



Sponsor
a Puppy

Skylar

Skylar is loving
training school!

Pupdate 5

Skye is on her way to become a guide dog



Despite all the additional challenges from Covid-19 while at training school, Skye just got on with everything and everyone! She easily adapted to living with her new foster family too, where she stays overnight and on weekends. She's such a good girl!

Skye's beautiful personality shines through

Skye is a very bright, playful and affectionate pup, with an eagerness to get her nose into everything. She has plenty of free runs either at Hainault country park nearby, or at the weekends with her Fosterer.

Life at training school

Skye has made many friends while at training school. Each morning she is dropped off by her Fosterer and spends the day with three other pups in training. Later in the day when Skye is taken back to her foster family, she enjoys the company of a chocolate Labrador called Smokey – so she's never lonely!

“ Hello it's Kim here, Skye's Trainer. I'm delighted to tell you that Skye is progressing really well at training school! ”

A day at training school for Skye usually comprises of a morning training session with Charlie, another pup in training. Skye always waits patiently for her turn! Then she'll either have some play time with her friends back at the kennels, or sometimes I bring her back up to the office with me, so she can relax and experience a different environment. In the afternoons, we either do more training, obedience training on site or go on a free run.



Learning new skills

Wearing the harness for the first time didn't faze Skye. She now knows that when she wears it, it's time to work and move into her guiding position. Skye has mastered stopping at kerbs promptly, sitting straight and still. We're currently working on introducing her to obstacle avoidance and stopping at narrow gaps as this will be a vital skill to assist her future owner.



Skye has transitioned really well from her time with her Puppy Raiser. The only thing I can see us having to work on is her use of her nose – she likes to sniff everything! This can break her concentration, but it's pretty common for a pup her age and stage of training to do this.

(Continued overleaf)



See how much Skye has grown:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-skye](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-skye)

Taking in new surroundings

To aid Skye's socialisation skills, I've been taking her to lounge areas within the training centre to mix with pet dogs of other staff members. This has helped us to practise her dog distraction skills.

As soon as it's safe to do so, Skye will try out more public transport and visit some busier shopping precincts. I like taking pups to these places as they provide more complex working surroundings. There are no markings on the floor or straight lines to follow, so the pup really has to work out the route themselves.

All in all, Skye is doing brilliantly, and I can't wait to show how she has progressed in your next Pupdate.



See how much Skye has grown

We have been taking pictures of Skye since she was born so you can see just how much she's changed. Please visit guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-skye and if you'd like to hear more from Sponsor a Puppy, why not visit our social media pages.



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