

Your Autumn Adventures Issue 2025

PUPPY PALS

NEWS FROM THE IRISH GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

THANK YOU FOR ALL MY TRAINING!

Will you join me for a new adventure?

Hello there, PAW-some Puppy Sponsor!

It's Vicky here. I know I've changed a LOT since I last wrote to you. I hope you can 'recall' me?

You can! Excellent. So, **I'm here to spill the bones on some exciting news...**

Thanks to you and my lovely Puppy Raiser, Deirdre, I'm ready to start the next stage of my training. That means a new home, a new hu-mum, Trainer Susan, and **a whole new world of adventures.**

I'd love to 'stay' with Deirdre, but there's someone out there who really needs me by their side, so we can explore the world together. This means, **I really need to step up**, and find out what it takes to wear that special harness.

It's going to be hard work. But you know I love to learn, and I can't wait to get started. **I'm soooooo excited.** Maybe you can tell?

Thank you so much for being the bestest Puppy Sponsor. You deserve a special treat (but not my favourite milk bones). x



GO FETCH!

PAGES 2-3

Moving on up!

Vicky leaves Puppy Raiser Deirdre and heads into basic training

PAGE 4

Off to a flying start

Find out how you're helping Lawrence explore the world

PAGE 5

Everyday adventures

Aryia's enjoying so many new adventures – thanks to you!

PAGE 6

Meet the new recruits

Will you help train the next generation of life-changers?

SIT! STAY! GOOD. NOW LET'S GO!

YOU'RE WALKING ALONGSIDE VICKY AS SHE TAKES THE NEXT EXCITING STEPS IN HER TRAINING



New places. New faces. New spaces. Everything's changing for Vicky as she moves into 'Big Pup' training, thanks to you. Here, her Trainer Susan tells you all about Vicky's latest adventures...



Vicky is quick to learn and so attentive – she's a joy to train.

When Vicky arrived at the Training Centre, I could tell that Puppy Raiser Deirdre had done an amazing job – as usual.

Vicky is so attentive and clever. And once she'd got used to being at the Centre, we started to explore the



Your support is helping Vicky learn about new environments.

It's such a joyful moment when you see a dog matched with their new partner, and watch them set off into the world looking happy and confident.

But as you're a Puppy Sponsor, you know there's a LOT of hard work that goes into making these moments happen.

The time, effort and cost involved in training a dog like Vicky is huge – and your kindness is absolutely crucial.

area around it. Getting used to new environments is essential for every Assistance Dog or Guide Dog, and that training begins from day one.

I'm building on Deirdre's hard work to help Vicky expand her skills and explore new environments – which she absolutely loves.

Every day brings a new challenge for Vicky and she is thriving. We use lots of food initially (especially milk bones or gravy bones), so I'm easing her off using food rewards in our training sessions and replacing them with verbal rewards, in preparation for her becoming someone's working dog.

Right now, we're working on walking in a straight line, turning left and right, and stopping at kerbs. Then we'll move on to avoiding obstacles, and finding things like doors, lifts and stairs.

It's amazing what these dogs can do. You know, they literally open doors for people, helping them make the most of life and explore the world with confidence.

I always say that it's not an 'I' when I train an Assistance Dog or Guide Dog, it's a 'We'. It's our Puppy Raisers. It's our volunteers, it's our clients, it's people like you, who make these life-changing partnerships happen.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING VICKY TAKE THE NEXT STEPS ON HER JOURNEY!



The future looks bright for Vicky – thanks to your kindness.

HAVE PAWS, WILL TRAVEL

From Cork to Amsterdam, via Dublin and Strasbourg – find out how you’re helping 21-year-old Lawrence explore the world...

I’ve been blind since birth, but I’ve never let it stop me. I get about a LOT. In fact, I’m just back from Strasbourg, where I was doing an Erasmus as part of my degree in Law and French.

I absolutely love to travel, but **it can be so stressful to be alone in a foreign country when you’re blind.**

I remember the first time I went to Amsterdam with my friend. It was late. We were lost, and there was no one around to help. But my friend had a Guide Dog.

