

North West region: puppy raising update October 2024

As the autumn leaves start to fall and the air turns crisp, we're excited to bring you the latest updates from the world of puppy raising in the North West. This October, we've some updates filled with heartwarming stories, exciting events, and spooky fun - all focused on our mission to transform lives through the power of guide dogs.

Plus, with Halloween around the corner, we've got some fun ways for you to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support - we couldn't do what we do without you!

Paws on patrol: guide dog puppies visit the local fire station



Firefighters from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service recently collaborated with Guide Dogs to give puppies valuable exposure to the sights, sounds, and experiences of the fire service.

Two groups of puppies took part in exercises at Northwich Fire Station designed to help build confidence around emergency responders and fire equipment.

Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) Lisa Cooper said: "Reflective and hi-viz clothing and helmets and breathing apparatus that obscure people's faces can be scary for pups, so introducing them gradually means we can build positive associations and avoid any fears developing."

The collaboration also saw four of the pups attend Cheshire's HQ for World Mental Health Day in October. The pups took part in a meet and greet where they were able to practice their greeting manners while fire staff learnt about the benefits of puppy raising.

Paws for a cause

We are thrilled to announce that one of our local schools has successfully raised an incredible £2,500 to name a guide dog puppy! This amazing achievement is a testament to the generosity and dedication of the students, parents, and staff at Alun High School who have all worked hard to support this wonderful cause, and an ongoing symbol of our community's contribution and kindness.

Puppy raisers from the Shrewsbury area collected the school's £2,500 cheque to name the puppy "Alun". The pupils also got the opportunity to meet and greet the puppy raisers and had cuddles with the pups as a 'thank you' in return for the fundraising.



Halloween fun at puppy classes!

As October rolls in, we're excited to announce our spooktacular Halloween-themed puppy classes! Get ready for some fang-tastic fun as we celebrate this festive season with our furry friends.

For more information contact your Puppy Development Advisor for dates and classes in your local area.



Foundation courses

If you would like to attend one of our foundation courses here are the up-and-coming dates. To book your place, please visit 'Foundation course' on [Kallidus](#). You'll need your Kallidus login details to access the page.

The table below contains three columns and seven rows with the first row being a header:

Date	Time	PDAs
Friday 25 October	14:00 - 16:15	Lisa C and Andrea
Friday 8 November	14:00 - 16:15	Rachel and Jan
Thursday 21 November	10:00 - 12:15	Lisa W and Beth D
Monday 9 December	14:00 - 16:15	Jess and Molly

Jumping for joy: Skydiving for Guide Dogs

We're thrilled to announce that recent skydiving events were a soaring success, all thanks to our dedicated volunteers who took part in some recent skydiving events raising money for Guide Dogs! Their hard work and enthusiasm made this thrilling experience possible, and we couldn't have done it without them.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers for your time, energy, and passion for this cause. Your support truly makes a difference!





Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal

We are all excited for this year's [Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal](#) which is fast approaching. This year's appeal will help us to transform our pups into partnerships and there is still time to get involved as an existing volunteer, either with your friends and family, your colleagues, local community, or on your own. To find out more, visit our [YouTube channel](#) to watch a heartwarming video.

A final thought...

Bonfire night can be a stimulating and intimidating period for your pup, no matter what their age. Plan accordingly, not only for bonfire night itself, but also the week before and after. You are there to provide reassurance and safety to your pup but try not to overwhelm them. Whilst we appreciate you wanting the best possible care for the pup, sometimes if we are too coddling it can draw more attention to the stimuli in question.

As ever, if in doubt about the best way to prepare for your individual pup's temperament, please speak to your Puppy Development Advisor. Please avoid walking the pup when it has turned dark, in case of any negative reactions. We want our pups to be confident and sound, but we don't need evidence they can walk during a full fireworks display. With this in mind, please don't take your pup to an organised display, no matter how confident and sound they may seem in alternate environments.

You can start prepping for bonfire night, and loud noises at any stage of the puppy's development. Your Puppy Development Advisor will send out information on how best to prepare for this in due course. As ever, thank you all for your continued hard work and care towards our puppies.

For more information on introducing your puppy to loud noises, please visit Kallidus and refer to the '[Being out and about - Sounds and Sights & Novelty](#)' (eLearning). Under the 'Managing for success' section, you'll have access to audio clips, including sounds of fireworks, which you can play for your puppy.



Thank you for taking time to read the newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the next one, please contact me via Vanessal.scott@guidedogs.org.uk.

Regards,

Vanessa

Vanessa Scott

Puppy Raising Operations Manager - North West and Scotland

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