

North West region: Puppy raising update - October 2023

Happy Halloween to all our North West puppy raisers and fosterers. It's that time of year again where we have dark mornings and dark evenings, just in time for some half term fun and frolics with trick or treaters! It's also the time of year where we have fireworks; I know that this can be upsetting for some of our puppies, you may find some helpful information in Kallidus: [PREP: Introducing noises, fireworks, and thunder](#) (you will need to be already logged into Kallidus for the link to work). You can also speak with your Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) who can give advice and support you and your puppy through this event.

Mo, Beth's Name a Puppy

You may remember a while back that Beth McDonald swam the channel to raise funds to name a puppy in memory of her mum who had passed away. Here are a couple of photos of beautiful black Labrador x Golden Retriever "Mo" who was placed in the North West:



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Team update

Jan Johnston



In the last newsletter, I previously shared some news about the onboarding of our new puppy development advisor Jan Johnston. Below is some feedback from Jan who has been in her PDA role for four weeks:

“After being a Guide Dog Trainer for 14yrs, then working with our dedicated volunteer fosterers for 4 years, I have been welcomed with open arms by the lovely North West puppy raising team.

My first four weeks in the role have been amazing not only because I have been working with, and get a cuddle with, our gorgeous guide dog puppies, but also get to work with and support our amazing volunteer Puppy Raisers. I can’t wait to share my knowledge and experience with you. I am feeling extremely privileged right now.

I am under no illusion, I know the role is very busy and at times demanding, but when you go to work with butterflies in your tummy, you know you’re going to have a brilliant day and love every second of your new role.

Jan Johnston 😊”

Events

People Awards

We also have our People Awards coming up in November, which are being held at our North West Regional Centre in



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Atherton. The national puppy raising department has been shortlisted for the “expert” category for staff. Our new CEO, Andrew Lennox, will be attending along with chairman, Jamie Hambro. We also have an inspirational speaker guide dog owner Craig Lundberg with his guide dog Comet attending. You can support your unsung heroes virtually by joining the live stream of the People Awards on Wednesday 8 November, 1:30-15:00. To access the live stream, please visit: www.guidedogs.org.uk/peopleawards.

Dining in the dark



The Community Fundraising Team in Atherton have been keeping themselves busy and celebrated this year’s Guide Dogs Appeal by getting together to host an array of activities! For their Dine in the Dark experience, some staff members ordered in a classic Northern chippy dinner whilst others brought their own lunch. Their task for was to successfully eat all their lunch whilst being completely blindfolded.

Suzanne Corlett, Community Fundraising Supporter Care Manager, reflected on the experience:

“We had a great day; I think you will agree that the dine in the dark experience gave us that small insight into what it is like living with a vision impairment and the challenges people with a vision impairment face on a daily basis.”

Thanks for reading,

Vanessa Scott
Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - North West

Document ends.

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