

Midlands and East: puppy raising update December 2025



Hi All, its Anna here, and I am the Puppy Raising Operations Manager for the Midlands and East region, last newsletter of 2025.

Puppy Raising Operations Manager's message

As we approach the end of 2025, I wanted to thank you all for all the support you have given both our pups and our Puppy Development Advisors this year. I also wanted to thank you all for all the support you have shown me at all our coffee sessions both in-person and online. I really appreciate all your thoughts, ideas, comments and views.

I have also really appreciated you reaching out to me on an individual basis to share feedback to help support positive development forward with our service.

A big thank you as well to all our volunteers who have supported us across our regions with attending many and varied events to help with our pups' training and to build and grow our community.

I sit writing this with so much gratitude for all you do for our team, there have been challenges along the way, but I always find the community to be supportive towards each other and the organisation.

We have been able to place 237 puppies and welcome new and returning puppy raisers into our community, and see many more puppies progress into training and qualify to become life-changers. Thank you!



Thank you for all you are doing, I hope whatever you have planned over the festive season that you have a lovely time and look forward to seeing you all soon.

If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to drop me an email anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk.

Puppy Development Supervisor, Jenny Mee, shares tips for ‘setting yourself and visitors up for success’ this Christmas

Managing an excitable pup can be tricky with visitors, and this is particularly likely over the festive period. So how can we set everyone up to have a calm and relaxing visit? Read on for some helpful tips!

- If possible, try to plan visitors for when pup has already done a bit of training, a walk or off-lead exercise (i.e. free run), so they aren't too over excited!
- Make use of crates, pens and baby gates to manage interactions - particularly when guests first arrive or if your pup is getting tired. Just make sure they are paired with something nice like a tasty chew or Kong, for added help in distracting your pup from the excitement of visitors.
- Be prepared with extra enrichment - old cereal boxes with kibble in, stuffed Kongs, frozen carrots, snuffle or licky mats. These can all help distract pups during exciting times. Just remember to save some of their daily allowance so they aren't getting lots of extras.
- For older pups who may wish to jump up, consider popping them on lead for the first ten minutes or so. And ask visitors to try and ignore them until they are calm, then they can go off-lead and say a nice (hopefully polite!) hello!
- If possible, prepare visitors beforehand with a few basic rules that will help you with your pup. This could be as simple as ignoring them if they jump up or not speaking in excitable, high-pitched voices!
- Be extra careful about keeping human food out of your pup's reach, to avoid encouraging stealing or counter surfing.
- Use the opportunity to practice some settle training and encourage nice calm behaviour.



Take care, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all in the Midlands Puppy Development Advisor team.

Anna

Anna Standing

Puppy Raising Operations Manager - Midlands and East

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