

Buddy

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 4

A new chapter

Starting training school

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Hello, I'm Charlotte, a trainer at Guide Dogs. I'm pleased to say Buddy has made it to training school!

I've been a trainer for seven years and it's so rewarding to see a dog grow in confidence and maturity. Buddy is such an affectionate boy and I'm excited to be a part of his journey to become a guide dog.

Building a bond

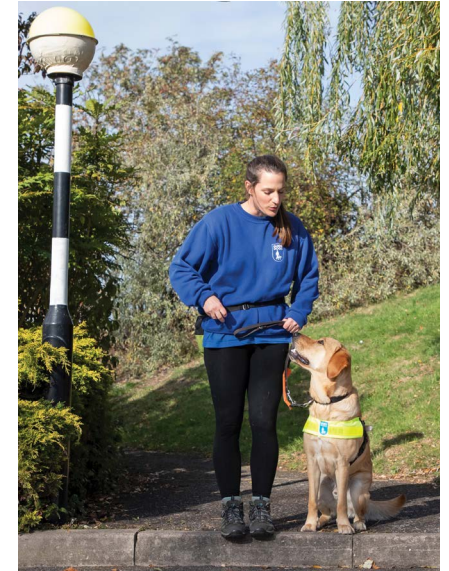
When Buddy arrived at training school he was a

little anxious. The kennel environment can be overwhelming for dogs with a sensitive side. To help him settle, I arranged for him to stay with a boarder, allowing him to live in a home environment when he isn't training with me. It wasn't long before he relaxed and was ready to begin learning.

During the first couple of weeks I built a close bond with Buddy, doing lots of fun activities together such as cuddling, grooming, playing with his favourite toys and going for lots of free runs. He loves to rest his head on my lap and will do so at any opportunity!

Life at training school

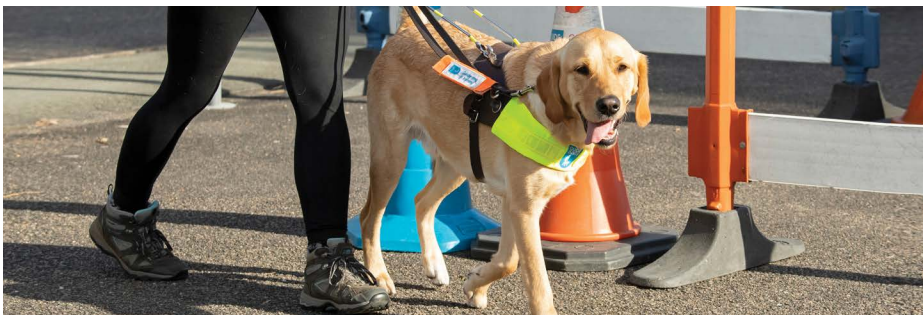
Buddy was a little unsure of his training harness at first, but with plenty of positive



interactions, he now puts his head into the harness on command. We begin our morning with a walk to a nearby residential area, dipping into busier areas with lots of distractions to test Buddy's focus. We relax together at lunchtime, before spending our afternoon travelling on different modes of public transport, such as the bus and train. Buddy is brilliant at locating bus stop seats for me, which will be an invaluable skill for his future owner.

Buddy finishes his day with a free run at the local woods, where his playful personality shines! He adores playing with the other dogs in my pack, a golden retriever called Tremain, and Jenson, a black Labrador retriever cross. I love watching him letting off some steam!

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Guide Dogs is working to give people with sight loss the confidence and skills they need to live the life they choose.

Buddy loves his yellow chicken toy!

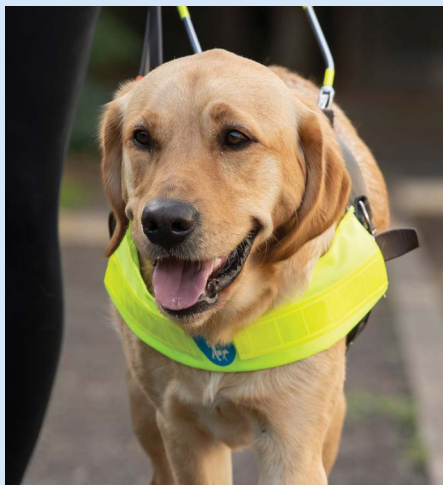
Steady Buddy!

I'm pleased to say that Buddy's dog distraction has come on leaps and bounds and he remains focused on me whilst out and about – no easy feat for any dog! I've been teaching Buddy to sit at kerbs and encouraging him to take his time, as he likes to rush off like a rocket across to the road. He is now walking at a much steadier pace, giving him more time to make decisions and plan his route.

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 trainers spend several weeks training the guide dog owner and dog together, learning their common routes and making sure their partnership is a success.



Buddy has also tried the obstacle course, made up of every day obstacles that he may come up against whilst guiding, such as traffic cones and road signs. We use this course to teach our dogs to navigate around obstacles and learn to give their handler space to get around them too. I'm so excited to see Buddy master these skills.

Thank you for sponsoring the handsome Buddy. Look out for your next Pupdate in June.

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