

Thank you for your interest in adopting a pet dog from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. Adopting a lovable Labrador from Guide Dogs is a big commitment, but one that we're sure will be incredibly rewarding.

## **Why are some dogs available for adoption?**

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT considers the breeding and placement of dogs in valuable community-based roles a serious responsibility, and we aim to place as many dogs as possible in these programs. However, some dogs are not suited to these roles due to temperament or health reasons and would be better suited to a loving pet home.

Dogs available for adoption have undergone temperament, behaviour and health assessments by Guide Dogs NSW/ACT staff and have been deemed unsuitable to progress through Breeding, Guide, or Therapy Dog programs. Pet dogs are typically offered to their Puppy Raiser in the first instance. If a Puppy Raiser is unable to take the dog back as a pet, the dog becomes available for adoption. Below are some examples of temperament and health factors that may make a dog unsuitable for a working role:

### **Temperament:**

- The dog is not confident in new environments.
- The dog might be too energetic to be a Breeding, Guide or Therapy dog.
- The dog might be too strong around distractions (such as other dogs, scents, and novel objects) for a person with low vision, blindness, another disability, or a health condition to manage.
- The dog prefers a quiet and predictable routine rather than the frequent changes that a Breeding, Guide or Therapy dog must thrive on.
- The dog is not comfortable wearing equipment such as a harness or vest.
- The dog has sensory sensitivities i.e., to noise, surfaces, and more.

### **Health:**

- The dog has a history of ear or eye infections that require ongoing management.

- The dog has been diagnosed with, or is highly suspected of having, allergies (food or environmental).
- The dog has been diagnosed with or has suspected hip/elbow dysplasia with the potential to lead to early onset arthritis, which is not compatible with a working dog.

While these factors may make a dog unsuitable for a working role, they do not diminish their ability to be a loving, well-trained pet. With the right home, these dogs can thrive, bringing joy and companionship to their new families.

## **Cost and kit.**

Adopting a pet dog from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT costs \$4,000. Discounts may apply for dogs with significant health or temperament concerns. Payment can be made via onsite EFTPOS or bank transfer.

All dogs are desexed, up to date with vaccinations, including C2i (Leptospirosis), Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and kennel cough, have a complete health and behaviour history, and come with a Pet Dog Kit, which includes:

- 1 bag of BlackHawk food (or an alternative, if required)
- 1 flat collar
- 1 martingale collar
- 1 lead
- 2 x NexGard Spectra (monthly all-in-one preventative)
- 1 toy
- Dog's folder containing relevant paperwork
- Pet Dog Carer Handbook.

Before adoption, all dogs will have received a final Vet check and be freshly washed with their nails trimmed.

## **Pet dog adoption process:**

- Profiles of all dogs available for adoption will be emailed to the address you provided. Please ensure your email address is

accurate and notify Guide Dogs if it changes. If you aren't receiving emails, please check your junk or spam inbox.

- If you would like to submit an expression of interest (EOI) for a dog available for adoption, simply email [petdogapplication@guidedogs.com.au](mailto:petdogapplication@guidedogs.com.au). Please include your name (as provided on your application) and the name of the dog you are interested in adopting.
- A staff member will review all interested applicants. Applicants will be considered based on the order in which their EOI was received and who is best suited to the dog. This selected applicant will then be contacted to discuss the dog further and arrange a meet and greet.
- If you are unsuccessful, we strongly encourage you to continue applying until you find your match.
- Dogs can be viewed at the following location:  
Guide Dog Centre (GDC)  
1 Spinks Rd  
Glossodia, NSW, 2756
- Visits are by appointment only between 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm, Monday to Sunday (unless otherwise arranged).
- You're welcome to bring your pet dog/s along to ensure compatibility. To protect the safety of the colony on-site at GDC, you'll be asked to provide evidence of an up-to-date vaccination certificate. Please ensure that any dogs brought to GDC are also in good health.
- If your meet and greet is successful, the dog's handover will be arranged either on the day or at a time that suits you.
- Once a dog is offered, we ask that they be collected within two weeks.
- Please note that full payment is required upon collection.
- A 14-day trial is available. If you return the dog in that time, you'll be refunded the cost of the dog, minus a \$100 admin fee.

Thank you again for your interest in adopting a pet dog from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. Stay tuned for upcoming emails about available dogs. We look forward to helping you find your perfect match!

Kind regards,

The Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Pet Team