

## Midlands and East region: puppy raising update August 2024



Hi all, I'm Anna, the Canine Assistance Services (CAS) Operations Manager for puppy raising in the Midlands and East.

In my last newsletter, I wrote to you all to say I could not believe it was the summer fast approaching. And as I write this newsletter, I'm now preparing for my two little people to go back to school (I am excited about this not sure they are!). I'm not sure where the time does go.

I've recently been out on puppy placements as well which was a real pleasure to see pups being placed with new and existing volunteers and of course enjoyed puppy cuddles and less so puppy cleaning!

### **Puppy raiser recruitment**

I am so grateful for our puppy raising community and for both our new volunteers coming into our community and for returning puppy raisers.

We continue to recruit new volunteers into our community and often we need to reach out to the puppy raising community to support with advertising/radio interviews/tv appearances or adding posters/leaflets around the region.

Previously, I asked for anyone interested in helping us promote Guide Dogs and puppy raising to come forward. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved in, please email me at [anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk).

This is usually followed up with a friendly chat with someone from our communications team. And remember to speak with your PDA to discuss suitability and pups needs if any potential media/publicity requests include your puppy.

A massive thank you to our puppy raisers who have kindly helped us out recently at local events. I've included some photos of some of the recent

visits which include the National Space Centre, Theatre and some pups going out to our Suffolk/Norfolk schemes.

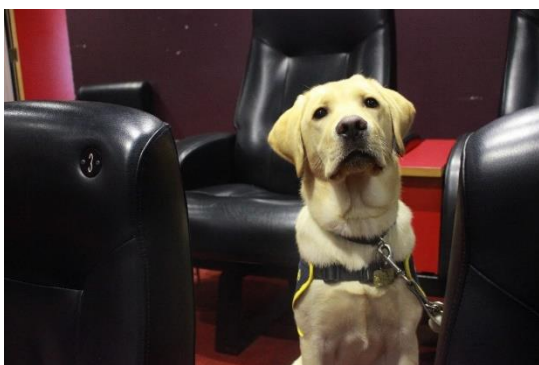
We always welcome the opportunity to attend any events/places where we can recruit more volunteers so if anyone has any ideas or potential recruitment opportunities, please do contact me to discuss.



The above photo is of the cast of Sister Act at the Royal & Derngate theatre in Northampton with some of our wonderful puppy raising volunteers and our pups in training.

We've also been fortunate enough that our pups and volunteers in the Northampton scheme have been able to attend a dress rehearsal of a theatre production and practised settling in the theatre and café.

I've included some lovely photos of our pups in the theatre, I am sure there was a big round of a-paws after the rehearsal!



We have also been fortunate to have visited local theatres in Leicester as well recently, please watch this space for photos of these visits as well.

### **Pups in Space!**



We recently had a wonderful opportunity to visit the National Space Centre which was supported by Puppy Development Supervisors, Jenny Mee and Rachel Bagley. Five guide dog puppies (Carol, David, Norah, Roly and Patsy) were invited with their puppy raisers to the centre as part of their



training. They enjoyed visiting the exhibits, including exploring inside a mock-up of the Columbus Module from the International Space Station. We look forward to our next visit and a special thanks to the National Space Centre for allowing our pups to explore!

### **Coffee dates for the diary**

I really look forward to the coffee session that we have running in our region and hearing about your puppy raising, and of course your feedback. Connection is so important, please do chat with each other, it's lovely to see our community coming together and offering each other support and kind words.

If you've not been able to attend previously, we would love to see you. If you can't attend in person, we also run a virtual session. I'm hoping we'll have a guide dog owner attend our virtual session so they can share their story.

We were lucky in Peopleton to welcome the Vision Rehabilitation team at our June session. They will be attending our Harbury meeting in September and I'm hoping that colleagues from fundraising will be able to attend in other regions, but PDAs will confirm this closer to the time.

### **Here are the dates/venues for your diary:**

- Wednesday 25 September, 10:30-12:30pm: Harbury Village Hall- South Parade, Harbury Leamington Spa CV33 9JE.
- Thursday 26 September, 11.30-1.30: Collingham, Phoenix Community Hall, 47 Station Road, Collingham Newark, NG23 7RA.
- Tuesday 8 October, 10.30-12.30: Peopleton Village Hall, Main Street, Peopleton, Worcestershire WR10 2EG.
- Thursday 10 October, 10am-12pm: Virtual coffee session. For this session, there's no agenda. Just drop in. Here's the zoom link: [Virtual coffee session Zoom link](#). You'll need the following details to access the session; meeting ID (941 6873 3104) and passcode (605011).
- Date TBC: East regional coffee session (Norfolk, Suffolk, Peterborough).



Just a reminder, these are informal sessions, so please speak to your Puppy Development Advisor (PDA), if you would like to bring along your puppy and they will discuss with you further. If you would like to attend, please let myself or your Puppy Development Advisor know. Any feedback on these sessions would be greatly received and I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it at these events.

### **A reminder to use Guide Line**

A big welcome to all our new puppy raisers who are joining our puppy raising community both in our established and newly opened areas. Your support is greatly appreciated, and any suggestions/feedback is also welcomed.

You can contact me directly through Guide Line (details below) or drop me an email if you would like to discuss anything further, and remember no questions/query/concern is a silly one and would welcome talking to you:

- [anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk)

Here's the contact details for Guide Line:

- 0800 7811444; or
- [information@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:information@guidedogs.org.uk)

Please continue using Guide Line as your first point of contact for support, if needed, between classes and visits.

If you'd like to share any feedback on your experience of using Guide Line, please send this to myself ([anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:anna.standing@guidedogs.org.uk)) or Hannah Peck · [hannah.peck@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:hannah.peck@guidedogs.org.uk).

### **Puppy placements**

Thank you for all you are doing, it has been phenomenal the support over the summer that you have given to the team with summer boarding and puppy placements, it is a real privilege to be part of our community.



If you currently do not have a pup at home and would like to puppy raise over the coming months, please do let your Puppy Development Advisor know when you would be available for a placement as we are now working towards placements ready for the festive season.

Take care all and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Anna Standing

CAS Operations Manager - Midlands and East

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