



**Guide  
Dogs**

Sponsor  
a Puppy

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36698795-S23055003

March 2023

Supporter Number: 36698795

Dear Mrs Leverett,

**Thank you for following Lily's journey. She has become a life changer!**

Welcome to Lily's final Pupdate! I hope you and your family are well and enjoying the lovely warmer weather. We can't thank you enough for your ongoing support and for helping people with sight loss to live the life they choose.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Mr I Scott on your behalf, we are excited to tell you that Lily has qualified as a buddy dog. She has been matched with ten-year-old Charlie and his family. You can learn more about Charlie and the amazing difference that Lily has made in his life in your enclosed final Pupdate.

We hope you've enjoyed following Lily's journey through her regular Pupdates and photographs. You can feel so proud for supporting Lily throughout her training and helping her on her journey to become a life-changing buddy dog.

For more information about Sponsor a Puppy, visit us online at [guidedogs.org.uk/puppy](http://guidedogs.org.uk/puppy). From everyone here at Guide Dogs, thank you again for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Steph Potter  
Puppy Sponsorship Manager

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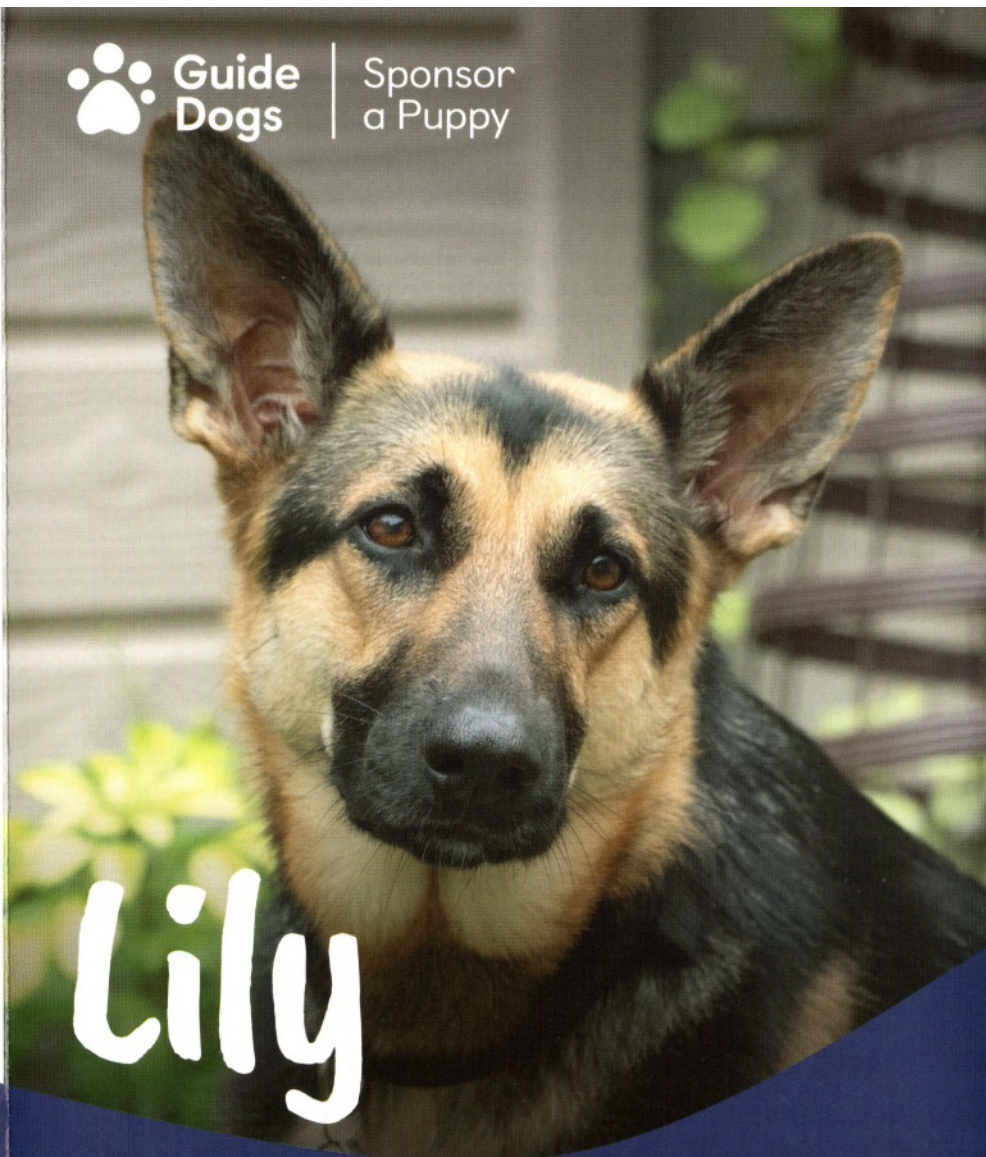


