

NAME  
A PUPPY

# Billy's

## First Pupdate

It has been more than six weeks since Billy left our National Breeding Centre and moved into his new home with his Puppy Walker, Craig. We recently caught up with Craig to find out how Billy has been getting on.

Craig told us that Billy has settled in very well. For the first few nights he was a bit anxious but now he is extremely good at night, sleeping from about 10.30 pm to 6.30 in the morning, which is brilliant for such a young puppy. Billy is very lucky because Craig also has a Labrador called Monty. The two dogs are really good friends and Monty seems to know that Billy is just a puppy who has a lot to learn. Even though he is eight years old, Monty happily plays with Billy and often runs so that Billy can chase him.

Billy is a very happy and healthy puppy. He loves his food and tends to eat it much too quickly, so Craig is working on trying to slow him down a bit. Trainee guide dogs are taught to wait for a whistle command before they start eating, and Billy has enough self-control to do this, which is very impressive for such a young pup. He has learnt some other commands too, and responds to 'sit', 'wait' and 'down'. Last week, he had his final vaccination, which means that he will be able to have his first free run. Billy will love it, and Craig doesn't expect there will be any problems with recall.

Billy took to wearing a collar and lead quite happily; he did scratch at his collar a little bit at first, and wanted to play with it, but he is now fine and will sit quietly to have his lead put on. When they are out walking, Billy will occasionally stop and not want to carry on, but this is happening less as he matures. Billy's house training is progressing well; he is now starting to let Craig know when he needs to go out, and he responds to the 'busy' command, which is a toileting instruction that is taught to all guide dog puppies.

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When they are out and about, Billy is always well-behaved. He is still very much a puppy and occasionally likes to pick things up from the pavement, such as leaves, if he gets a chance, but he will soon drop whatever he has if told to. They have been to several shops and supermarkets, and he has been fine. He didn't show any concern about the noise of the trolleys in the supermarket and wasn't at all fazed by the crowds of shoppers. Billy goes in the car happily but at the moment he whines and doesn't settle too well. Craig is working on getting him used to the car by doing short trips, and he is sure that before long, Billy will enjoy going in the car because he will start to realise that he is about to go somewhere interesting.

In the near future, Craig will take Billy to puppy training classes but it is early days, and so far, his training is progressing well. Billy is full of life and mischief, and he loves his toys but most of all, he loves Monty, his best friend! He is really enjoying life as a trainee guide dog. We hope you have enjoyed Billy's first pupdate and we look forward to sending you his first report card from his Puppy Training Supervisor soon.

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