



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Paws

For a moment

Issue 2 – 2023



Thank you
for helping
to care for and train
more pups!



Thank you

Thank you for all you do to change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision through helping train our incredible Seeing Eye Dogs.

Your generosity means the world to people like Isabella, who says her Seeing Eye Dog has given her freedom and independence; and to Hailey, who is grateful for her the joy and companionship that her Seeing Eye Dogs brings.

We know you love meeting new puppies and in this issue, you'll get to meet Clifford's Pack! If you have ever considered becoming a puppy sponsor, all the information you need is on page 4.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to bring joy, freedom and independence to the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.



Ron Hooton
Chief Executive Officer
Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs



With your support these puppies are heading for big things.

Uggles, Ukari, Uncle, Uriah, Uxley, Una, Usha
DOB: 27/10/22 Breed: L
Mum: Jasminie Dad: Fagan

Lee Lee, Lawrie, Leon, Leonie, Libby, Lionel, Lobo
DOB: 4/8/22 Breed: GR
Mum: Pickles Dad: Kamahl

Velvet, Vogue, Vino, Vessa, Vance, Voltaire, Velma, Vasili, Vader
DOB: 17/11/22 Breed: GR
Mum: Hattie Dad: Nitro

Magnus, Misha, Mikey, Milly, Molly, Mandy, Maggie
DOB: 22/8/22 Breed: L
Mum: Yentl Dad: Vesper

Whisp, Winter, Wookie, Walker, Webster
DOB: 6/12/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Yoko Dad: Jedi

Nina, Neo
DOB: 31/8/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Vashti Dad: Yuma

Yalco, Yana, Yoffi, Yahto, Yorky, Yindy, Yousef, Louise-Y, Yasu
DOB: 23/12/22 Breed: L
Mum: Alaska Dad: Dennis

Orry, Orin, Owen, Odin, Omie, Otto, Omri, Oggy
DOB: 12/9/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Gemma Dad: Vincent

Ziggy, Zeke, Zaki, Zeena, Zanna, Zeeba, Zadie, Zita, Zavier
DOB: 1/1/23 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Gaia Dad: Quincy

Puffin, Percy, Pinot, Perran, Pearl, Patsy, Panda, Pingu, Pippi, Pavi, Painter
DOB: 14/9/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Zia Dad: Ozzy

Bronte, Bronwen, Bob, Brassy, AAMI-B, Benita, Billie, Belle
DOB: 31/1/23 Breed: L
Mum: Wilma Dad: Bingo

Ruby, Rula, Dulka-R, Marle-R, Arrernte-R, Barkindji-R, Rain, Dali-R, Rose, Romey
DOB: 28/9/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Gretel Dad: Kamahl

Charlie, Cybil, Clifford, Cheer, Carmen, Cricket, Cha Cha
DOB: 7/2/23 Breed: L
Mum: Xendi Dad: Norris

Sahara, Stefan, Salty, Silver, Saturn, Sarah, Solomon, Samson, Sonny
DOB: 3/10/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Amber Dad: Robbie

Donna, Drover, Diana, Dieci, Didi, Duke, Darla, Debbie, Daphne
DOB: 10/2/23 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Lucy Dad: Dennis

Trixie, Tickle, Tanya, Timba, Tinker, Tetra
DOB: 24/10/22 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Judy Dad: Jedi

Eliza, Enola, Elmo, Eduardo, Ernie, Edge, Everest
DOB: 18/2/23 Breed: LxGR
Mum: Tina Dad: Keanu

Isabella and Penny

– side by side

When Isabella's first working dog was nearing retirement, Isabella knew she needed a new plan. Working in the CBD using a white cane had not been ideal for her.

'When you travel with a white cane, you have to find the obstacles, then move around. I just got very tired. A dog allows you to move freely around obstacles. Handling a dog and a cane is so different – a world apart.'

Isabella, who is legally blind, has a work/life balance that she loves. She is currently working for Queensland Health as a project officer in the Office of Precision Medicine and Research, while also attending University of Southern Queensland to study law. Isabella is also a keen adventurer, so she needed a Seeing Eye Dog who was ready to get up and go!

