

Joy

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 4

A new chapter

Joy has started training school!

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





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

I will be Joy's trainer through her first stages of training. She has settled into life with me very quickly and has adapted so well to this new chapter in her journey to become a guide dog.

I first became involved with Guide Dogs as a Puppy Walker which I enjoyed for 11 years. I've now been a trainer for 3 years and it's a

great advantage to know the ins and outs of puppy walking, as I am very aware of the puppies' journey before they reach training school. Seeing your dog progress and develop is so rewarding and I love seeing my hard work pay off.

Finding her feet

I spent the first few weeks building a bond with Joy to help her settle. After lots of cuddles and plenty of playtime with her favourite toys, we began training together. Joy came into training school alongside a black Labrador called Dibble, who she knew from her puppy classes. They adore playing together.

I'm pleased to say Joy took to her training harness with no problem at all and she



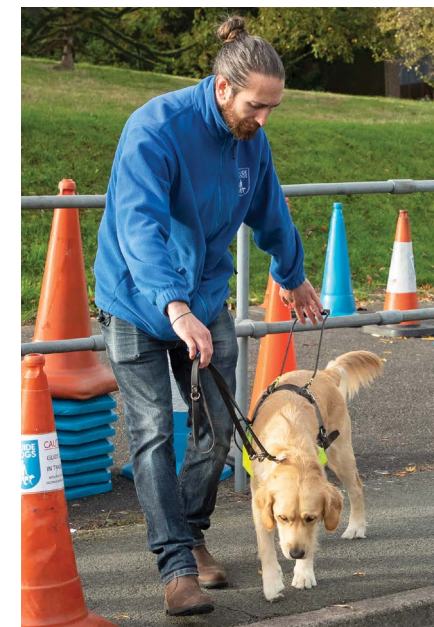
Guide Dogs is working to give people with sight loss the confidence and skills they need to live the life they choose.



looks so proud when she's wearing it. Joy is a typical golden retriever and so she has a lazy side! This means she can struggle to focus for long periods of time. To tackle this we are keeping things short and sweet, with just one training walk in the morning and obedience training or a free run at the local forest in the afternoon.

An affectionate pup

Joy is a very willing girl which makes her very easy to



work with. She has such an affectionate nature and so I make sure to praise her with lots of cuddles when she has done a good job, as she much prefers this over food treats!

(Continued overleaf)



I've been teaching Joy to stop at kerbs, doors and stairs, which she is picking up quickly.

Her dog distraction has really improved too, which means she remains focused on me when we visit public places, such as shops and busy high streets.

We've also given the obstacle course a go, which is a course made up of every day obstacles that she 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 excited to see Joy master this skill and begin to make more complex decisions when guiding.

Thank you for sponsoring Joy. She really is such a lovely little thing and I'm looking forward to seeing her progress. Look out for your next Pupdate in June.

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.



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