

## **My Buddy**

Eva is a lively, eleven-year-old girl with a very positive, realistic attitude. She loves dancing, swimming, writing stories and playing with her girlfriends. However, Eva also suffers from a form of spastic diplegia. She would like some help to become more independent.

This summer she allows us to accompany her on the training she needs to take to receive a social dog. This is not an ordinary dog. It is an assistant dog that will help her to do simple things, such as picking up a felt-tip pen or standing up from her wheelchair. Apart from acquiring more independence and added responsibility, she will also gain a good and loyal friend.

At the training facility, however, they are not used to having children as part of the group. She is an exception. Will she be equal to these grown-ups?

And especially: will the bond between Eva and her dog be strong enough for them to pass the exam? Will she be allowed to take her new buddy home?

**My Buddy**

Trailer EBU (03:00:00)  
 Fade in (03:07:19)

**1. EXT – Home – Day (03:08:12)**

Eva and her family in the garden; family scenes.

Eva (off): I'm Eva; I'm 11 years old. I have a dog named Congo and a 5-year-old sister named Hanna and a mom named Ann and a dad named Michael.

Eva (off): I have a problem and now I've had an operation, but it's still not completely the same as it is for you. This summer I will get a dog, but it's not an ordinary dog, because he can do much more than a normal one. He will help me to pick up things or cross the street.

**Title: My Buddy (03:55:13)****2. INT – Home/ Eva's Room – Day (04:04:09)**

Eva and Maaïke are singing along with a song by Xink on the radio.

Eva: My friend Maaïke will be here soon, she had almost the same operation

Eva (off): ...as I did. She understands me better because she has been through the same thing I have: the rehab or where it hurts or how it feels and what you have to do: lying down, sitting...

*On sound: on the radio: Xink – Oh-ho*

Eva and Maaïke are leafing through the photo album together.

Eva (off): I'm getting this dog because my problem is that I can't do certain things independently. The dog will help me to do these things independently in the future.

Eva: It's all very exciting for me.

**Fade over black**

**3. EXT – Hachiko – Day (05:18:21)**

Establishing building

**4. INT – Hachiko – Day (05:21:10)**

Eva and her mom are entering Hachiko.

**5. INT – Hachiko – Day (05:28:24)**

Eva joins the other students at the table and listens to the teacher.

Eva (off): The first day I was sorry that there were no other children, because I thought: What am I doing here with all these grown-ups, me being the only child?

Caroline: Through this training you can try to earn a dog. If you don't pass the practical and theoretical final exam or we consider you incapable of guiding a dog, you won't be allowed to take one home. This is something you need to know.

Eva (off): I felt so... not so good; I was a little shy because I couldn't ever really participate in the conversations.

Mix of voices

Eva (off): And then those dogs came in and I thought: Wow, is my dog one of those? Which one will it be?

And another strange thing, a dog like that also chooses his own boss, the one he feels comfortable with, who makes him think: Yes, I will obey him, he belongs with me and I belong with him, etc.

**6. Onscreen interview – INT – Home/Eva's room – Day (06:41:21)**

Continuation of onscreen interview with Eva

Eva: ...Yes, that's what he thinks; he has to make his own choice. I think it's very strange, but that's how it goes. I don't really know how it works, but I will find out because it makes me very curious.

**7. INT – Hachiko – Day (06:57:15)**

Bruno gives Eva a dog.

Bruno: This is Poesti; it's a boy, is that all right?

Eva: Mmm.

Bruno: Here you are, go ahead and give him a big hug so that he knows he belongs to you from now on.

Eva: No, no, no.

**8. INT – Hachiko – Day (07:17:00)**

Poesti and Eva are learning exercises together.

Eva: Poesti, jump, jump, that's it, come on.

Eva: Down.

Caroline: Speak in a low voice.

Eva: Down.

Eva: Poesti, jump, that's right, jump.

Eva: Down, down.

Eva: Yes, Poesti, jump, that's right, jump.

Eva: Down.

Eva: Poesti, jump.

Caroline: He almost made it, didn't he?

Eva: Yes!

Caroline: There you go, but don't look at me, you should say: yes, good boy, Poesti!!!

A few atmospheric images of Eva and the dogs

**9. EXT – Onscreen interview Eva (08:02:12)**

Eva: The first day I got very sad and angry because I felt like I was doing it all wrong. They were... Caroline was complaining, saying: This is how you have to do it and this is where you have to be and you're smarter than that. Afterwards it turned out to be a test, but I didn't think...

**10. INT – Hachiko – Day (08:27:18)**

Atmospheric images dogs and fellow students

Eva (off): ...it was a very nice one.

**11. EXT – Hachiko – Day (08:35:05)**

Eva is sitting in a wheelchair under a tree.

Eva (off): I think the rest of the training will be fun and I'm looking forward to it.

**Fade over black**

**12. EXT – Home – Day (08:46:08)**

Eva is going for a walk with her family.

Eva (off): I'm happy now without a dog, but I do think it will change something because I will be able to go outside more. Wild horses couldn't drag me outside; I think that will change. That will make mum and dad very happy.

**13. INT – Hachiko – Day (09:07:16)**

Eva is practising with her dog, Poesti.

Eva: That's it, good boy!

Eva: No!

