

# Pippa

## Puppy Partner – Hill's Pet Nutrition



### It starts with a puppy.

Thank you for sponsoring Pippa. Already, at just eight weeks old, she is starting to show some of the characteristics that we require in a fully trained dog: confidence, an interest in people and in playing. On arrival in Banbury, Pippa was given a health check by the vet, along with her first vaccination. She also had her photo taken, a task that is not as easy as it looks. Puppies don't stay still for long, especially when there is exciting new territory to explore. Life is tiring when you are a small puppy, so Pippa was given time to have a nice sleep, in a comfortable basket, before meeting her puppy socialiser Andrew, who lives in Birmingham.

The first 16 weeks of Pippa's life are like an open window, where she is inquisitive and can take in vast amounts of new experiences, to learn what is safe and what is not. Until Pippa has had her second vaccination, Andrew will carry her

everywhere, to get her used to being touched and meeting different people. This will also help her get used to all the new sounds and smells and experience different animals, transport and places. Pippa will explore every corner of her home and anything she can reach will be thoroughly investigated and chewed! Puppies explore with their mouths, so this is perfectly normal, but Andrew needs to know how to handle this properly, so Pippa learns appropriate behaviour. He will encourage Pippa to play with a toy instead or redirect her attention onto a different activity. Rewards, like a tasty treat or favourite toy will be used when Pippa is showing the behaviour Andrew wants, which strengthens the bond between them and teaches Pippa to focus on Andrew, even when there are lots of exciting things happening in her vicinity. Puppies learn in similar ways to us, from the immediate results of their actions and through trial and error. They are social animals and need to learn how to communicate properly with the rest of the world, be polite and learn self control.

Andrew will start teaching Pippa basic obedience commands. She will learn to sit and wait for her meals, being released from her wait with the sound of a whistle. This gives Pippa an association between the whistle and food, which can then be used to teach her recall when she's a bit older. Andrew will gradually introduce Pippa to her green Dogs for Good training jacket, so she feels comfortable wearing it, as this allows Andrew to take her into places that pet dogs aren't allowed to go. It's important that Pippa associates her jacket with lovely experiences, so Andrew will give Pippa lots of praise, reassurance and treats when she's wearing it.

Pippa has an exciting year ahead with lots to learn and plenty of love and cuddles with her new family. It is early days and we cannot predict how her personality and behaviour will develop, but with the love and support of Andrew and his family and the team here at Dogs for Good, she has every chance of success.

Find out more..... See more about our work, our partners and the people we are helping on our website. [www.dogsforgood.org](http://www.dogsforgood.org)

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