

Libby

GUIDE
DOGS



Pupdate 4

Libby starts Advanced Training
Learning valuable skills

SPONSOR
A PUPPY





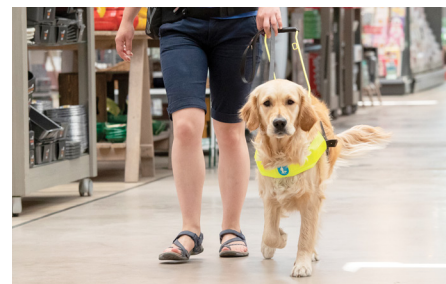
Hello, I'm Jemma, Libby's Advanced Trainer. I've been taking Libby through the next stages of her training and preparing her to be matched with a future owner!

Libby is such a wonderful and enthusiastic dog who has settled into advanced training with me quickly. She is so friendly to everyone she

encounters and has such a sweet nature. I've been training guide dogs for over seven years now and I must say, it's a pleasure to be training Libby and taking her through her final stages of training.

Useful skills

I've been focusing Libby's training on developing the specific skills she will need when she is a qualified guide dog. This includes teaching her food manners, in which she must learn not be distracted by food smells and scraps whilst out and about. This is obviously quite a skill for any dog to master, as their noses are so sensitive to picking up smells; but it will be particularly important



when she is guiding someone independently.

Another advanced skill Libby is learning is to put her head into her harness on command, this will make it easier for her future owner to get her ready to guide them. She is also learning 'chin rest' where she places her chin on my hand on command to enable me to check her ears and teeth. Her future owner can use this skill to give Libby regular health checks to keep her happy and healthy.

Enthusiastic pup!

Libby is by far one of the most enthusiastic dogs I have ever trained and is full of energy. Sometimes I even have to stop her doing a task too early before the command is given!

(Continued overleaf)



If she is trying to master something new, she sometimes barks to let you know she's trying her best, which makes me laugh. In the next few weeks we'll be going on more trips on the bus and train to maintain her skill in these areas too.

Looking to the future

Libby is such an affectionate dog and I know she has a lot of love to give her future owner.

I imagine she'll be perfect for someone who is out and about a lot or someone who works in an office environment as she is so adaptable to new surroundings.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Libby. I hope you enjoy hearing about her progression in your February Pupdate.

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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