

Scotland and Northern Ireland: puppy raising update - December 2023



I certainly woke up on the 1st of December to a beautiful, crisp, frosty, morning - Christmas is certainly on its way! Remember to wrap up warm and be aware of your safety when out and about, the winter season can be beautiful but please be mindful of icy and slippery conditions underfoot and remain safe this festive period.

As we move towards the end of the year (where has it gone), I would like to share some of the amazing work you have made possible in 2023. We really could not raise our life changers without you.

In 2023 the Recruitment Team and Puppy Development Advisors have covered over 98 interviews for puppy raisers. This has led to 65 new volunteers raising their first guide dog pup. A huge thanks to all of you and apologies for some early mornings and sleepless nights!

Your dedication to the learning and education of your puppies has enabled us to move 133 pups onto their next stage of training. While we all know this is what we are working towards, saying goodbye can be a difficult and emotional time. Please know that the difference that you make to individuals living with sight loss is phenomenal.

We continue to recruit for, and be supported by, our amazing puppy fosterers, who often step up at the last minute to offer a home for a pup overnight or for holiday boarding. You are always there for us, and have covered over 350 request this year, which is amazing - thank you.

Wherever your pup's journey leads them, whether that's a guide dog Partnership, a future as a buddy dog, into the



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breeding programme as a guide dog mum or dad, or a career change, your time and commitment whatever the outcome remains an outstanding contribution.

Team update

I am delighted to share that Puppy Development Advisor Erin McArthur and husband John welcomed baby Harris William McArthur into the world on Saturday 18 November weighing 8lbs, all are doing well.

I would like to finish with some festive pictures and wish everyone a lovely Christmas and New Year from all in the Puppy Development Team from Scotland and Northern Ireland:

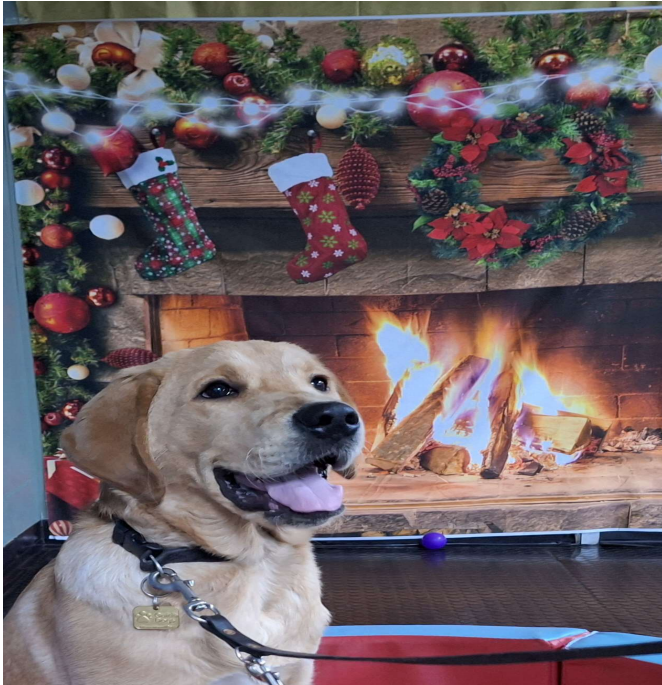


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Gillian Flynn
Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - Scotland and Northern Ireland

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