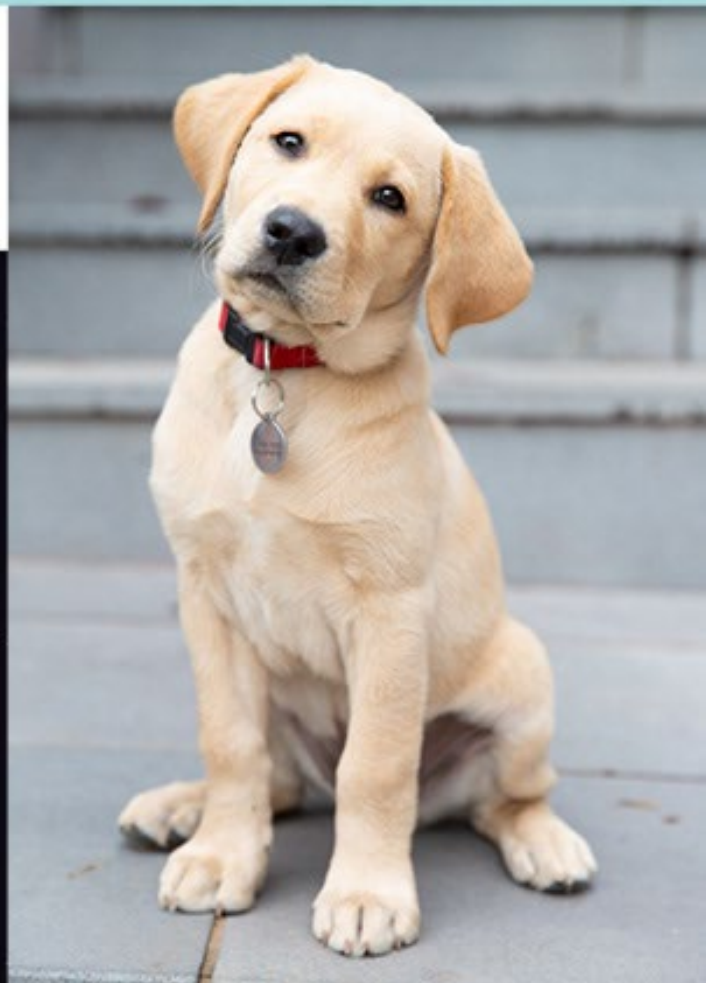


Guide Dogs.

Pet & Retired Dog Program



Pet & Retired Dogs Program

Thanks for your interest in our program!

Our Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs offer freedom and independence for people with low vision or blindness, or other specialised needs.

Our highly-skilled dogs can also take on careers as Facility Dogs, who are specially trained to provide emotional and physical support to individuals or communities in a range of environments, including schools, health care and the court system.

Each year, we have a small number of dogs ready for a 'career change'. They may become pets or 'retire' from their working career. Sometimes, these dogs are available to members of the public for purchase.

How old are the dogs that are available to purchase?

This ranges from 5 months of age through to retiring dogs, which generally become available around 8 to 11 years of age.

How much do these dogs cost to purchase?

Costs vary depending on the age of the dog, how much training the dog has received to date, and if there are any health issues or on-going care required.

If you choose to purchase one of our 'career change' dogs, payment is made before the trial period and a full refund occurs if you choose not to purchase the dog after this period.

Are the dogs desexed?

Dogs at point of sale are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and on preventative treatments for heartworm, intestinal worms and fleas.

How long will I have to wait to get a dog?

When a dog becomes available, the entire waiting list is examined to find the best possible match between the dog and the applicant. The applicant's lifestyle, location, experience and special skills will be considered when making matches. This is particularly important for dogs that have special needs.

Clients and their families are given the first option to retain their retiring working dog, sometimes choosing to keep them as a pet in the home they know. If they don't, the best match for a successful relationship between the dog and an applicant becomes our priority, there is no number order with applications.

Please remember, supply fluctuates and demand is high, so waiting times can be lengthy.

Who can apply to purchase a dog?

Due to demand, Guide Dogs SA/NT can only provide dogs to people living in South Australia.

We only place our dogs in a home where they will have plenty of human companionship, this includes living and sleeping inside as part of the family.

Our dogs are not used to being alone for more than four hours a day. If you do apply with the need or intention to leave them alone for longer than this time frame, a gradual training program will need to be put in place to increase their home alone time. The staff member rehoming will be able to guide you on the appropriate steps required.

Our dogs have been raised to be around people for the majority of the day and leaving them without human companionship or appropriate training/enrichment in place for long periods, may result in anxiety and destructive behaviours.

How will I know if this is the right dog for me?

A 'meet and greet' opportunity will be provided before purchasing the dog, where the rehoming staff member will bring the dog either to your home or to a mutually agreed upon location. During this 'meet and greet', you will get to interact with the dog, go for a walk together, and ask our staff any questions you may have.

Please be aware that when rehoming a dog, we aim to do multiple 'meet and greets' to ensure we choose the most compatible match for the dog and their prospective family.

If the 'meet and greet' is successful and you are happy to progress to the next step, the rehoming staff member will be in touch to organize a two-week trial period. At the end of the trial, if the dog is not deemed suitable, you will be fully refunded.

If you choose to purchase the dog, all paperwork will be sent to you as the owner, and the dog will become yours.

What equipment is provided during the trial period?

During the two-week trial period, you will be provided with the following loan equipment:

- Collar and lead
- Dog bed
- Food and water bowl
- Food
- Suitable toys for that particular dog

After the two-week trial period you will be required to return the equipment, and in-turn you will be supplied with a basic start up kit upon adoption of the dog.

What is expected during the trial period?

During your two-week trial, our staff member will provide on-going support to ensure a successful match. Through-out the trial period, you will be required to continue to promote appropriate manners in our dogs. Including but not limited to:

- Our dogs are not allowed on furniture
- Our dogs can only eat treats or food allowed on our “chew/approved treat list” (provided on placement of dog for the trial)
- No free-running (dog off-lead) in unsecure areas

If you have any further questions, please contact our team via phone on 1800 757 738 or email support@guidedogs.org.au.