



Name a Puppy

– change a life

Biscuit's

6 Month Pupdate

Biscuit is now six months old and almost halfway through her time with her Puppy Walker, Karen. We have been in touch to find out how she is progressing with her training.

We are told that Biscuit is a quiet young girl, but she's also confident and knows her own mind. She has been fitted with her puppy training jacket and she is now confidently wearing it whilst on walks. This is great news as this jacket can often be used as an indication of how well a pup will take to a training harness that is worn when they head off to one of our National Training Schools. The jacket is also designed to help Biscuit gain access to more public places, and also lets the public know that she is a guide puppy in training.

On free runs, Biscuit performs recall very well, she doesn't experience any dog distraction and comes back first time. Karen says that she plays a game of hiding behind a tree while Biscuit is preoccupied free running, she then blows a whistle for Biscuit to come find her, and she usually comes bounding back for her treat. But this game backfired once as Biscuit didn't hear the whistle and started to walk back to the car thinking Karen had gone; fortunately she eventually found Karen repeatedly calling her name across the field. On the lead, Biscuit performs well and doesn't pull although she tends to be a bit lazy and walks behind. Karen is currently trying to train her lead in the basic guiding position.

Karen has noticed recently that Biscuit is becoming a little more destructive with her toys than she used to be, and has destroyed three toys in three days. She thinks Biscuit is just starting to hit the 'teenage stage'; this is a stage most pups go through and is nothing to worry about.

All qualified guide dogs need to be confident travellers so it's great to hear Biscuit takes travelling by bus and car in her stride. Karen says she loves it so much she often doesn't want to get out!

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Karen is planning to take Biscuit on the train soon. She tells us that Biscuit is already used to trains whizzing past, as she regularly takes Biscuit and her grandson to a crossing because he loves watching trains. Biscuit is not fazed by busy situations, and regularly walks in town centres and heavy traffic without any problems. She has also been busy practising many different stairs and lifts, and we are happy to report that she is able to traverse them all.

We are told Biscuit behaves very well around other dogs, and doesn't mind other animals. Karen has some chickens which Biscuit regularly sees, and fortunately she has no urge to chase them.

Over the next few weeks Karen plans to continue perfecting Biscuit's obedience training and will be having her grandson over a lot more as it is the summer holidays, so Biscuit will be busy playing with him! It looks like biscuit is making great progress, and we look forward to sending you her next report card soon.

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