



Suzie

Puppy Partner – Mark Benevolent Fund

Six months, August 2017



Suzie is growing fast. For the first six months Pauline, her socialiser, will focus on getting Suzie into a consistent routine to help her develop in areas such as house training, learning to be left alone, and basic obedience. Pauline will spend time socialising Suzie around lots of people and animals, and together, they will visit as many different places as possible.

“Suzie is a lively and spirited puppy who wants to be everyone’s friend and is always keen to please. She’s a quick learner, only needing to practice a command two or three times before she realises what she needs to do. She can *sit, down, wait* and *stay* (sometimes) on command and now waits nicely, albeit not for very long, until given the go ahead to eat her food. She’s a cuddly puppy, who adores everybody, although she does get a little excited and bouncy; we’ll keep practicing. Everywhere we go people stop, keen to stroke her and find out why she is wearing her green jacket. Managing the public is a challenge, as it’s important that people don’t distract her when she’s concentrating. We’ve been to pet stores, garden centres, the chemist, church, bakery and the market, where there were lots of

different smells. We have been to a coffee morning and also a fete. Suzie has been on a bus and visited the station using the lift and stairs. Abbey, our puppy coordinator, organized a group farm visit last week. Suzie and her classmates met horses, sheep and cows. At first Suzie was a little bit nervous meeting the animals, but with reassurance from me and some cheesy treats she soon relaxed and enjoyed herself.”

Pauline, Socialiser

Pauline is tasked with caring for Suzie’s well being, carrying out routine health checks, ensuring she is the correct weight, and grooming. Abbey will work closely with them and, as well as seeing them at puppy class, will visit them at home, to monitor Suzie’s progress and discuss any worries or issues that Pauline may have.

“Suzie’s learning to respond to the ‘busy busy’ command. All Dogs for Good puppies have a special area at home where they are encouraged to go to the toilet. They have to learn to always use the same area, so they are clean when out for a walk or being taken to the shops. Suzie is an enthusiastic participant at puppy class. We practice basic commands and getting Suzie comfortable with being handled. This will ensure that whenever she needs to go for a health check, she is not going to feel anxious about being examined by the vet. She’s quite wriggly at the moment and thinks it’s a fun game.”

Abbey, Puppy Coordinator





Suzie regularly attends puppy classes, which are tailored to the training needs of the puppies attending, with lots of advice and support from coordinator Abbey. Rewards are used when Suzie is showing the behaviour Pauline wants from her, which strengthens the bond between them and teaches Suzie to focus on Pauline, even when there are lots of exciting things happening in her vicinity. Puppy classes also give our socialisers the opportunity to meet up on a regular basis and swap stories. It is always a real confidence boost to know that they, or their puppy, are not the only ones finding something difficult to master.

“Suzie loves puppy class. We practice waiting our turn, solving puzzles, gaining confidence with unusual objects

and walking nicely on a lead. She is getting better at walking on a short lead and usually walks really nicely, although some distractions are just too much! Suzie loves the chance for a free run on our walks and is good at coming back to us when we call her. We’ve put lots of effort into practicing this with her and so far we are doing well. She’s always ready for lots of fuss, attention and having her tummy rubbed. Suzie loves her teddy very much and often goes to sleep with her head on it. She also loves playing with a ball; she has a keen eye and is very accurate. Suzie is still having three meals a day, with a few treats of carrot, broccoli or apple. She also enjoys her Kong filled with kibble and cheese paste. In June we attended the Dogs for Good Fun Day at Stoneleigh Park. It was lovely to meet up with the rest of the “S” litter. When we let them off the lead to have a run around together it was hilarious; we could hardly tell who was who. We’re looking forward to lots of new adventures in the months ahead.”

Pauline, Socialiser

Over the next few months, Pauline will concentrate on transferring the training they have completed at home or in puppy classes to ‘real-life’ situations and environments, such as: ensuring Suzie comes back when called, if walking off-lead in the park, and helping her learn to settle in busy places such as cafes.



There is still a lot of play and learning ahead for Suzie and I look forward to keeping you updated on her progress. Your next update will be sent in a few months time when Suzie is around 10 months old.

Find out more...

See more about our work, our partners and the people we are helping on our website. www.dogsforgood.org

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