

Angela Cary  
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January 27, 2022

Dear Angela Cary,

Bowler, the puppy you are sponsoring, is just over 8 months old - well into his first year as a guide dog in training. The skills that he learns this year will form the foundations for the guiding work that Bowler will start to do when he leaves his Puppy Walker and heads to a Guide Dogs' training school to begin his next stage of training.

So that you can see how these foundations are developing, I am delighted to send you Bowler's second 'report card' – I hope you will be pleased with the progress he is making.

I look forward to contacting you again in a couple of months with your next 'pupdate' on Bowler's activities. If you would prefer not to receive any further updates, please let us know by emailing [nameapuppy@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:nameapuppy@guidedogs.org.uk) or calling 0345 143 0222.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Ref: Walk\_Learn\_Guide\_8\_Month

We look at how you have supported us, to provide you and others with information that we think you will find interesting. To help us do this we may use publicly sourced data and information from data analytics companies.

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### **Meeting the guide dog puppy you have named**

Meeting the puppy that you have named is an exciting and memorable experience. For many of our supporters, meeting the puppy is a key moment, when they see the result of all their hard work and training. It can also be an emotional time, but our supporters tell us that it is an overwhelmingly positive thing to do - so enjoy your very special puppy meeting!

The following are some of the questions that supporters often ask prior to meeting their puppy. If you have a question that is not answered here, please get in touch on 0118 983 0190 or email us on [nameapuppy@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:nameapuppy@guidedogs.org.uk)

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**Q: How will the visit be arranged?**

**A:** A member of the Guide Dogs team will contact you *after the puppy is 17 weeks old* to start to arrange your puppy meeting. We will discuss with you suitable dates, times and the venue of the meeting, along with who will be attending on the day. A member of the Guide Dogs team will be present at the visit along with the puppy and Puppy Walker.

**NB** Please be aware that from time to time, we may have a puppy who needs to focus on a particular aspect of their training, or might struggle with travel sickness. On these occasions, the puppy visit may be delayed slightly whilst we resolve these issues. Puppy welfare is extremely important to us and the visit will only be possible when the puppy is ready.

**Q: Where will the visit take place?**

**A:** At a place that is suitable for everyone, puppy included. This might be a local Guide Dogs centre, or a local garden centre or café. If the puppy has been named by a group of people, we would aim to arrange the puppy meeting at your workplace, place of group meeting, or school; we will discuss the options with you. Although we try to place guide dog pups reasonably close to the sponsor, the visit may involve some travel. For larger groups of sponsors we may need to discuss who will meet the puppy on the day.

**Q: What if I have to cancel?**

**A:** If, for any reason, you can no longer make the arranged visit date and time, please get in touch and we will endeavour to arrange another date. Please give us as much notice as possible when cancelling visits. On the very rare occasion that we need to cancel a meeting we will ensure that we contact you as soon as possible.

**Q: How do we approach the puppy we have named?**

**A:** Every puppy is different, but often your puppy will be just as excited to meet you as you are them! In general, be calm and friendly, and avoid encouraging the puppy to jump up, bark, or mouth your hands. Because our puppies are being prepared for life as working dogs, we may ask you to approach the puppy in a certain way to support their training - for example, if your puppy is very excitable amongst strangers, we may ask you to wait to give the puppy attention until it has settled down.

**Q: Will I be able to stroke the puppy?**

**A:** Yes! Once you have been introduced to the puppy you have named you will have some time to stroke and interact with them. If the puppy becomes a little too excited we may need to step away with the puppy for a minute or two to give them the chance to settle down. It's a big day and new experience for the puppy.

**Q: Will I be able to take photographs?**

**A:** Yes! There will be plenty of time on the day to take photos.

**Q: Can I ask questions?**

**A:** Yes. A member of Guide Dogs will be with you throughout your visit, along with your puppy's Puppy Walker. They will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Q: Are we allowed to give the puppy any doggy treats or toys?**

**A:** Right from the beginning, we are preparing our puppies to be working dogs - so we only use Guide Dogs approved treats and toys as part of a careful training regime. Because of this, we ask that you do not bring along any toys or treats of your own to give to the puppy you have named.

**Q: Do we need to bring any 'poop scoops' in case of an accident?**

**A:** No. We will make sure that there is a handy supply of poop bags in case of emergencies! Our puppies are trained from a very young age so an accident would be very unlikely, and we will ensure they have the opportunity to relieve themselves before and after the visit. Water, treats and bowls will also travel with the puppy so they will have everything they need with them.