

Bolt

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 4

Bolt begins advanced training
Learning valuable skills

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A PUPPY**





Hello, I'm Laura, Bolt's Advanced Trainer! I'm excited to update you on Bolt's progress.

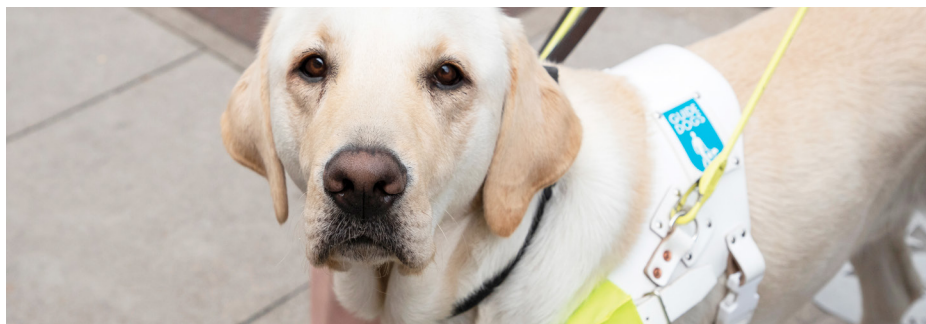
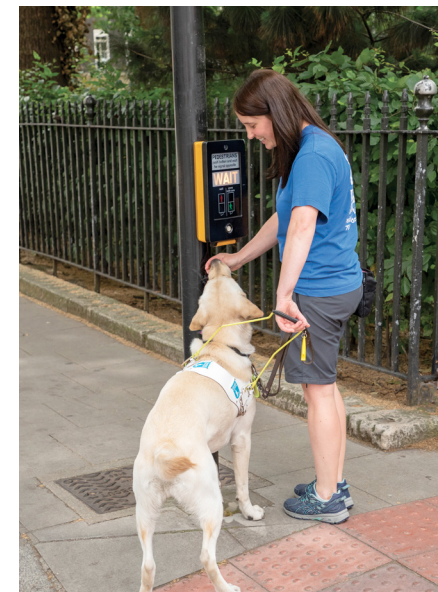
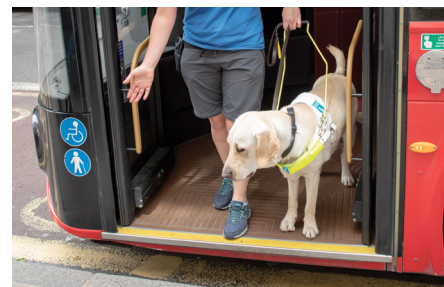
I met Bolt when he started early training, so he already recognised me as a good source of cuddles and happiness; making the transition into advanced training an easy one! I spent time with Bolt, playing and giving him cuddles, this made sure our bond was very strong before we started training.

Funny face

Bolt has such a chilled-out nature and funny facial expressions which make us all laugh! He has a pink pig toy which he throws in the air and he adores lying in his bed. He still gets to see his puppy pal, Rowley, which always makes his tail wag!

Food traps

We start the day with a walk to the park, stopping for a drink at the café, to work on Bolt's dog distraction whilst he is relaxed. I'm teaching him to listen to my commands when other dogs are walking past and he's progressing nicely. I'm getting Bolt used to wearing his white harness, so that he is confident in wearing it by the time he starts working with a new owner. It will



make the transition through the matching process a lot easier for Bolt.

I'm teaching Bolt to be aware of moving vehicles and to stop if one approaches; an invaluable skill to a future owner as Bolt will learn to signal when a road is not safe to cross. He is such a natural at this.

Bolt loves his food and so I'm teaching him to ignore food scraps and smells. I set up 'food traps' and give Bolt lots of praise for ignoring them as

we walk past. He is learning that the reward is better when it comes from me!

Hustle and bustle

Bolt loves the hustle and bustle of busy environments. We've been navigating through crowds of people and Bolt is brilliant!

(Continued overleaf)



He is also super confident on the bus and train and beginning to get used to the tube too.

I'm developing skills which require Bolt to think for himself. For example, when we stop at a pedestrian crossing, I ask Bolt to 'find the button' and he takes me to the button box and puts his nose underneath where the button is. This is another important skill that will help his future owner.

A great companion

Bolt has a big character and would suit someone who wants a fun and playful dog. Due to his super affectionate nature, he would be perfect for someone who will enjoy having a companion as well as a guide dog.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Bolt. Look out for your next Pupdate in February!

The matching process

Every person and dog is unique, so matching a guide dog to an owner is a complex and carefully managed process. Our trainers take into account a person's needs including lifestyle, walking speed and height.

Once a match has been made our Guide Dog Mobility Instructors spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



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