

Puppy progression chart

Use this chart with five columns and ten rows to track your guide dog puppy's progress from 12 weeks to 12 months. The links below take you through to the e-learning on Kallidus, once you've completed it, you have the option to download each guidance module as PDF.



12 weeks

12 months



Toileting routine <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>I know my toileting area and ask to use it.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am clean in the house and overnight with management. I show no interest in eating my own or other dog's faeces.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I reliably respond to the 'busy, busy' cue and consistently use my toileting area at home. I show no interest in eating dogs faeces.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am clean in the house and comfortable relieving at my home. I have a predictable routine where I do not toilet when on lead without indicating or when asked to so by the handler. I am comfortable relieving myself on different surfaces. I am not interested in eating dog faeces.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>
Learning to play <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>I generally understand what is mine and what is yours.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am learning to play with toys without mouthing or jumping up and I have begun to swap items when asked.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I reliably swap items when asked. I play with toys without mouthing.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I consistently play without mouthing and I will swap my toys for another object when asked.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>
Greeting people <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>I am settling well in the company of people I know.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I have calmly met a range of unfamiliar people including children.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I greet people, including children, without jumping up on most occasions.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I greet people without jumping up on the majority of occasions. After greeting I consistently settle in the presence of visitors, with occasional reinforcement or management.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>

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Learning manners <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>know my name. I understand how to sit when using a lure. I am learning to take food politely.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I have started to introduce the word 'sit' and 'down' when the behaviour is reliable, using a lure as required.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I respond to the word sit, down, stand without a lure, in most situations. I consistently take food politely.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I respond to my name, 'sit', 'down', and 'stand' when asked.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>
Travel and transport <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>I am comfortable on a car journey up to 15 mins. I am keen to approach the car.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I do not attempt to jump out of a car when the door is opened and continue to build up the duration of journeys.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am comfortable on car journeys of up to 30 mins. I have had the opportunity to experience public transport (e.g. buses, trains).</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am comfortable to get in the car and travel for up to 45 mins. I have had opportunities to get used to public transport. I am relaxed and comfortable travelling on one form of public transport.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>
Walking on a lead <div>Complete e-learning</div>	<p>I am comfortable having my collar and lead put on and taken off and do not back away. I have started to learn to walk on the lead at home.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am walking for longer distances at home and in the garden on lead. I have started going on short walks in quiet areas.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am walking on lead in lots of different places and can manage my excitement around distractions most of the time. I continue moving with my handler unless indicating a need to toilet.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>	<p>I am walking on lead in lots of different places and can manage my excitement around distractions most of the time. I require less input to stay focused and continue moving with my handler unless indicating a need to toilet.</p> <p>Working on it Proficient</p>

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Recall and off lead exercise <div>Complete e-learning</div>	I know my name.		I know the recall cue and I will come to you in the house and garden when utilised at least 90% of the time.		I reliably return to you in response to recall cue when off lead in an area with few distractions.		I have demonstrated the ability to consistently recall at a safe speed, making contact with a hand touch out to the side of the handler and without jumping up. I may require encouragement in higher distraction areas. I will remain with handler until released. I will recall away from other dogs in most situations, with reinforcement.	
	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient
Handling, grooming and equipment <div>Complete e-learning</div>	I am happy to be gently lifted, carried and touched all over my body. I am being introduced to equipment without backing away.		I am happy for you to check my eyes, ears and feet. I enjoy short grooming sessions with a brush. I have visited the vets.		I am happy for a full body check including by the vet. I remain comfortable standing for grooming sessions up to 10 minutes and being towel dried.		I am comfortable entering and having a full body check at the vets. I remain still and comfortable being groomed. I am comfortable wearing Guide Dogs equipment.	
	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient	Working on it	Proficient

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12 months

Being out and about Complete e-learning	I am relaxed interacting with any other animals that live in my home. I have experienced a range of sights and sounds at home.	I happily interact with any other animals at home. I can move away from distractions with help from my handler. I am comfortable around loud noises.	I politely interact with other dogs when on and off lead and can be lured away from interactions. I can pass people and animals with encouragement from my handler.	I can walk past food, people (including joggers), bikes, dogs or other animals, while on a lead, without avoiding or lunging in most situations. I politely interact with other dogs when on lead when given the opportunity and will move away when asked. I am comfortable in lots of different places and with sights and sounds of daily life.
	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient
Social behaviours and settling on a lead Complete e-learning	I have a routine and I am comfortable settling overnight. I am building my confidence being on my own for short periods in the day with items that help me do so. I am being introduced to tools to help me settle.	I am learning how to settle on lead in appropriate environments. I continue to be comfortable settling overnight on my own. I can entertain myself whilst my handler completes daily tasks. I can be left for short periods in the daytime.	I am practising self settling quietly for longer periods in more places with less help. I am being left for longer periods of time regularly on my own at home with less restrictions without getting into mischief.	I am comfortable settling quietly in familiar social situations with minimal input. I am calm and self-controlled around food, only chewing and playing with items I've been given, and not jumping up or stealing items. I have demonstrated I am able to be left alone, for periods of 1 to 3 hours without the need for a closed crate.
	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient	Working on it Proficient

Useful definitions

Here are some common terms and cues used throughout the puppy raising modules.

Comfortable

Body language: Loose body and face that is normal for your puppy. Could include a softly wagging tail. Puppy is presenting as content and secure. Will engage in activities.

Uncomfortable

Tightness in face and body not in movement away, panting, mouthing, yawning, shaking, vocalising. Not able to engage with task.

[Read the body language supporting document](#)

Rewards

A reward is something that's given to your puppy that they perceive as something nice. These can include vocal praise, physical touch, food reward, play with toys, interaction with the environment such as sniffing or access to play with other dogs. What your puppy finds rewarding will be individual to them and can vary or change.

Some things could include:

- Vocal praise.
- Physical praise, such as a gentle tickle under the chin.
- Food reward.
- Play with toys – you may reserve a favourite toy to use as reward when practising a particular behaviour.

Cue list

Behaviour	Cue
Focus and name response	Their name
Recall	Their name plus come/whistle/closed hand held out
Positional cues	Sit, stand, down
Hand touch	Touch and hand target
Release cue	Okay
Tug toy games	Okay to cue they can interact with the toy and drop to cue letting go of the toy
Toileting associations	Busy busy
Whistle association	3 pips of the whistle
Encouraging your puppy to sniff	Go sniff
Encouraging movement with you	Let's go
Head in or out of equipment	In or out

Supporting documents

We've developed a selection of further advice to support you while you raise your puppy. These are reference throughout the puppy raising modules.

Mouthing

Some helpful tips to understand and manage mouthing behaviour.

[Read the advice](#)

Whistle association

Why and how to form an association between the sound of the whistle and food.

[Read the advice](#)

Observing traffic

How to introduce the sights and sounds of traffic to your puppy.

[Read the advice](#)

T-touch advice

All you need to know about fitting, maintaining, and working with a t-touch harness.

[Read the advice](#)

Adolescence

Some helpful information on what to expect and how to manage adolescent behaviours.

[Read the advice](#)

Stairs and steps

How to introduce and safely navigate stairs and steps with your puppy.

[Read the advice](#)