Isabella is so delighted by her match with Seeing Eye Dog Penny, a small and energetic black Labrador retriever. Everywhere Isabella goes, Penny goes too.



Penny has been very patient in attending Isabella's uni classes, despite finding them 'very boring'. She actually prefers to be with Isabella at work. 'She likes the office where people talk to her and we're up and moving!'

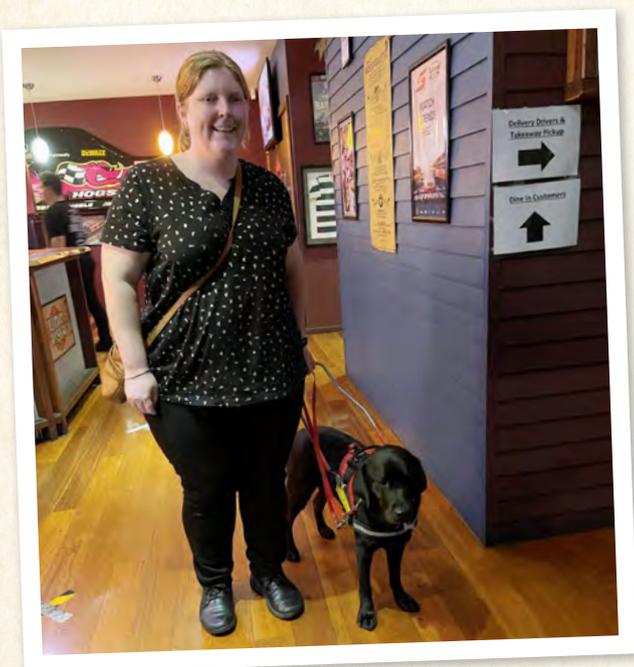
In her leisure time, Isabella enjoys travelling – and so does Penny! They recently travelled to Queensland and also had an exciting trip to Melbourne to enjoy Hamilton – the musical.

'For my trip to Emerald, where the gem mine is located, it involved flying across Queensland in a small plane. The person booking the ticket had never booked a dog guide on that type of plane,' Isabella says.

Isabella also plays blind tennis with a special ball. 'Penny sits on the side of the court and – with admirable restraint for a dog – happily watches the balls go past.'

Isabella is so grateful to you for helping to make perfect matches possible. She encourages Seeing Eye Dogs supporters to donate, volunteer or raise a puppy if they can.

Isabella adds, **'Without people like you, we wouldn't have the Seeing Eye Dogs that give us so much freedom!'**



Meet Clifford, the leader of the pack!



We are excited to introduce you to Clifford and his pack! Born February 7, 2023, Clifford is the spokes-puppy for this pack of seven beautiful little black and yellow Labradors. Clifford, his brothers Charlie and Cricket and sisters Cybil, Cheer, Carmen and Cha Cha have just begun their journey to become Seeing Eye Dogs.

Proud mum Xendi looked after her pups for their first eight weeks, and now they are all happily living with amazing volunteer puppy carers.

This is a very busy time for the puppies – in between playing and napping! Each puppy is learning basic obedience including 'sit' and 'stay'. They also learn to wait to hear their carer blow a special whistle three times before they are allowed to eat. Their carer will also introduce them to their special puppy training coat with 'L' plates.

Each pup will learn that, while wearing their training coat, they are working and must be on their best behaviour.

Would you like to play the most special role of all in these puppies' lives – as a sponsor? Puppy sponsorship gives our pups-in-training everything they need to grow up to be world-class Seeing Eye Dogs, and they need caring people like you to help!

To find out more about puppy sponsorship and how you can make a difference in the lives of Australians who are blind or have low vision, please scan the QR code.



Would you like to change lives as a puppy carer?

