! One of Willow’s favourite things to do is free running. She loves playing fetch with her toys and loves anything that squeaks or has food inside. Willow is very intuitive and even knows some of her toys by name.

Willow will play with her toys outside and in the kitchen. When we go into the living room she will wait patiently to be let in and lies down nicely in her big bed.

## Adjusting training

Recently I have been reinforcing what Willow has been learning – her obedience is very good, and she's mastered the 'sit' and 'stay' verbal cues. These skills need reinforcing all the time so they stay fresh in the pup's mind. We have also been doing Zoom puppy classes – Willow is a star pupil!

Due to lockdown restrictions earlier in the year, we haven't been able to visit many public areas. As a result, Willow can get very excited when meeting other people and dogs. I'm going to work with Willow to overcome this and help her keep calm in social situations.

(Continued overleaf)



See how Willow has grown in her own video:  
[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-willow](https://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-willow)

## Future plans

Willow will soon be going to training school and I will miss her good company and the routine that we have together. She gives me a reason to get out every day and brightens up the room. What I won't miss is her dog hair! She's groomed every day, but it still keeps coming out! Willow has a lot of strengths, but above all is her confidence – she's perfect around loud noises, and when we walk near the train station she's not bothered at all. I'm sure she'll do well at training school.

**Thank you so much for sponsoring Willow. Look out for your next Pupdate in October to see how she is progressing at training school.**



Thanks to your amazing support, you are helping puppies like Willow move to training school and learn from our guide dog trainers, who will teach them the specialist skills they need as fully qualified guide dogs.

**Your sponsorship donations contribute towards equipment for a new pup in training, costs which can include:**

**£18** A collar for a working guide dog.

**£18** A harness handle.

**£25** An hour's training for a guide dog.

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