

## **South West and Wales region: puppy raising update August 2025**

Hi all, Leah Rogers here, and I am the Puppy Raising Operations Manager for the South West and Wales region.

### **Puppy Raising Operations Manager's message**

For the main newsletter this time we have produced a video on the theme of **'how to travel safely through doorways'**. Under this theme, the video will look at resolving common issues when it comes to training your puppy to pass through doorways correctly and safely.

You may be saying to yourself, "why does this matter?"

This matters for several reasons including:

- The safety of yourself and your puppy; and
- The safety of future guide dog owners

If you imagine that you and your puppy are approaching a closed door. Both of you won't know what is on the other side. There could be anything: a potential hazard to you (as a handler or guide dog owner) or your dog. This why we work with puppy raisers and puppies to safely manage/negotiate doors and doorways.

A good example is a doorway leading out onto a busy high street. As a handler, we don't know what might immediately greet us when walking through: it could be a cyclist whizzing past; it could be another dog; a child or even a courier delivering parcels.

All of these are potential hazards that could cause harm to a puppy/dog and their handler, if a puppy/dog bolts through a doorway. For a guide dog owner, a slow and steady management of doors and doorways by a guide dog ensures their safety and helps them feel in control of their journey.



In the 'how to travel safely through doors' video, we explore how you can train your puppy to have good manners when it comes to negotiating doors and open doorways.

Your Puppy Development Advisor will be covering these points in your individual visits or at your local puppy class.

## **Update on schemes**

We have had a busy summer of placing puppies in the South West and Wales, and I would like to thank all those puppy raisers who have taken pups. Whether it's your first puppy (welcome to your puppy raising journey) or overlapping a new puppy with another (you are superheroes) or your umpteenth puppy - thank you!

Puppy raisers are crucial to Guide Dogs, and we could not do it without you.

All those endless hours training your puppies, clearing up endless amounts of poo/wee and everything else that comes with being a puppy raiser.

I know my team of Puppy Development Advisors really appreciate what you do for them and your puppies so I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you all for all your hard work and dedication to Guide Dogs.

The next few months will be a challenge as we try to progress the older dogs in for training and again, I really appreciate your patience and understanding with this.

Recently, I visited the Isle of White to visit our new puppy raisers there with their Puppy Development Advisor, Leanne Kelly. It was great to meet everyone and chat about how they are doing with their puppies and how we are developing the scheme on the Island so that we can have more puppy raisers there in the future.

I am planning on visiting Jersey too where we already have one puppy raiser household with a view to increase this number going forward.

I will also be travelling around the various schemes with Puppy Development Advisors so hope to see you all soon to catch up about your puppies and how you're doing, and to hear your suggestions/feedback.



Thank you for all you are doing and look forward to seeing you all soon,

**Leah Rogers**

**Puppy Raising Operations Manager - South West and Wales**

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