

# Guide Dogs.



## Become a Guide Dog Partner

Become a Guide Dog Partner  
and give independence to  
Australians with low vision  
or blindness.



Close-up of black Labrador puppy aspiring to become a Guide Dog.

## Introducing the Guide Dog Partner Program

Become a Guide Dog Partner and directly support the breeding, training and development of our world-class Guide Dogs.

The Guide Dog Partner journey is a unique experience that provides an insight into our Guide Dog Program, while demonstrating the immense impact of your gift. As a Guide Dog Partner, you will follow a puppy through a number of amazing milestones, from naming the pup, through to tailored progress reports, opportunities to meet the puppy, watching the puppy's Graduation Ceremony and receiving a memorable keepsake to celebrate your contribution.

Because of supporters like you, we have more than 250 hardworking Guide Dogs in our community at any one time and a rapidly expanding Therapy Dog program in Victoria. By joining our community of dedicated supporters, you too can walk side-by-side through the journey of breeding, raising and training our iconic pups. We are so appreciative of your kindness as you consider becoming a Guide Dog Partner and helping us continue to achieve successful outcomes for those living with low vision or blindness.



Jamilah, young black Guide Dog and a recent graduate.

While the training, development and assessment of each of our dogs is rigorous, our number one priority is always the dogs' welfare and their ability to graduate as a loyal and trusted guide to support someone living with low vision or blindness to independently and safely live the life of their choosing.

As Guide Dogs Victoria receives minimal funding from the government, we rely on the generosity of the community to ensure we can continue to provide vital services and support to people living with low vision or blindness – regardless of their financial situation.

## Testimonial

Daisy, who was sponsored by Monica, is just one of our splendid Guide Dog Partner Program pups who was matched with a Client following her successful graduation as a Guide Dog.

“

Since my first meeting I was able to watch Daisy develop into a mature dog, willing to take on the rigors of guiding and forming a lifelong bond with her Client.

Monica, Guide Dog Partner following Daisy's journey.

”

“

To sponsor a pup from Guide Dogs Victoria was an amazing decision. Being involved in watching Daisy grow and be trained was wonderful. I really felt part of the process and know where my money has gone.

Monica, recent Guide Dog Partner.

”



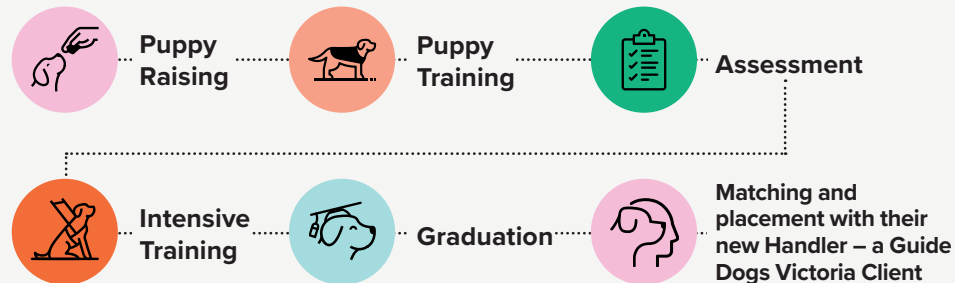
Daisy the yellow Labrador Guide Dog sitting next to Monica, her sponsor, at a Guide Dogs Victoria supporter event.

# The Guide Dog Partner journey – a unique and rewarding experience

When you become a Guide Dog Partner, you become part of a special community of likeminded people helping us provide the next generation of working Guide Dogs with the best start possible.

As a Guide Dog Partner, you will get exclusive insights into our internationally-renowned Guide Dog Program, as well as the transformative and immeasurable impact you can make to the lives of people living with low vision or blindness.

We'll be sure to keep you updated during each step of the pup's journey as it reaches the following milestones in its quest to become a fully-qualified Guide Dog:



The best bit? You can choose your level of involvement in each of these milestones; from naming the pup\* and receiving tailored progress reports, through to meeting the puppy\*\*, attending the pup's graduation ceremony, and getting a memorable keepsake to celebrate your life-changing support.

\*Puppy names must be approved by Guide Dogs Victoria and cannot be a duplicate name of any Guide Dog currently working in Victoria.

