

North East Puppy Raising update

Introduction

My name is Janet Champion and I am the Puppy Development Operations Manager for the North East Region.

I joined Guide Dogs in January 1995 as an Apprentice Guide Dog Mobility Instructor and worked in that role (now known as a GDMS) for 14 years, initially at the former Middlesbrough Training Centre and then I moved on to Leeds. The GDMS role in those days involved the advanced training of the dogs, matching them with their visually impaired Guide Dog Owner, training the partnership together and then also looking after lots of other working partnerships and assessing people who wished to become Guide Dog Owners or train with replacement dogs.

Since 2009 I have worked in various management and supervisory roles within the training department, before the opportunity to move to Puppy Raising arose two years ago and I can honestly say I haven't looked back. I love working with such a motivated and positive team and our volunteers are just the best.

I live with my husband and two sons and three dogs (and a gecko!) in North Yorkshire and now my youngest son is 18 find myself with a little more time to get out and about in the lovely countryside around where I live - weekend trips to various basketball games around the region are sadly now a thing of the past.

News and updates

Our region has had a multitude of changes over the last six months. Puppy Development Supervisor, Graham McKinney, moved across to the IT department and I am delighted to say that Kay McGuire has been successful in gaining promotion to replace him.

In April we had three new PDAs join the team. Gillian Salmon will be creating a new scheme in the far north of our region around North Northumberland, Berwick on Tweed and the borders. Alana Marriott and Laura Lloyd Anderson (whose name may be familiar from the

Operations Support team) have also joined us and will be gradually taking over South Yorkshire and the surrounding areas.

Emma Smith has taken early retirement which has left a gap in West Yorkshire which Helen Barley will be gradually moving in to. We are currently recruiting to replace Kay in East Yorkshire and plan to bring a replacement for Emma into the region later on in the year, when we have identified the most suitable location for that role to be positioned in and when our current new starters have had a chance to settle into the, very unique, PDA role.

This does mean that some of you will be experiencing some changes and moving to new or different PDAs. We will be speaking to you individually if this does affect you and I am always available to answer any questions via my e mail address janet.champion@guidedogs.org.uk.

Local events

In the future we will use this space for information about local events and also the schedule and link for our regional zoom webinars and discussions which the team run weekly, see below for the planned Zoom meetings for July.

Zooms run at 1.30pm on a Monday and use the same Zoom link each week. To be included in the mailing list we ask Puppy Raisers to opt in by contacting the North East puppy raising mailbox at NEPuppyRaising@guidedogs.org.uk .

Link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://guidedogs.zoom.us/j/98953887334>

Meeting ID: 989 5388 7334

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC*	PDA
1	10 th July	Recall	Rebecca

2	17 th	Body Language	Rebecca
3	24 th	PDA Choice	Rebecca
4	31 st	Puppy Pop in	Rebecca
5	7 th Aug	Adolescence	Rebecca

***NB:** topics may be subject to change last minute due to PDA sickness or priority puppy visits. We will try our best to keep changes to a minimum.

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