Eva: Jump!

Eva: Give me a paw!

Eva: Come!

Eva: Down!

Eva: Knee, good boy, good boy.

**Fade over black**

**14. INT – Home – Day (09:42:10)**

The family is having breakfast at the table together.

Eva (off): Before I get the dog, I have to pass a few tests. I don't really know what this means because I haven't really been told how it goes exactly.

**15. INT – Hachiko – Day (10:04:09)**

In the examination room it's Eva's turn to take the exam.

Caroline: I've found the papers. Ready?

Eva: Yes.

Caroline: Shall we?

Eva: Yes.

Caroline: Are you all set?

Eva: Yes.

Caroline: All right, I'm going to give you several short tasks, a few things that you will have to do one after the other. The idea is that you give your dog as many orders as you possibly can, so that we can see what you can make him do. Good luck!

Eva: Poesti, hup, come on, that's right, come on, hup, come on, search, fetch. Poesti, thanks, good boy, that's it.

Eva: Poesti, sit. Search, fetch the phone.

Caroline: Well done, nice recovery, Eva. Very nice recovery.

Caroline: Here you go, take my wallet and go shopping at the bar, hand over the wallet and don't forget your change.

Eva: Poesti, fetch, good boy, and fetch. Poesti, up, yes, thanks, yes, good boy, Poesti, fetch, Poesti, down boy.

Caroline: Go around the room, Eva, and get him to come with you.

Eva: Come on, Poesti, come, hey, no, no, don't touch, no!!!

Caroline: Eva, it sounded calm. It didn't really sound threatening.

Eva: Poesti, that's right, come.

Caroline: I'll open it for you, could you keep on going a little with your walking frame?

#### **16. EXT – Hachiko – Day (12:37:15)**

Eva is letting Poesti drink from the bucket of water outside.

#### **17. EXT – Hachiko – Day (12:44:03)**

The students are gathered around the table outside. Caroline is announcing the results.

Caroline (off): 32/35... That's hard to beat, but if you're around, nothing can go wrong.

Caroline: Take this with you.

Caroline: Here you go, this is for you and Bruno will give you a whole kit.

Caroline: Okay. Initially, ladies and gentlemen, I thought a little girl was taking part in our training, but more than once we have thought: That's not true, they've only made us believe that she's a little girl, because at times we have had a very intelligent young lady in our group. A very skilful young lady who has done an incredible job and every so often has shown a few other people how to guide. That stubborn great lump over there even pulled her forward a few times but she can really handle him. You've proved during this training that you will be an incredibly strong, smart and good boss for your dog. So congratulations!

**Fade over black**

#### **18. EXT– Home – Day (14:28:01)**

Establishing home

**19. INT – Home/kitchen – Day (14:31:13)**

The family is having breakfast at the table together.

Eva (off): It's a very big day for me because it's the first time...

**20. EXT – Hachiko – Day (14:39:14)**

Caroline is putting Poesti in the car. POV dog.

Eva (off): ...that Poesti will be with me. I've been eagerly...

**21. INT – Home – Day (14:46:06)**

Eva sits down in the armchair.

Eva (off): ...looking forward to it. Very eagerly.

**22. EXT – Home – Day (14:52:10)**

Poesti and Caroline from Hachiko arrive at Eva's house.

**23. INT – Home – Day (15:03:23)**

Eva is sitting in the armchair watching TV. When the doorbell rings, Poesti enters the house.

Eva: Poesti, that's right, good boy.

**24. EXT – Home – Day (15:11:16)**

Eva and Poesti are playing in the garden.

Eva: The dog is mine now and can stay with me forever.

**25. INT – Home – Day (15:24:06)**

Eva goes up the stairs followed by Poesti.

Eva (off): I'm very happy, I already was, but now that I have Poesti I'm even happier.

**26. INT – Room – Day (15:37:23)**

Eva and Poesti are listening to music together.

*On sound: on radio: Xink – Oh-ho*

Fade over black

**27. EXT – Home – Morning (15:45:00)**

Eva and Poesti are getting on the bus.

**28. EXT – School – Morning (16:01:21)**

Eva and Poesti get off the bus and go to the classroom.

**29. INT – School – Day – Onscreen interview Eva (16:18:01)**

Eva and Poesti are in class. Pan from dog to Eva.

Eva: I've had Poesti for about a month now and it's still going really well. He really helps me to do things. I don't need to have people around all the time now because he's with me...

**30. INT – School – Day (16:33:02)**

Class has started.

Eva (off):...and mum feels more secure knowing he's with me.

**31. INT – School – Day – Onscreen interview Eva (16:40:24)**

Eva: And yes, he's also just there as a dog...

**32. INT – School – Day (16:45:23)**

Eva is in class.

Eva (off): ...he's also a good friend to play with, he's more than an assistant dog.

Poesti picks up a felt-tip pen.

Eva: ...good boy, this way, that's right, thanks...

The children leave the classroom when the bell rings.

**Fade over black (17:22:12)**

**Credits (17:23:17)**

**Trailer EBU (17:34:15)**

**Fade to black (17:52:16)**

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**For**

The logo consists of the word 'KETNET' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular border. To the right of this box is a white copyright symbol (©) followed by the year '2004' in the same bold, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a solid black rectangular background.