\*\*For long-distance Guide Dog Partners we will provide a video of your puppy.

# Your impact, your way

When you become a member of our valued Guide Dog Partner community, you have the flexibility to choose the level of support that best suits you.



**Training Partner**

**\$15,000**

Follow the journey of one of our dogs as it leaves its volunteer Puppy Raiser and enters the formal Guide Dog Training and Client-matching phase of its journey.



**Puppy Partner**

**\$35,000**

Follow a pup from birth, through its Puppy Raising journey, up until it is ready to start formal Guide Dog Training. You can name the pup using the letter of the alphabet assigned to its litter by Guide Dogs Victoria.



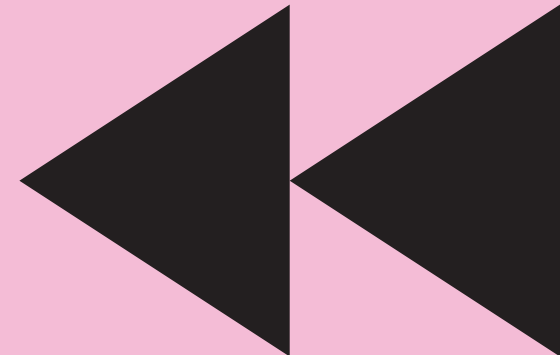
**Guide Dog Partner**

**\$50,000**

Follow a puppy's full journey from breeding, raising, training, matching and placement with a Guide Dogs Victoria Client.

**Nursery Partner \$7,500**

Support the first 16 weeks of a pup's life including health assessments, microchipping, vaccinations, Puppy Raiser selection and matching, 'go home' equipment (including lead, dog bowl, dog bed and toys), plus three puppy classes.



“

Through my involvement with Guide Dogs Victoria, I've come to understand the enormous difference that a working dog can make in the life of a person with a disability. For someone with low vision or blindness, a Guide Dog gives independence and a level of mobility that otherwise wouldn't exist. It's such an important gift and it gives me great joy to be able to support this wonderful charity in this way.

Beth, recent  
Guide Dog Partner.

”

“

Jamilah didn't come to me alone. She came to me with a circle of love around her, with the added bonus of having an extended family through her sponsors.

Sarit,  
Guide Dogs Client.

”



Daisy wearing a Guide Dog harness on her Graduation day.

## FAQs

### Will the pup I'm following definitely become a Guide Dog?

Due to the specific and exceptionally high standards required in successful Guide Dog work, some puppies are not suited to the intensive Guide Dog Training process. Many, however, will still have the skills and social attributes that can lead to an alternative (but still crucial) career path.

Based on the dog's individual health and behavioural characteristics, these career paths may include becoming a Therapy Dog, a Breeding Dog or one of our beloved Ambassador Dogs.

While providing world-class Guide Dogs is certainly a high priority, these other roles are also essential in providing independence to future Guide Dog Handlers, including children learning about the process, or other people in need of companionship and support.

### What is my donation used for?

Your donation supports a wide range of needs within our Guide Dog Program. These include breeding, training and enrichment equipment for our pups and maintenance of our kennel facilities, as well as veterinary costs and expert Guide Dog Training staff.

While some of our Guide Dog Partner Program packages give you the option to name and follow a specific pup, your donation will contribute to the Guide Dogs Program as a whole, allowing Guide Dogs Victoria to continue to breed and train future generations of life-changing Guide Dogs.

### How much does it cost to train a Guide Dog?

It costs more than \$50,000 to breed, raise and train each of our iconic dogs in addition to the cost of providing ongoing training for our Clients throughout their Guide Dog's working life.

### What if I live too far away to meet the pup I'm following?

We'll make every effort to ensure you can meet the pup you are following and can attend or watch its graduation ceremony. However, if you do reside some distance from Melbourne, we can also provide photo or video updates throughout the pup's journey.

# Guide Dogs.



Thank you for your interest in our Guide Dog Partner Program, a unique experience that provides an insight into the breeding, training and development of our Guide Dogs, while demonstrating the immense impact of your gift.

**Chat to us today.**

☎ 03 9372 4130

🌐 [vic.guidedogs.com.au](http://vic.guidedogs.com.au)