



Bowler's

Third Pupupdate

We were keen to speak again to Bowler's Puppy Walker, Natalie, to find out what they've been up to since we last updated you. Natalie said that as Bowler is working towards completing the puppy walking stage of his training, they have been busy practising all that he's learnt so far.

If there's one area that Bowler needs to focus on, it's his free running and recall. That's not to say that he doesn't come back when called – he's actually rather too enthusiastic and will come running back to Natalie at top speed, so she has to move to avoid being run in to! As a result, their main focus is on slowing down Bowler's 'approach speed', which is going well.

On the lead, Bowler is much more controlled, and walks in the correct guiding position. This is on the handler's left side, slightly ahead and with light to moderate tension on the lead. Bowler is also able to maintain good levels of concentration even if there are other dogs nearby, which is impressive.

Bowler's knowledge of obedience commands is excellent, and he has been getting on brilliantly at puppy class. Natalie told us that Bowler loves going there as he's made so many puppy friends, and he gets to see his sister too! He's well behaved with other dogs and understands their body language easily, so he only plays with dogs who are happy to do so.

Transport is an area which Bowler excels in. He can confidently travel on buses and trains, and has even been in a large van – this will benefit him when he moves to training school, as our Guide Dog Trainers use vans to transport their dogs around.

In town, Bowler loves working his way through crowds and going in and out of all the different shops. Natalie told us that it's only when they stop that Bowler can become restless, as he likes to keep going. For example, if they are standing in a queue, Bowler can become impatient and might even bark, as if to tell everyone to hurry up! Natalie is working on improving his patience with good results seen so far.

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Bowler's eagerness to get going means that he can sometimes find it difficult to settle in cafés, but Natalie has noticed lots of improvement with this lately, with the aid of tasty treats or a toy to keep him occupied.

Recently, Natalie went to stay in a hotel for a night, and took Bowler along with her. She was really happy to tell us that Bowler adapted very easily and was 'as good as gold' whilst there. Bowler has also stayed with one of our volunteer boarders away from Natalie for a few days, and we hear the boarder didn't want to give him back at the end of his stay – that's how wonderful he was!

We hear that Bowler has had his routine castration operation, and that it went very well. Apparently, within a few days, he'd bounced back to his normal self. Now that this is done, Bowler's Puppy Training Supervisor can begin to think about when he may be able to move on to 'big school', to begin formal guide dog training.

As soon as we hear that Bowler has moved on to the next stage, we will write to let you know. In the meantime, we hope you've enjoyed following his progress, and we look forward to updating you in due course.

Thank you for naming a puppy and helping Guide Dogs to change a life.