We are looking for caring volunteers in selected areas to help guide puppies along the path to becoming highly trained working dogs. We need volunteers in areas including:

- VIC - various regions including Greater Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula, Macedon Ranges, Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong.
- NSW - selected suburbs across Central Coast, Hornsby, Parramatta and surrounds.
- QLD - Sunshine Coast and North Brisbane.

Whether working, studying, teaching or retired, single or with family, already caring for a pet, apartment-living or on an acreage – or somewhere in between – please apply now or help us spread the word! **To apply now to be a puppy carer, visit: sed.visionaustralia.org/puppy-caring/apply-now**



Hailey and Tippi

– a perfect match

Seeing Eye Dog, Tippi has completely transformed Hailey's life – and Hailey is simply amazed at Tippi's skills.

Hailey, who was born blind, spent until 2021 relying on a white cane to get around, but had always been familiar with the work of Seeing Eye Dogs. 'I grew up around people with dog guides. I love the work they do and the bond between a handler and their dog, so it felt a natural next step for me to have a Seeing Eye Dog too,' Hailey said.

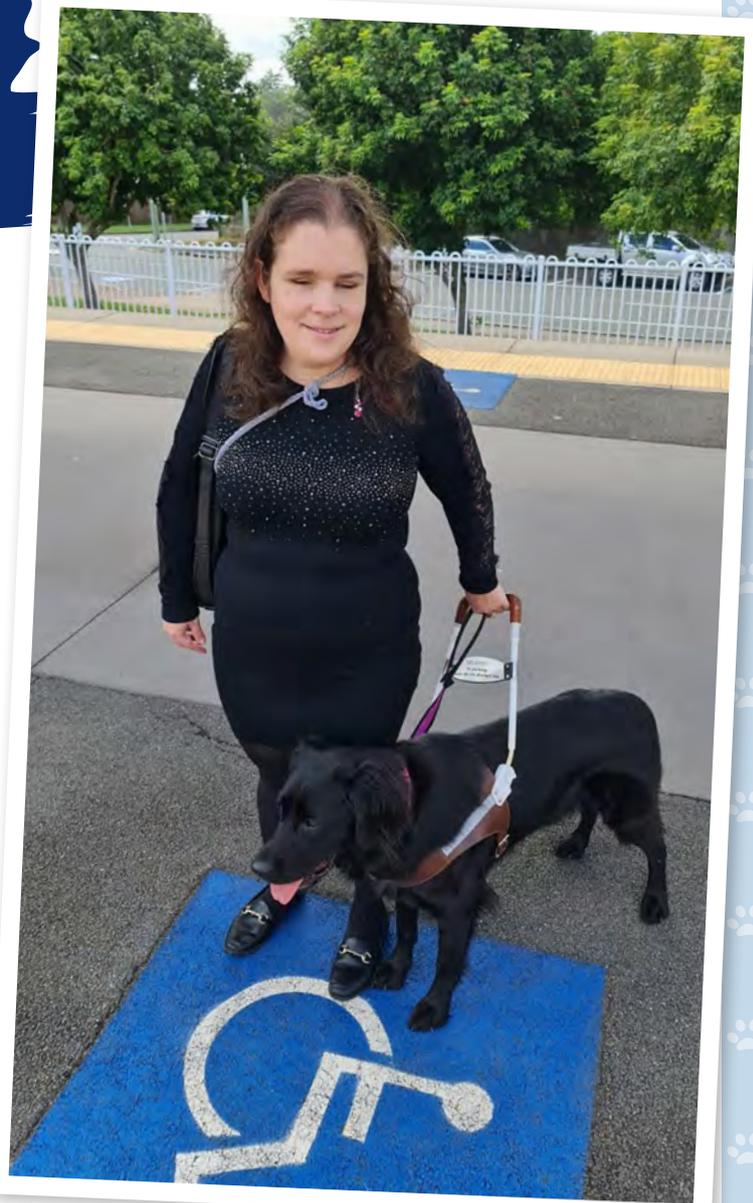
'Tippi's work is amazing, it's quite extraordinary. She is so versatile – put her in any situation and she'll shine.

