

North West region: puppy raising update - December 2023

Dear puppy raisers and puppy fosterers,

As Christmas is almost upon us, I wanted to give you an end of year update and to say a special thank you to our wonderful puppy raisers and puppy fosterers on behalf of the North West puppy raising team.

In 2023, we have placed an incredible 248 puppies into our schemes, 156 of our dogs have entered training. To date, we have accomplished 75 life-changing partnerships with another 15 on track to qualify at the end of December. 18 puppies were accepted into our breeding programme, with a handful qualifying as buddy dogs. What an amazing achievement!

As well as onboarding new puppy raisers, we have welcomed some new staff and have opened an exciting new scheme in Cumbria. In 2023, we have grown our team and currently have 12 Puppy Development Advisors (PDA) and two Puppy Development Supervisors (PDS).

In January 2024, we welcome Guide Dog Trainer, Jayne Allen, who will be covering PDA Jane Rawlinson's role on a 16-month secondment.

In pictures: festive-themed puppy classes

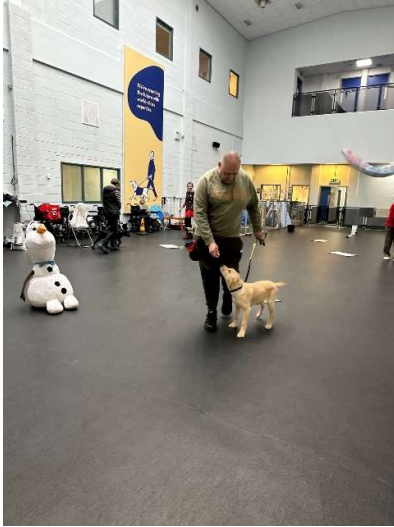


Some of our schemes have already been busy with their Christmas-themed puppy classes, with a few more to come next week.

At Atherton, we've had our Christmas puppy class, playing lots of fun games, which our puppy raisers and pups enjoyed participating in and winning some special prizes. The ultimate prize was to meet our special guest, Santa, and all our puppies were all on the GOOD list and received a bag of lovely Christmas wrapped treats.



Date: December 2023



Fundraising puppy raisers

Video: Susie and Peter

Our puppy raisers, Susie and Peter Bell, who are also fundraising volunteers and part of the Telford and Shrewsbury Fundraising Groups explain just how enjoyable both volunteering roles are for them, and for the benefit and development of their puppy.

Date: December 2023

Guide Dogs is a working name of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Registered Office: Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3YG. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334).





To watch the above film with Susie and Peter, please click on the follow the link: <https://youtu.be/auPiPRzMSu4?si=vmEEts3XJiAZnCXi>.

If any of you are interested in joining one of our wonderful fundraising groups, please let your Puppy Development Advisor know and they can put you in touch with the Community Fundraising Team.

Bellway's accessible tours



Over in Shrewsbury, home builders Bellway gave visually impaired guests an accessible tour of two of their new show homes in the town. The picture above shows Bellway staff along with Guide Dogs staff and volunteers, including puppy



Date: December 2023



raiser Nicola Hey and her husband (third and fourth from left with guide dog puppy, Captain). Both are members of our Shrewsbury Fundraising Group, which is always happy for more puppy raisers to join them in their activities.

Christmas opening times and emergency contact

For Christmas and New Year, Guide Dogs will only be closed during the following times, with only essential cover in place during this period:

- Friday 22 December - closing from 3pm
- Monday 25 December - Christmas Day
- Tuesday 26 December - Boxing Day
- Friday 29 December - closing from 3pm
- Monday 1 January 2024 - Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 2 January 2024 - Bank Holiday in Scotland only

In an emergency, please take your puppy to the vets.

Or if you need to speak to someone in Guide Dogs about your puppy during the days when we are closed, please contact our **emergency national out of hours number 0345 1430217**.

For the days in between we will have a limited amount of PDA's and PDS in work. If you need support over this period, please call Guide Line on 0800 781 1444 or email information@guidedogs.org.uk.

Thank you and see you next year

We know that puppy raising and fostering is a way of life, we very much appreciate all the sacrifices that you make, which enables blind and partially sighted people to get out and about to live the life they choose. Without our you, we simply wouldn't be able to create our life-changing partnerships.

Finally, on behalf of our all staff in the North West region, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with a big thank you for everything that you do. At our Christmas meal we raised a



Date: December 2023

glass for the absent friends, those that we lost in 2023. The picture is of the Northwest puppy raising team (missing were Beth McDonald and Rachel Adams).



Wishing you all a happy festive season and a healthy 2024.

Best wishes,

Vanessa

Vanessa Scott
Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - North West

Document ends.

Date: December 2023

