

Sawley Biography

Breed: Golden retriever x Labrador.

Colour: Black.

Sex: Female.

Date of Birth: 15/08/2017 (5 years old).

Vets: Scarsdale Vets - 73 Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9HD
Tel. 01332 518 585. Sawley is vaccinated annually and is regularly given preventative treatment for worming and flea control.

Sawley was bred by the [Guide Dogs for the Blind Association](#), known colloquially as Guide Dogs. It is a British charitable organisation founded in 1934. The Association helps blind and partially-sighted people in the United Kingdom through the provision of Guide Dogs. The Association employs about 1,500 Staff plus an additional 14,000 Volunteers. The National Breeding Centre is based in Leamington Spa

She was sponsored and named by the Girl Guides based in Sawley, near Long Eaton. She was their third sponsored Guide Dog and each time the Guides raised £5,000 to name and support each dog through training.

In early October 2017, at just 7 weeks old Sawley was taken to the [Nottingham Community Team](#) offices. This Team cover Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and offer a range of services for adults and children with visual impairment. These include Guide Dogs, Buddy dogs, life skills, sighted guiding and information and advice. She was allocated to a [Puppy Raiser](#) based in West Bridgford.

Unfortunately, due to a life-threatening illness that required urgent treatment Sawley needed to be rehomed and in January 2018 she found herself in Heatherton, with 9-year-old Zeeta as a new companion.

Our Chair of Governors has been a volunteer Puppy Raiser since 2007. With support from his Family they looked after Sawley and provided the basic training required. In mid-December 2018 Sawley was taken to Atherton, Greater

Manchester, to the purpose-built Regional Centre which is also the Training School. Her trainer, Christine, described her as “bright, responsive with a good standard of obedience but very sensitive.” After four months of intensive training Sawley seemed to lack the confidence to walk ahead of her trainer in the guiding position and did not appear comfortable while wearing the harness. A variety of techniques were used to increase her confidence and overcome the body sensitivity she was displaying in the harness.

Eventually, in April 2019, a decision was made to withdraw her from Training and we were given the opportunity to permanently rehome her, (which involved an agreed donation to the Charity).

While she didn't quite have all the attributes required to be a working Guide Dog she does have everything needed to be a wonderful family pet. Her obedience and friendliness make her an ideal candidate to be Highfield Spencer Academies Therapy Dog.

Sawley will regularly visit the school and be available to act as a pet that the children can interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development. In school Sawley will be the responsibility of our Chair of Governors, Steve Workman or Miss Laura North.