

The first seven weeks

GUIDE
DOGS

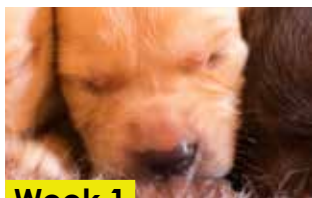


NAME
A PUPPY



The first seven weeks

Soon after birth, each pup is dried and weighed. The pups will be monitored closely to make sure that each pup is gaining weight and growing healthily. The puppies develop and grow in the nest under the watchful eye of mum.



Week 1

The pups sleep and drink milk from their mum. By the end of the week they are able to hold their body weight on their forelegs.



Week 2

The eyes start to open. These will be the future eyes for someone living with sight loss.



Week 3

The puppy starts to adopt a sitting position, even if it's on top of their brothers and sisters!



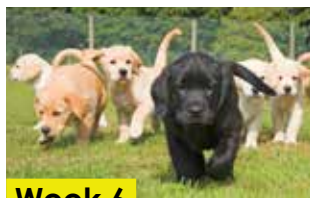
Week 4

With puppy teeth now in place, weaning is underway. The pups are mobile on all four legs, ready to explore.



Week 5

The puppies are exploring and playing but still sleeping and eating lots.



Week 6

At the end of this week the pups leave their mum, to start their exciting journey to become a life-changing guide dog.



Time to explore

Becoming a guide dog is a fun and exciting time for a puppy. The National Breeding Centre is a new adventure for them - one they are bursting to explore, with uniquely designed indoor and outdoor puppy play areas and with warm cosy beds ready to use when they need a snooze.

Volunteer Puppy Socialisers play, cuddle and spend time with our guide dog pups, whilst our team of highly trained Guide Dogs staff provide round the clock care.

After a day or so of exploring their new surroundings, each puppy completes a puppy profiling assessment. This is a series of games which gives us a very early indication as to how well the pup will respond to guide dog training.



Did you know?

Puppies are born both deaf and blind.



Meeting the Puppy Walker...

Volunteer Puppy Walkers look after guide dog pups from seven weeks of age until they are about a year old. Puppy Walkers have a really important role in the pups' development; teaching them good social behaviour and familiarising the puppy with all the sights and sounds of everyday life, including town centres and public transport.

It's an exciting time for both puppy and Puppy Walker as they meet for the very first time. There are lots of smiles, licks and cuddles as the pup progresses on its incredible journey.

It's amazing to think that one day in the future, maybe in as little as 18 months' time, that once tiny puppy will be standing proudly by someone's side, helping them to step out into the world and to live the life they want to lead.



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Nathan & guide dog Hudson

Since the age of five, Nathan has had countless operations to save his sight, but at the age of 19 his vision went almost overnight. Nathan was paired with his guide dog, Hudson, and their partnership has not only helped to build Nathan's confidence, but also enabled him to be as free and independent as everyone else.