We felt so empowered by that dog. In fact, I’m not sure how we’d have got back to the hotel without it!

That was the moment **I knew how much a Guide Dog would help me**, and I got in touch with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind straightaway.



Greetings from Strasbourg! Your support is helping me spread my wings.



Once Pepper gets me to the lecture theatre, he’s free to relax.

I was amazed to get Pepper within nine months – because **I know how long some people have to wait to be matched to the right dog.** I was so, so lucky. I’m a really high-energy person, and Pepper’s just the same.

Having Pepper in my life has given me so much freedom – thanks to kind supporters like you. I have more freedom to travel, meet new people and explore the world.

Pepper has also freed up space in my mind. Now when I’m walking down the street, I’m not thinking constantly about where I am, where’s the cycle lane, when’s the next curb. Something as simple as walking along the street daydreaming is just amazing.

My dream right now is to specialise in aviation law – because as you might have guessed, I’ve a big interest in travel.

Pepper’s given me tools to deal with life and opened up a whole world of opportunities. **Thank you so much for helping to bring him into my life.**

HOLD ON TIGHT!

Your support is helping Aryia enjoy new adventures



Thanks to your support, Elton is always there to keep Aryia safe.



Aryia hasn’t missed one of her brother’s rugby matches since Elton arrived.

Just like every Assistance Dog is unique, so is every child with autism. It’s essential that we find the perfect match. For nine-year-old Aryia, that’s Elton.

Until she was two, Aryia was a carefree, adventurous little girl who loved to dance. But when her behaviour suddenly began to change, it was clear to mum Robyn that Aryia had no sense of danger:

“It broke my heart because my little girl wanted adventure and thrived in the outdoors, but we couldn’t keep her safe.”

Aryia was diagnosed as ASD, non-verbal with sensory processing disorder, which made life incredibly challenging for her family. It was really stressful to go out, and the whole family found staying indoors so frustrating.

So, she decided to apply for an Assistance Dog for Aryia.

As a wonderful Puppy Sponsor, you know it takes time and money to raise a dog and then find the perfect match. But after 12 anxious months, Robyn finally got the news she’d been waiting for. Aryia had been matched!

“Elton has changed life for the entire family. We can go anywhere we like because we’ve an extra pair of paws to keep Aryia safe.”

Today, there are no limits to the adventures Aryia can enjoy, with Elton by her side to keep her safe.

YOUR KINDNESS AND SUPPORT GIVE CHILDREN LIKE ARYIA THE FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE TO EXPLORE – SOMETHING EVERY CHILD DESERVES.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF INDEPENDENCE AND HOPE

Will you help us turn these new recruits into fully-fledged Assistance Dogs or Guide Dogs?

Right now, our playful, eager puppies are taking their first steps toward becoming life-changing companions for people who are vision impaired or families who have children with autism. But they can't do it alone – it takes a community of support to raise, train and match each dog with the person who needs them most.

The training of 1 in 3 of our incredible dogs is funded by gifts in Wills – made by generous, forward-thinking people who wanted their legacy to bring independence, confidence, and joy to others.

Here's what two of our supporters said about their decision to leave a gift:

“As a Puppy Raiser, I've seen time and time again how these special

dogs can change life for a whole family.” – Emma

“Nifty changed life for our whole family. We wanted to say thank you by helping another family experience the joy of an Assistance Dog or Guide Dog.” – Terri

By including a gift to **Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind** in your Will – no matter how big or small – you can ensure we'll be here for future generations, changing lives with every wagging tail.

And this September, we've made it even easier. As proud members of **MyLegacy** and partners of **FreeWill Ireland**, we're offering supporters the opportunity to write or amend a basic Will for free – with no obligation to leave us a gift.



Interested in finding out more?

Call Mary Terry on **0818 506 300** or email her at **Mary.Terry@GuideDogs.ie** for a confidential chat.

Your legacy could give a child, an adult, or an entire family a brighter, more independent future. **Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will.**



Scan this code with your phone to learn more.