Registered with  
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Guide  
Dogs

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Lily

Lily has become  
a life changer!

Pupdate 6



## Thank you so much for sponsoring Lily!

Around two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. Of those, around 180,000 find it difficult to leave their home alone. Our aim is to help people with sight loss to live the life they choose.

**Your generous support makes this possible and we are so grateful to each and every one of our sponsors. Thank you!**



/SponsorAPuppy



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/sponsorapuppygd

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Registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). A257 11/22 Lily PD6





## Welcoming Lily

We'd already been in touch with Guide Dogs as they'd been helping Charlie to learn mobility skills and providing large print books for him through the CustomEyes service. One day I was speaking to them about Charlie having a guide dog in the future, and they told me about the buddy dog programme. As soon as the service was explained, I knew it would be perfect for Charlie.

We went to an experience day with Natalie, a Canine Assisted Partnerships Specialist, and met a beautiful German shepherd. Charlie loved throwing the dog's toy; it was wonderful to see him come out of his shell a little. We were all sad to leave the Guide Dogs centre that day, as we'd fallen in love with the dog we met. Luckily, a few weeks later, we got a call from Natalie telling us we'd been matched with that same dog: it was Lily!



## A perfect match

Lily has already made such a difference for Charlie. Because of his autism, he can sometimes get stuck in his own bubble, but having Lily around helps to bring him out. He'll always ask us when it's time to feed her, and he's enjoying the new responsibility of caring for her. She's opening up his world.

Charlie and Lily are complete opposites, but that's why they're perfect for each other. Charlie can get anxious about leaving the house, but Lily loves getting outside. Because he was born premature, Charlie has low muscle tone and gets tired easily, so he has a specialist trike which has support straps and a parent handle for safety. Since Lily arrived, Charlie asks us every day when we're going to take her out for her walk! He loves riding his trike with Lily trotting along next to him; she always keeps an eye on him. Charlie is so much more confident now.

## Trainspotting

Charlie is so proud of Lily and tells everyone about what they get up to together. Trainspotting is one of Charlie's favourite activities, and Lily is a fantastic trainspotting dog. She's always calm and quiet at stations; not even the fast trains faze her. It's amazing to watch, and it means that Charlie feels he can share his interest with her – they've become best friends.

# Thank you!

Lily has already made such a massive difference to us; she fitted into our family perfectly, and now we feel complete. We can't thank you enough for sponsoring Lily. She's changed our lives! Thank you.



# The perfect match!

“

**Hello, I'm Lucy,  
and I'm excited  
to tell you that  
Lily has been  
partnered  
with my son  
Charlie as a  
buddy dog.**

”

## Charlie and Lily

Charlie was born extremely premature. My husband Paul and I were told he had a very low chance of survival; there were a few nights when doctors told us we should say goodbye. But after 84 days, our miracle baby Charlie came home from the hospital.

Charlie is 10 now and has nystagmus, which causes his eyes to wobble, making depth perception difficult for him. This means that he struggles with steps and kerbs and finds it hard to catch things like balls. Charlie also has ocular albinism, so sunlight can really hurt his eyes, and he struggles to identify movement in shadows. He also has autism.

When Charlie was first diagnosed with his visual impairments, we didn't stop to think about what it meant. We'd already been through so much; we were just grateful that he was alive. Now that he's a little older, I'm much more anxious about the future.

Charlie's biggest passion is trains, and he would love to be a train driver when he grows up. Even though we aren't sure what the future will hold for him, we always tell Charlie he can do whatever he sets his mind to. He's been defying the odds since he was born and we're so proud of everything he's achieved so far.



Meet Charlie and his family, and hear how Lily has changed their lives by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

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

