



Scotland and Northern Ireland region: puppy raising update - October 2023

Welcome to October's regional puppy raising update for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Hi Puppy Raising Team,

It's Gillian here. I'm the Canine Assistance Services (CAS) Operations Manager for Puppy Raising in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Well, the days are definitely getting shorter, I hope everyone impacted by Storm Babet have remained safe and dry. The red weather alert certainly impacted on the Forfar site forcing the decision to close the site for two days to ensure staff and dog safety. All our dogs remained extremely well cared for either by staying at home with their fosterer for a well-earned break, home with their trainer, or cared for by staff remaining at the site with all enjoying varied environmental enrichment.

Team update

We have been very successful in our recruitment for a Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) for the Glasgow area, and I am pleased to say Tara Green joined us on Monday 9 October.

Tara brings a wealth of knowledge with her from previous work with other animal charities. Tara is currently shadowing staff and learning Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) and her role, I know you will all give Tara a warm welcome if you have the chance to meet her over the coming months.

Sadly, as we welcome a new member to the team, we also say a fond goodbye to Rosheen Milner. Rosheen has decided to hang up her puppy coat for Guide Dogs and retire. Many of you will know Rosheen from her many years as a Puppy Walker



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and then PDA. Her knowledge and experience will be sorely missed. We all wish her the very best for future adventures.

Guide dog puppy, Unique

As I mentioned in our last update, we have been delighted to welcome some externally bred puppies into our schemes and thanks to everyone for offering homes for these beautiful pups. One currently on scheme is little Unique a chocolate Labrador who lives with her puppy raiser Alison in Glasgow, she is the second pup Alison has raised for us.



Alison can get quite a bit of attention when out with Unique due to her colouring with such remarks as “is she not too scatty?” to be a guide dog. Alison finds the opposite, Unique is generally calm and enjoys her training and play time, she is quiet when left alone and so far, has great recall, she is not overly distracted, but like any puppy she can have a “playful half hour” at night overall, she is a delight. Unique’s PDA reports “Unique came to us as a confident well-rounded puppy who is thriving with all the Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) training. She is very eager to please and picking things up quickly. Alison has been fantastic putting all she has learnt with her previous puppy into training Unique.



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Health and Safety

As a Puppy Raiser, we know over the years equipment can get worn and damaged we have had a few near misses sent to the Health and Safety Team because of damaged or worn equipment and with this in mind can I please remind you to check equipment prior to use, if you require replacement equipment, please contact Guide Line on 0800 781 1444 or by email at information@guidedogs.org.uk.

Events

Induction day



We received great feedback from everyone who attended the induction day at Forfar on Tuesday 5 September. The day provided an overview of what it takes to raise and train a future life-changer. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our puppy raising and dog training staff who supported and made this day so interesting. If you would like to attend the next event, please speak to your PDA. Dates to be confirmed soon.



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Fundraising events

Here are some dates for upcoming fundraising events near you. As always, please check in with your PDA to find out if your pup can attend.

- Wednesday 29 November: we have a stall at Aberdeen Christmas lights switch on, AB10 1BL.
- Sunday 3 December: we have a stall at Albyn School Fair, AB15 4PB.
- Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November: Christmas Market, The hub Friockheim, DD11 4TG.
- Saturday 2 December: Christmas Craft Market, The square Aberfeldy, PH15 2DD.
- Saturday 25 November: Cameron Toll Shopping Centre, EH16 5PB - Collection 10:00 - 14:00.
- Wednesday 6 December: Lloyds Banking Group, Sighthill, Edinburgh, EH11 4DT - 10:00-14:00.
- Saturday 25 November: Kingsgate Shopping Centre Christmas Event, Dunfermline, KY12 7QU - 10:00 - 16:00.
- Saturday 9 December: Lochore Institute Christmas Fayre, Lochgelly, KY5 8DA - 10:00 - 14:00.
- Saturday 2 December: Stirling Rugby Club, Bridgehaugh Park, FK9 5AP - 12:00 - 16:00.
- Sunday 17 December: Falkirk Football Stadium, FK2 9EE - 12:00 - 16:00.

Thanks for taking the time to read the Scotland and Northern Ireland regional update. Until next time, from all the team, stay safe.

Kind Regards,

Gillian Flynn

Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - Scotland and Northern Ireland

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