## Bear

Bear has recently turned six months old and will soon be allocated his red 'in training' coat. It will be a proud day for him! Bear's home is in the village of Bugbrooke in Northamptonshire, where he lives with a couple and their three children - the setting for the start of his journey to becoming a Medical Detection Dog.

Bear has an very laid back nature and his general training is progressing well. He attends regular training classes – some via digital means during lockdown - with his fellow assistance dogs in training and has a very good level of basic obedience.

Early socialisation is a key part of any dog's training programme and, prior to lockdown, Bear has regularly been seen around the area, visiting cafés, garden centres and shops. He often receives lots of admiring glances from members of the public, many of whom are very keen to find out what he is training for. Bear enjoys going to the local parks for his walks and loves playing with his toys. He is often found with his favourite toy dinosaur in his mouth, gently carrying it around.

At the moment, Bear's biggest area of need is to gain confidence in the use of his nose. We are working on this by using search games with his socialisers as it is imperative that he becomes happy undertaking this type of training / work.

Bear is the Ivory's second dog in training for Medical Detection Dogs and they are really enjoying having him around the home. He adores the children and when he is not training he can usually be found snoozing next to, or on one of them.

We are happy with Bear's early progress and thank you so much for your support in this vital first stage of his training. We'll be back in touch to let you know how he gets on with the next, important steps to becoming a life-saving dog.

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