

## North West region: puppy raising update June 2024

Welcome to June's edition of the North West puppy raising newsletter.

This month we celebrated 40 years of Volunteers' Week, an opportunity to thank our amazing Guide Dogs volunteers. I wanted to personally say a massive thank you to all our puppy raisers and fosterers for all that you do, not only raising and developing our puppies but also going above and beyond to support Guide Dogs with our life-changing work.

### **Congratulations, you did it!**



We would like to say a huge congratulations to Jan Johnston for qualifying as a Puppy Development Advisor (PDA). Jan has spent many months in training, learning about how we raise and train our puppies. Jan has brought a wealth of experience from her previous Guide Dog Trainer and Operations Volunteering Officer roles, which have proved to be an asset to the puppy raising team, our pups and our volunteers. Congratulations Jan! We knew you could do it.

## Hillside Golf Club meet their Name A Puppy, Mulligan



Hillside Golf Club had a very special visit from puppy Mulligan, a yellow Labrador x Golden Retriever, named by the club after they raised £10,000 for Guide Dogs.

The 2024 club's captains, Phil Unsworth and Ruth Carson, chose Guide Dogs as one of their Charities of the Year and were pleased to donate the huge sum of money to name a puppy.

Naming a puppy is an opportunity for the public to give a guide dog something totally unique: its name. The club will now be at the heart of Mulligan's story and will follow his journey towards becoming a future life-changer. Both captains chose to support Guide Dogs after chatting to a friend who is currently raising a guide dog puppy.

Phil said: "Guide Dogs was chosen as both Ruth and I wanted to leave a legacy of kindness, friendship and support from our year as captains, and Guide Dogs fulfils those values. We both have experience with people with full or partial sight loss, so we absolutely know the difference Mulligan will make to people's lives. We wanted a golf-themed name for the puppy, and Mulligan is a term for '2nd chance to perform an action' - in relation to golf this allows a player (informally) to replay a shot. We think the whole concept of the name kind of represents what Guide Dogs provide; a 'second chance' at living a normal life that has been affected through sight loss."

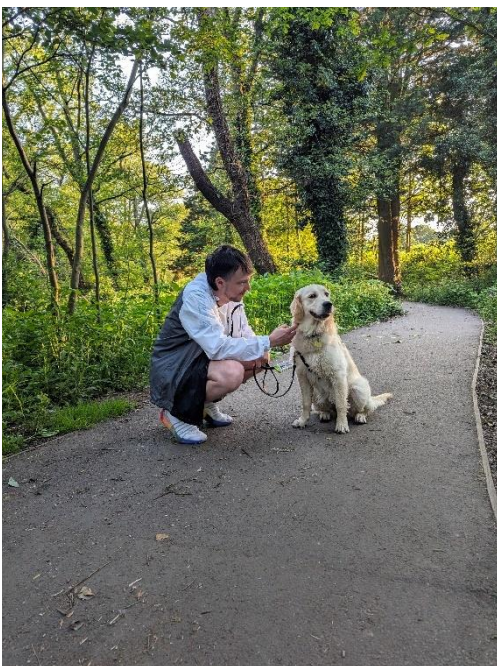
As they have raised £10,000, this equates to supporting a puppy right through to training. As a thank you, the golf club got to meet Mulligan, who paid a visit to the club and its members along with puppy raisers Gillian and Paul Bartlett.

Tracey Digby, Community Fundraising Relationships Manager at Guide Dogs, said: “We're incredibly grateful to Phil, Ruth and the members at Hillside Golf Club for choosing to support Guide Dogs, and for donating such a tremendous amount.”

To find out more about naming a guide dog puppy, please visit our [website](#).

### **Volunteer puppy raisers needed in the North West region**

We are looking for more puppy raisers in **Greater Manchester, Shropshire, N. Wales (Wrexham and Mold particularly)**, to help us socialise and raise future guide dogs. If you can lend us a hand in finding more volunteers like you, please request a [Volunteering Champion Pack](#), which contains everything you need (posters and leaflets) for spreading the word in your area. We also know that it's common for members of the public to ask puppy raisers about their guide dog puppy when out and about. If this often happens to you, why not refer them to our website for further information, including how to apply.



“People often approach us when we are out walking and ask me what puppy raising entails. I tell them you get all the joy of having a dog and none of the stress or the bills. All you've got to give is your time.” Thomas, Puppy Raiser.

## Another bus company helps us out



**D&G Bus**, a bus company operating in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and Staffordshire, came to a Guide Dogs puppy class in Crewe so puppies could learn how to ride a bus, without the stress and pressures of real life.

Coming across a bus for the first time can be quite scary for a puppy. Lisa Cooper, a Puppy Development Advisor for Guide Dogs, said: “When our puppy raisers are out with their puppies and at bus stations or bus stops, the engine is running, it is loud, people are waiting to go; it’s not the ideal training scenario for young pups.

“Dan at D&G very kindly offered to bring a bus down to our puppy class in Crewe to practice positive associations with all the noises of the bus, getting on and off, settling at a seat, and travelling. We could then take our time, approach the bus at the puppy’s pace and make it a positive experience for everyone”.

Dan Flanagan, the Operations Manager at D&G, said: “We’re happy and privileged to support Guide Dogs’ puppies in training. It’s really fascinating to see what needs to be taken into consideration. We’re looking forward to seeing more puppies and their raisers at the next training session.”

## Hot weather tips

As the weather (hopefully) starts to warm up, it's important that we keep our dogs safe.



While we can wear light clothing, they are carrying around a fur coat and therefore at a higher risk of heat stroke, which is extremely risky for our dogs. Exercising, even moderate walking, is often a cause of this as dogs cannot sweat (except through their paws) and rely on panting to get rid of heat.

Please use the five-second test on the ground with your hand (especially tarmac), and if it's too hot for you, then it's too hot for paws.

We have a range of resources available with more information:

- Our [Top Tips video](#), showing how to keep your dog cool
- An '[Extreme weather](#)' PDF, with lots of information and a temperature chart giving specific guidance
- Our [web pages](#) with lots of advice and guidance

## Running for Elaine



Puppy Development Supervisor Jay Murray is taking part in the Bolton Iron Man event on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in memory of Elaine Webster who suddenly passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like to donate you can do so via [Just Giving](#).

## Star of the show



Puppy raisers Kelly and Alex in Telford rehomed their withdrawn puppy, Edna, and entered her into a competition for Visit Wales. She won and is now the dog cover girl representing Wales!

## Thank you

Once again, thank you all for being an essential part of our volunteering community. Your commitment and contributions are making such a difference to peoples' lives. We currently have 258 puppies within our region, and we couldn't possibly deliver our services without you.

If you would like anything sharing in the NW newsletter, or would like to speak to me regarding your puppy or your role please let me know:

[Vanessal.scott@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:Vanessal.scott@guidedogs.org.uk).

Many thanks,

Vanessa Scott

CAS Operations Manager North West region

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