

South East region: puppy raising update June 2024

Hi All,

At the beginning of June we celebrated Volunteers' Week, a great opportunity to thank you once again for your commitment to Guide Dogs and the work that we do. We're fortunate to have more than 15,500 members of the Guide Dogs volunteer community, and everyone is making an incredible contribution.

It's also an opportunity to remind you about access to the [Volunteer Information Point \(VIP\)](#), your volunteer intranet site, where you can find so much useful information for your volunteering role. I'd like to particularly draw your attention to the '[saying thank you](#)' page, where you can find details of how to nominate someone from the Guide Dog family for a 'pat on the back' to recognise their contributions.

South East update

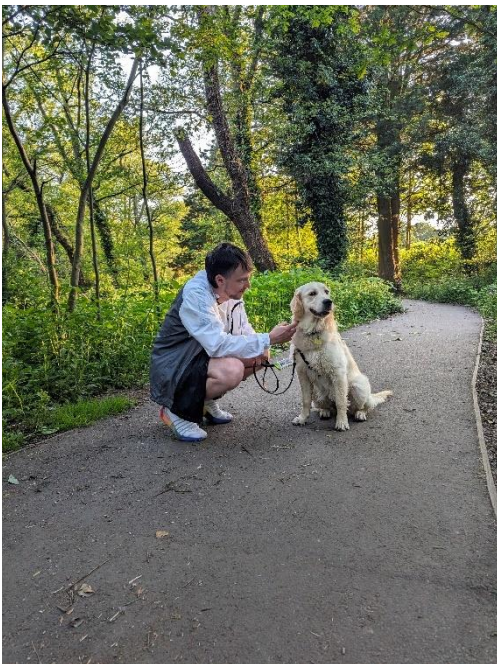


I would like to share a reminder about our monthly virtual learning sessions, which are run by our Puppy Development Advisors (PDAs). There is a different theme every month and these sessions are an opportunity to look at a topic in more detail. In last month's session, PDA Vicky Fitch-Taylor covered the topic of adolescence, including the science behind it and the things we can do to support our pups through it. We had a good attendance

and despite some technology issues we had some lovely feedback! If you'd like to attend future sessions, please ask your PDA and they'll pass on the link.

Volunteer puppy raisers needed in the South East region

We are looking for more puppy raisers in **Oxfordshire, Sussex (Brighton & Hove) and Kent Coast (Thanet district specifically)**, 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.

Paws on the Wharf



As many puppy training schemes are close enough to get into London, so it's been lovely seeing so many pictures from Paws on the Wharf.

If you didn't get a chance to visit the accessible art trail, please follow the link to watch the highlights film: [Paws on the Wharf: the sculptures.](#)

Warner Bros Studio Tour

We have also been lucky to be involved in the Guide Dogs partnership with Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter to bring best accessibility to the attraction.

The year-long partnership has kicked off with three puppies in training named by the Studio Tour: Black Labrador Harry, yellow Labrador Ron, and Golden Retriever Hermione. Thank you so much to all those involved in this and the many partnerships we run.





Hot Weather

Whilst the sun hasn't been shining quite as much as we might have expected, we are heading into summer and much warmer temperatures. Please remember to plan around the heat of the day, getting puppies out during the cooler hours. Puppies are very susceptible to heat and can be impacted quickly and seriously. There are some excellent hints and tips on the [Guide Dogs website](#).

Fosterer needs

Along with the prospect of summer comes the much-needed holidays. Every PDA region works slightly differently, but all would appreciate early notice of requests for fosterer cover. Please do let your PDA know of any plans made as soon as possible and when handing your puppy over for foster care please ensure you pass over the most up to date information about their needs.

Wishing you all a very happy summer!

Many thanks,

Helena Gibbons

Canine Assisted Services Operations Manager South East Region

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