

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

Hi, it's Gillian here. Welcome everyone to Scotland and Northern Ireland's June puppy raising update, the days are certainly getting warmer so perfect timing for a reminder to keep yourself and pups safe during the warm weather.

When pups are at different developmental and health stages, they are less able to regulate their body temperature.

### Signs to lookout for:

- Excessive loud panting
- Extreme Thirst
- Pale Tongue and gums
- Thick Saliva
- Increased heart rate
- Skin around muzzle /neck slow to retract when pinched.



During extremely hot weather, avoid walking or exercising pups during the middle part of the day, aim for early mornings or evenings. Try walking in the shade allowing pups to walk at a slower pace and keep journeys short. Always have water on hand to keep pups hydrated and keep them out of ponds and drinking any sea water. Avoid wearing their puppy coat to allow for more air flow.

Create a cool spot in the house or garden out of the sun maybe on a tiled floor or on wet towels but as we all know pups will find their own spot for comfort don't be too disappointed if they end up lying elsewhere.

Never leave your pup in the car even with the windows open there is significant danger of the pup overheating.

Some tips for keeping yourself safe when out walking in the sun.

Stay hydrated, keep skin covered wear long sleeves, where possible walk in the shade and take breaks out of the sun, wear sunscreen, hats, and don't forget your sunglasses.

### **Holiday homes needed**

Holiday season is fast approaching and thank you all who have supported us through dropping off, picking up and fostering a pup during this busy time. Within the team we can make at least 30 holiday moves a month, hence why we are always in vital need of foster homes. Please **get in touch with your PDA or Guide Line (0800 7811444) if you have a spare week or two** over the coming months when you might have room for a little or large lodger!

### **Team update: get to know the training teams**

You may have heard about our Academy for Learning; I would like to introduce you to our three new Guide Dog Trainers and their Training Specialist, Shirley Stewart. They have shared some of their thoughts on how they have found working with our pups and for Guide Dogs.



Photo from left to right: Shirley and Quince, Elise and Adam, Jess and Peri, Nicola and Rada.

### **Elise**

“Joining Guide Dogs has been an incredible experience and I feel privileged to get to work alongside so many amazing people and, of course, dogs. Training my first dog, Adam, has been so special and I think we have both learned something new every day. I am very lucky to have had so much support from my colleagues and Adam’s lovely puppy raiser. It’s been impossible not to get a bit emotional watching Adam training with his client and witnessing how much of a difference he’ll make. I’m very excited to get to know my two new pups and start all over again especially now I know what the end goal looks like.”

### **Jess**

“I have felt truly honoured to be a part of the Guide Dogs team, and my role has been a dream come true. Seeing my first dog in training become a life-changing companion to their new owner has been an incredibly heartwarming experience. I’m now excited to meet and train my new dogs who will be coming into the centre in just a few weeks!”

### **Nicola**

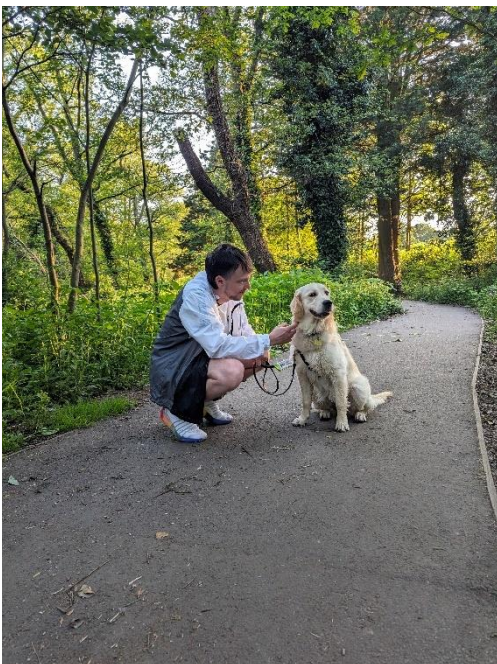
“I have massively enjoyed working with my first training dog, Rada, who was a pleasure to train thanks to the great start she had with her puppy raisers. We have learnt so much together in the Academy, with support from my Training and Learning Specialist and the rest of the team.

“Seeing the difference Rada has made when working with her new guide dog owner has been so rewarding and really highlighted for me the importance of these dogs in people’s lives.

“I am looking forward to my next dogs entering training soon and am excited to get to know them and work with them over the coming months.”

## **Volunteer puppy raisers needed in the Scotland and Northern Ireland region**

We are looking for more puppy raisers in **Perthshire, Tayside and Fife**, 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.

## **Fundraising events near you**

### **Nothern Ireland**

- Friday 16 August: Street collection and Vintage parade in Enniskillen Co Fermanagh, 11am - 10pm.
- Friday 6 and Saturday 7 September: International Airshow Portrush, times TBC.

## Scotland

- Saturday 22 June: Dunfermline Childrens Gala Pittencrief Park, KY12 8QH, Procession from East Port down High St to the park with afternoon family entertainment from 1pm - 4pm, including stalls and refreshments.
- Saturday 3 August: Purple Poppy Day in Callendar Park, Falkirk, FK1 1YR. Hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Falkirk, celebrating animals who have made outstanding contributions, 10am - 4pm.
- Saturday 24 August: The Kinross Farmers' Market at the Market Park, 10am - 3pm.
- Sunday 4 and Monday 5 August: the Turriff Show, The Haughs, Queen's Road, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 4EF.
- Saturday 17 August: Scruffs in Dunning, Perthshire, 11am - 4pm.

Goodbye for now and keep safe in the sun, from everyone in the puppy raising team. 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.**