

Guide Dogs.

Home Whelping and
Early Socialisation
Program.





Home Whelping Program.

A Guide Dog puppy begins learning and developing new skills in the first few weeks of their life. With your help, we can give each puppy the strongest possible start to their journey and set them up for success in a career that will change someone's life forever.



Did you know, donations over \$5,000 can be directly allocated to our Home Whelping Program?

All Guide Dog puppies are born and raised in the warm and loving homes of our volunteers for their first six weeks of their lives. This calm, familiar environment allows Breeding Dogs (dog mums) and their puppies to thrive, because they experience:

- lower stress levels which equate to healthier and more resilient puppies; a stable, nurturing home environment from day one; and
- early exposure to everyday sights, sounds, and experiences.

Research shows that reducing stress in pregnant dogs leads to better developmental outcomes for their puppies, which is something traditional kennel environments often cannot provide. However, cosy and warm home environments, can! This is the main reason we place our Breeding Dogs and their litters in the homes of our volunteers.



Early Socialisation Program (ESP).

Our Early Socialisation Program (ESP) ensures every puppy receives a structured, positive start to life, something most household pets don't experience when they are young and still developing.



Through carefully designed, age-appropriate activities, our puppies develop:

- confidence to explore new environments;
- resilience when faced with new or unexpected situations;
- body awareness through varied surfaces and movement challenges;
- comfort with equipment, including early harness introduction; and
- adaptability in different settings and routines.

Our program is delivered by dedicated volunteer Home Whelping families, and supported by our staff, including a Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Early Puppy Development Coordinator, and weekly in-home visits from specially trained Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Whelping Advisors. This ensures every puppy gets the same high-quality start to their lives and journeys.



What our volunteers say about the program:

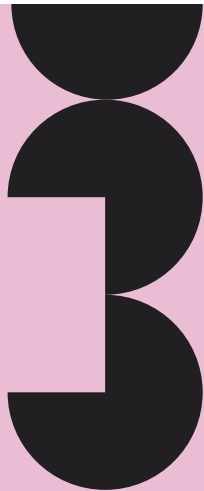
“These were the most relaxed, inquisitive, and anxiety-free puppies we’ve ever had.”

“I wish there had been a positive parenting program like this when I had my own children!”

How can you get involved?

Sign up to become a volunteer Home Whelper today by scanning the QR code below.

To donate directly to our Home Whelping and Early Socialisation program, reach out to our friendly team by emailing yourimpact@guidedogs.com.au or call **02 9412 9354**.



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