

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

The year seems to be flying by, and as we navigate the darker nights there are a few considerations to think about. There is a lot of novelty to come for our pups: Halloween, bonfire night and then all the excitement that the preparation for Christmas brings.

If appropriate for your pup's age and stage, think about how you can expose your puppy safely to the changes they may see. Having a look at the end of a Halloween aisle in the supermarket or passing that decorated house down the street in daylight hours, could be a good start.

Thinking about the weather and lighting may seem simple, but these can have a huge impact on a puppy. Have you walked your pup in low light before? If appropriate for their age you could do short street walks at dusk, letting your pup see the world that might not be as clear to them, quite literally, in a new light. Sounds may seem to come out of nowhere and lights may seem brighter, shadows and blowing leaves may suddenly change the feel of a street, so building your puppy's confidence will help them navigate this change of season.

Please remember all the information is available on Kallidus, there is a specific section dedicated to [Sights and Novelty](#).

As always, if you're in any doubt about your puppy's reactions or whether something is suitable for your puppy, please do get in touch with your Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) for advice.

### Team news

We have some wonderful news from our Northern Ireland PDA Emma Steele, who has welcomed the beautiful baby girl Ronnie Marie Chicken into the world. All of us here at Guide Dogs wish them well.

And from one new baby being born, to the return of our PDA Erin from Maternity leave. We are delighted Erin will be back to work on the 1st of



November. Some of you may have seen Erin on her keeping in touch days recently - it's always hard returning and leaving your little one, but Erin is excited to get back to her volunteers and their pups.

## **Fundraising**

There are a lot of fundraising events approaching so please do let your PDA know if you would like to attend any. The fundraising team are always looking for help so you are more than welcome to attend any event, and I am sure your support would be appreciated. Remember if you are considering taking your puppy this must be run past your PDA, there are times that it's not suitable for their training plan and it always depends on the dog and the event. But please don't worry, if your pup can't attend it may be a perfect time to practice them being alone.

If you wish to help in other areas, we have lots of roles you could assist with, from helping coordinate puppy boarding to a puppy class assistant. Please contact your PDA and ask which roles they have available now.

I would like to take this opportunity thank all our volunteers who take on extra roles, your commitment and time is very much appreciated. We will be spotlighting and celebrating these roles in months to come.

To all our volunteers, from myself and all the team in Scotland and Northern Ireland, a huge thank you for all the time and work you give to puppy raising and Guide Dogs. We could not change lives without your support.

**Fiona Fraser**

**Puppy Development Supervisor - Scotland and Northern Ireland**

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