

## Scotland and Northern Ireland region: puppy raising update April 2024

Hi, it's Gillian here. Spring has arrived, and I hope you have all had some time to yourself over Easter the break.

### Team Updates

This month I would like to introduce you to our Puppy Development Supervisors, Fiona Fraser and Lorna Barclay. I am sure many of you will have met them over the years in their previous Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) roles.

#### Fiona Fraser



I was very proud to come into the organisation as a Puppy Development Advisor, I am now a Puppy Development Supervisor. I started my Guide Dog role 18 years ago. My background was training and behaviour and veterinary prior to Guide Dogs.

I already had a very established career working with training and behaviour with people and animals and when I saw the Puppy Walking Supervisor role (as it was called then) pop up, I just knew I had to go for it! It's not an understatement to say working in puppy raising is my passion, I love working with people as much as I love working with dogs and to have been able to support so many puppy raisers through their journey has been a privilege.

In my new role to oversee our wonderful staff and see more puppy raisers and pups, it is honestly amazing, I know I am very fortunate to have this role.

I cover Central Scotland and Northern Ireland. My amazing team are Emma Steele, Lynsey Anderson, Fell, Erin McArthur, Jade Steven, and Tara Green.

### **Lorna Barclay**



I have been in the organisation for 15 years, joining as a Dog Health and Wellbeing Assistant in Forfar, progressing to Guide Dog Trainer and then into puppy raising.

I have always enjoyed working with people, as well as dogs, and the roles within puppy raising have given me both these opportunities. I really enjoy being part of the puppy raising team and working and supporting our volunteers.

I have my own small scheme mainly around Dundee and support the PDAs covering from the central belt to the North and Dumfries. These are Dave Mackay, Jude Taylor, Joan Van Eijk, David Smith, and Karyn McCarthy.

### **Dog Health and Wellbeing Specialists**

In March we said a fond farewell to Dog Care and Health Specialist Jannette Allan. Many of you will have chatted to Janette over the years regarding pups' health or weight.

In May, Liz MacKinnon retires after many years of delivering expert advice and support for our volunteers and pups.

We wish Janette and Liz all the best for their future ventures.

### **The year so far**

This year so far you have raised and fostered 40 pups who have transitioned into Hamilton and Forfar. Those pups will be working with their Guide Dog



Trainers through the Standardised Training for Excellent Partnerships (STEP) programme.

If your pup has had a career change to buddy or rehoming - thank you for supporting them on their journey. With your work and insight of your pup's behaviours, it helps us to make the right decision at the right time, and remember they are all stars, just in different ways.

You will be aware we released updated puppy raising material on our e-learning platform, Kallidus, on 9 April. If you do not have access, please ask your PDA. It's available for all fosterers and puppy raisers either online or in PDF format, if required.

Please don't hesitate to email if you have suggestions for this regional update or subjects you would like us to include: [Gillian.flynn@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.flynn@guidedogs.org.uk).

Best Wishes,

Gillian Flynn

CAS Operations Manager

**Document ends.**