

South West and Wales region: puppy raising update August 2024

Welcome to your regional puppy raising update for August. As the weather seems to have settled to 'summer-ish' for most of us and is thankfully not too hot, I hope you're enjoying being able to get out and about with your pups or taking a well-earned holiday.

We know that throughout your time volunteering with us, circumstances may change and the role you originally signed up for may no longer be the best fit for you, or maybe you have just been taking a break from active puppy raising. Perhaps now is a good time to dip your toe back in the water even if that's just for a few weeks over the busy summer period to try out [short-term holiday fostering](#) for a puppy.

Or if you fancy something new, you might consider to make the jump to [raising funds](#) or if you live near our training centres and offices perhaps you want to welcome a [training dog](#) into your home at evenings and weekends - whatever you're considering, we've made it as easy as possible for existing volunteers to try a new role.

Meet the Team

I am delighted to continue with 'meet the team' segment and introduce three more Puppy Development Advisors: Kerry Brass-Hall, Jo Arthur and Georgina Wingham.



Kerry Brass-Hall

Hi, my name is Kerry Brass-Hall, and I am a Puppy Development Advisor (PDA) covering North Devon, North Cornwall and parts of Somerset.

I joined Guide Dogs as a PDA in May 2022 but for most of my working life I have been working within the animal rescue industry. I started working in the animal industry whilst studying for my degree in Animal Behaviour and Welfare, where I worked at Heathrow Animal Reception Centre. After

university, I worked as an Animal Welfare assistant for the Blue Cross before working abroad as a Scuba Diving instructor, living in Malta and Tenerife teaching students how to Scuba Dive. After returning to the UK, I returned to the animal rescue industry where I became a dog trainer and behaviour advisor for a busy Somerset rescue centre. During my work in rescue, I developed a deep love and affection for greyhounds and was nicknamed “crazy greyhound lady” which has still stuck with me to this day.

Out of work I am a Brown Belt in Shotokan Karate and train with my local team most days of the week, I hope to earn my black belt this time next year.



Jo Arthur

My name is Jo Arthur, and I am a PDA based in South Devon and Cornwall.

I joined Guide Dogs 17 years ago and have had several dog roles within Guide Dogs including Dog Care Staff, Guide Dog Trainer and Guide Dog Mobility Specialist, in varying UK locations including Leamington, Cardiff, Bristol and Exeter.

I moved into my current role as a PDA seven years ago where I manage a large puppy scheme with my black Lab Pudsey (Bear) within South Devon including Teignmouth, Torbay, Dartmoor and the South Hams which keeps me very busy.

What I like about my job is of course the puppy cuddles! I love to coach and support my volunteers

with their pups to achieve an all-round great trainee guide dog for the future.

It goes without saying that without our wonderful volunteers there would be no Guide Dogs, so a big thank you to you all!



Georgina Wingham

My name is Georgina Wingham, and I am the PDA covering East Hampshire and a little slice of West Sussex.

I joined Guide Dogs two and a half years ago and I have loved every single moment. I have over 15 years of dog training experience and before joining Guide Dogs I was a pet dog trainer where I taught puppy classes, pet dog training classes, gundog classes and competitive obedience classes, as well as behavioural 121s. Previous to this, I was a Primary School teacher and I truly believe that these

two roles set me up perfectly for this job: I now have a 'class' of puppies instead of children!

Every day I am so inspired by my amazing volunteers who dedicate their time to shaping our puppies into future life-changers; I am so thankful for everything they do and love how everyone comes together as a fantastic community to help and support each other.

In my spare time, you'll usually find me travelling up and down the country in my campervan competing in the dog sports of agility and obedience with my three dogs. I really do live and breathe all things dog!

Promoting puppy raising in various locations

We continue our recruitment for more new puppy raisers across most of our South West and South Wales region. If you live in Dorset, you may have seen a recent press article '[Guide dog puppies need homes in Dorset](#)' with a few suitably cute puppy photos! This article highlights that we're especially keen to hear from people who live in or near to Blandford Forum, Shaftesbury, Wimborne, Wareham, Dorchester and Weymouth, as well as Poole. PDA Elli



Cavassa is holding a volunteer recruitment event at the Corn Exchange in Wareham on Friday 13 September at 2:30pm.

Thank you all for your amazing support as the team have placed a record number of pups into our region over the last four months!

Please don't hesitate to email if you have suggestions for this regional update or subjects you would like us to include:

Liz.orme@guidedogs.org.uk.

Many thanks,

Liz Orme

Canine Assisted Services Operations Manager - South West and Wales

Document ends.