

## North East region: puppy raising update August 2024

Welcome to the latest puppy raising update from the North East region.

### Team News



We haven't had any births or weddings in the last couple of months, but I would like to say congratulations to Helen Barley who recently reached the milestone of five years working for Guide Dogs as a Puppy Development Advisor (PDA). Helen is stood on the far left of the group photo above.

### Summer puppy placements

As predicted, we have had a busy summer with our amazing guide dog mums producing an above average number of puppies for July placements. Thank you to all our wonderful puppy raisers and puppy fosterers who supported us at this busy time and opened your homes to these wonderful bundles of mischief in either a temporary or permanent capacity when perhaps you weren't anticipating it.

We are now allocating puppies for the end of September and October, so if you are coming back from a break, please let your PDA know sooner rather than later so we can add you to the list in plenty of time.

We know that throughout your time volunteering with us, your circumstances may change and the role you originally signed up for may no

longer be the best fit, or maybe you just want to make a change or try something new. We are still busy trying to build up our puppy raising schemes in some areas and are particularly interested in people wishing to puppy raise or puppy foster in the Harrogate and York areas, along with Hull, Sheffield, North Northumberland and the borders areas. You may not feel you can commit to the full journey of raising a puppy but feel you have the time and ability to commit to part of the journey. If so, we're always open to chatting about the different options and ways you can support.

### **Guidance on puppies attending fundraising events**

In-person support at Guide Dogs fundraising and awareness events is always very much appreciated but I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind anyone thinking of taking their puppy to a fundraising, or any other event, to follow the guidance below.

Your presence will always be welcome even if it isn't feasible to take your puppy with you. I'm sure your experience of the puppy raiser role will be very interesting to the public/potential volunteers.

Always speak to your PDA prior to taking your puppy to an event for the first time to gain advice specific to your puppy.

Guidance:

- 30 minutes is the maximum time to attend an event for a puppy aged between 18-weeks and 6-months. The first session should be no more than 15 minutes and subsequent ones built up to the maximum only if appropriate for the individual puppy.
- Two hours is the absolute maximum for a puppy aged 6-months up to 10-months, which will include an opportunity to relieve itself and have at least 15 minutes quiet time away from the busy area every 45 minutes or less. The first session should be much shorter, especially for puppies with less experience. If it's appropriate, subsequent times can be built up.
- Three hours for a puppy or dog aged over 10-months, which will include an opportunity to relieve itself and have at least 15 minutes



quiet time away from the busy area every 45 minutes. Dependant on puppy's experience, if it has not done it before or infrequently then the initial timescale should be greatly reduced.

### **Volunteer expenses**

Please remember to gain authorisation from your PDA prior to accruing expenses that you wish to claim back; especially if this relates to equipment as we may already have the appropriate item in stock or have agreements in place to purchase the equipment at a reduced cost to the charity. Please remember to return any equipment that is no longer in use to your PDA.

### **Date for your Diary**

The next 'Transition into Training' information webinar for puppy raisers of pups 10 months and over is on Monday 2 September at 10am. If you wish to attend and don't already have the link to the Zoom meeting from your PDA, please contact Guide Line with a message for your PDA to re-send the link.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to raising our wonderful puppies.

Janet

**Janet Champion**

**Canine Assisted Services (CAS) Operations Manager - North East**

**Document ends.**