

Beauty, the Guide Dog

Mr. Shaw was a volunteer for a centre which trained suitable dogs to help blind people. He had heard that a local breeder, Farmer Burns, had a litter of five pups. He decided to visit to see what they were like.

The next day they met, "I hear that you have five new pups on your farm," Mr. Shaw said.

Farmer Burns smiled, "Yes," he said, "they are all great little pups."

Mr. Shaw said, "I would like to buy the calmest one in the litter. I want it for a very special reason."

Farmer Burns allowed Mr. Shaw to see the six-week-old pups as they cuddled up to their mother. Both men decided which was the quietest and calmest of the pups and agreed that Mr. Shaw would come back in six weeks time to collect her. They decided to call the pup 'Beauty' because she really was a beautiful looking dog.

Mr. Shaw came back again when the pup was three months old. He took her home because he wanted Beauty to get used to living with people. At first Beauty behaved like most pups. She chased round the house frantically and then, almost instantly, fell into a deep

sleep just like a baby. She chewed slippers and the legs of the chairs because her new teeth and gums were sore. She occasionally had an accident and wet the floor! However, as she grew older, she learned what was acceptable behaviour in the home.

Next, Mr. Shaw took Beauty to puppy walking classes. Here she learnt to socialize with other dogs as well as to sit, stay and come. The hardest part was getting her to walk at heel on a lead without her pulling. However, practice makes perfect and she eventually learnt to do exactly as she was told. After several months of training, Beauty was awarded a Kennel Club Gold Award for her excellent behaviour.

Mr. Shaw took Beauty everywhere he went. He took her to shops, to the railway station, to the library and even to church on Sunday. The pup grew up into a very strong, intelligent and obedient dog. After twelve months Beauty was turning into a very well behaved dog. Mr. Shaw realized he was becoming very fond of this dog and he was dreading the arrival

of her first birthday because he knew what would happen then!

When Beauty's first birthday arrived, Mr. Shaw took her to the Training Centre in order for her to become a Guide Dog for the Blind. He loved Beauty, but he knew that she was a special dog and the day had come for them to part. Beauty was to be trained by expert dog handlers to be able to guide a blind person. She was to become a blind person's special friend. Mr. Shaw had mixed feelings. He knew Beauty was going to do wonderful work but he was very sad to see her go.

Beauty was so clever and intelligent that she learned to always stop at the edge of the pavement very quickly. She learned never to run after cats or other dogs in the street. She could sit through a meal in a café or a long bus ride without disturbing anyone. At the end of her extensive training she was ready for her special task in life.

Peter, a man who had been blind from when he was a boy, was introduced to Beauty. He was allowed to take Beauty home. Beauty and Peter soon became good friends. Beauty guided Peter safely everywhere he went. She was even allowed into the supermarket, when Peter needed to buy his groceries. All the hard work had been worth the effort.

A month later, Mr. Shaw went to see Farmer Burns again...



Beauty, the Guide Dog

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Mr Shaw was a volunteer who helped train dogs for the blind. He went to see Farmer Burn's litter of

1 **four** **five** **seven** **eight**

pups. He chose the

2 **liveliest** **prettiest** **calmest** **loudest**

one in the litter to train. He went back

3 **four weeks** **five weeks** **six weeks** **seven weeks**

later to collect the pup. They decided to call the pup

4 **Blackie** **Beauty** **Bounty** **Boris**

because she was so good looking. At first she chewed legs of chairs and

5 **shoes.** **sandals.** **old boots.** **slippers.**

As she grew older she was taken to puppy classes and eventually gained a Kennel Club

6 **Bronze Award.** **Silver Award.** **Gold Award.** **Platinum Award.**

When she was one year old she was sent to a training centre to be prepared to be a guide dog for a blind person.

Section B

1 What do you think are the qualities needed in a dog which helps guide blind people? Give reasons for your answers.

2 Why did Mr Shaw keep Beauty in his home for nine months before she went to the training centre?

3 Describe some of the behaviours of a puppy.

4 What did Beauty learn to do at puppy walking classes?

5 'Mr Shaw took Beauty everywhere he went.' Why was this?

6 Why was Mr Shaw dreading Beauty's first birthday?

7 How do you think Mr Shaw felt the day he took Beauty to the training centre?

8 'She was even allowed into the supermarket.' Why is this unusual?

9 How do you think Peter felt the day Beauty arrived at his house?

Section C

Write an imaginary letter from 'Mr Shaw to Beauty' or from 'Beauty to Mr Shaw' telling how they are getting on three months after they have parted.

Answers

Beauty the Guide Dog

Section A

- 1) five
- 2) calmest
- 3) six weeks
- 4) Beauty
- 5) slippers
- 6) Gold Award

Section B

- 1) Open ended
 - 2) He wanted her to get used to living with people.
 - 3) Accept at least two answers: Lively/chasing round the house/falling asleep/chewing things/having accidents
 - 4) Accept at least two answers: Socialise with other dogs/sit, stay, come/walk at heel/do as she was told
 - 5) To get her used to being with people in lots of different situations
 - 6) He knew he would have to take her to the Training Centre.
 - 7) Accept an answer that shows he had mixed feelings; sad because she would no longer be with him but pleased that she was going to be doing wonderful work.
 - 8) Dogs are not usually allowed into the supermarket unless they are guide dogs.
 - 9) Peter was delighted and excited because Beauty would be 'his eyes' and would be a great help to him.
-