

Skye

**GUIDE
DOGS**



Pupdate 2

Learning about the world

Skye is growing up

**SPONSOR
A PUPPY**





Hello, it's Glyn here, Skyl's Puppy Walker. Welcome to her second Pupdate!

Puppy walking is so important to me and I've learnt so much from each pup I've raised. I'm starting to realise that each puppy is very unique, and I love getting to know them for who they are. I've enjoyed watching Skyl learn new skills, but I've also loved expanding my knowledge on dog training and behaviour too as a result.

Confident pup

Skyl continues to grow in confidence every day. She remains unfazed by anything, which is a brilliant trait for a future guide dog as she will be able to guide her owner confidently no matter the environment around her. We recently came across a loud leaf blower and she just stopped to figure out what the noise was, and then carried on about her day.

New skills

Skyl is very food motivated which makes her much easier to train but I feel like she would sell me for a dog biscuit if she had the chance! I have taught her not to eat from her bowl until I blow the whistle. This helps to build patience and encourages good food manners.



Skyl enjoys learning new things and I can see her really trying to figure out what it is I'm asking of her. She has been learning to 'find the chair' in which she will rest her head on an empty chair. This will be an invaluable skill for her future owner as she will be able to locate an empty seat for them whilst out and about, for example at a café, a bus stop or a park bench.

Patience and focus

Skyl can still be a little impatient and often interrupts my conversations because she wants some attention. It did make me laugh the other day as we were waiting to (Continued overleaf)



cross the road and she got impatient at the traffic lights, so she barked at them. They changed just as she barked and so now I think she feels she even rules the traffic lights!

Another challenge I've faced with Skye is her dog distraction. She is such a friendly and playful girl and so she can get easily distracted by any dogs around her. She has brilliant recall though and I've seen a big improvement over the last few months. We will continue working on improving her focus even with other puppy pals around.

Skye the fundraiser

Skye has attended many Guide Dogs fundraising events over the last few months and she's a brilliant sidekick to take along with me. She gives me the opportunity to share what I do as a Puppy Walker and the vital work that Guide Dogs do to help those people living with sight loss.

We can't wait to see Skye progress on her journey to become a guide dog. Look out for her next Pupupdate in June!

Training – Puppy to qualified guide dog

It takes around 20 months of training to transform a newborn pup into a qualified guide dog.

The pups learn basic commands and are introduced to new surroundings with their Puppy Walker.

They then venture on to Guide Dogs Training School, where they learn

the foundation tasks required of a guide dog. The final stages of training focus on their partnership with a new owner, where they learn specific skills tailored to their owner's specific needs.



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