

GUIDE
DOGS



Poppy



Pupdate 5

Poppy prepares for her new owner

Mastering crucial skills

SPONSOR
A PUPPY





Hi, I'm David, Poppy's trainer. I'm preparing her to be matched with a new owner!

I've worked for Guide Dogs for almost 35 years in various roles but being a Guide Dog Mobility Trainer is by far my favourite. It's my job to take our dogs through the most advanced parts of their training and match them to a potential owner. I then train the new owner and dog together to ensure they form a strong bond and qualify as a successful partnership.

It's such an incredible feeling to know you are actively

making a difference to a person's life and I can't wait to see Poppy matched with someone very soon.

A day in the life of Poppy

Poppy is such a nice little dog and has a very willing and enthusiastic nature. Many dogs can lose concentration easily, but Poppy can remain focused for long periods of time which helps her progress in her training easier.

Poppy lives at home with me and I carry out two training sessions a day with her. In the morning we practice guiding work in busier places such as supermarkets, which can be a challenging environment. Poppy's learning to move left and right around people in the aisles and navigate the narrow gaps between trolleys.



We relax together over lunch and then practice obedience skills at home in the afternoon.

One of Poppy's favourite places to visit is a local country park where she loves to let off some steam by running fast around the forest.

Crucial skills

I've been developing Poppy's skills that will be invaluable to her future owner. I'm teaching her to be aware of moving vehicles and to

stop if one approaches so that she will be able to signal to her owner when a road is not safe to cross.

It has been incredible to see Poppy apply her guiding skills to real life situations, such as when a bin or parked car blocks a pavement.

(Continued overleaf)



Poppy has learnt to guide me away from the pavement, navigate around the obstacle and move us back onto the pavement safely. These situations will be a daily challenge for her future owner and so it's crucial she masters these skills to become a qualified guide dog.

The perfect match?

Poppy loves having a job to do and so she would suit someone with an active lifestyle who can make the most of her brilliant skills.

She would be perfect for someone who goes out to work and needs a guide to get them there every day.

Look out for your next Pupdate in February to meet her new owner!



See how much Poppy has grown

We have been taking pictures of Poppy since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed.

To see your exclusive video, please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-poppy

and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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