'I love being with her, too. Her nature is really lovely, she's a calm, gentle dog and really affectionate.'

A striking black Labrador cross Golden Retriever, Seeing Eye Dog Tippi attracts plenty of attention from those who come across her – but Tippi has an important message. 'She's such a poser! But please don't pat,' Hailey reminds us. 'Please talk to the handler directly, not just the dog.'

It's Tippi's navigation skills and intuition that have been most valuable for Hailey – and this is why your support for training is so important.

Tippi helps Hailey navigate the busy roads between the two churches she's involved with and picks up on the smallest of social cues from people around Hailey. As with every Seeing Eye Dog, Tippi is taught to navigate obstacles such as prams, slower



walkers, stairs and other hazards, to keep their handler safe.

'I like going to the Gold Coast a lot, along the beach and by the river. I'm excited to go on bushwalks too. Tippi is always up for an adventure, so she'll love it!'

Hailey now understands the power of the very detailed matching process between Seeing Eye Dog and handler and is so thankful to have your kind support.

'Donations really help the matching process and are so important. Thank you for helping people like me to be matched with a Seeing Eye Dog that suits me so well and enriches our lives so much.'

Congratulations, new graduates!

Your generous support has enabled us to match 38 highly trained Seeing Eye Dogs with their new best friend. Thank you for helping to bring confidence, independence and joy to so many lives.

SEEING EYE DOG *Abbie* MATCHED WITH *Nadia*

SEEING EYE DOG *Angela* MATCHED WITH *Phoebe*

SEEING EYE DOG *Dilly* MATCHED WITH *Estelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Dusty* MATCHED WITH *Paulette*

SEEING EYE DOG *Earl* MATCHED WITH *Jennelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Easton* MATCHED WITH *Leah*

SEEING EYE DOG *Esther* MATCHED WITH *Sally*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gala* MATCHED WITH *Keith*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gamble* MATCHED WITH *Don*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gidget* MATCHED WITH *Terri*

SEEING EYE DOG *Guthrie* MATCHED WITH *Katie*

SEEING EYE DOG *Hamilton* MATCHED WITH *Marilena*

SEEING EYE DOG *Hannah* MATCHED WITH *Lorraine*

SEEING EYE DOG *Helga* MATCHED WITH *Cody*

SEEING EYE DOG *Iggie* MATCHED WITH *Nathan*

SEEING EYE DOG *Jonty* MATCHED WITH *Mary-Anne*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kezia* MATCHED WITH *Serge*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kimba* MATCHED WITH *Kirsten*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kramer* MATCHED WITH *Kate*

SEEING EYE DOG *Lars* MATCHED WITH *Pim*

SEEING EYE DOG *Lassie* MATCHED WITH *Summer*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mirla* MATCHED WITH *Michelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Nancy* MATCHED WITH *Susan*

SEEING EYE DOG *Nicklaus* MATCHED WITH *Karen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Orlando* MATCHED WITH *Mark*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ralph* MATCHED WITH *Gift*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ray (Rave)* MATCHED WITH *Morgan*

SEEING EYE DOG *Roger* MATCHED WITH *Jason*

SEEING EYE DOG *Sally* MATCHED WITH *Phillip*

SEEING EYE DOG *Thea* MATCHED WITH *Michael*

SEEING EYE DOG *Timmy* MATCHED WITH *Tony*

SEEING EYE DOG *Toffee* MATCHED WITH *Rhonda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ully* MATCHED WITH *Ian*

SEEING EYE DOG *Union (Zebbie)* MATCHED WITH *Jennifer*

SEEING EYE DOG *Vincent* MATCHED WITH *Gillian*

SEEING EYE DOG *Wallace* MATCHED WITH *Robin*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yarra* MATCHED WITH *Valda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yuma* MATCHED WITH *Gordon*



Marilena and Seeing Eye Dog Hamilton



Phillip and Seeing Eye Dog Sally



Terri and Seeing Eye Dog Gidget



Pop in to your local Petbarn this July!

We are thrilled to be celebrating the 10-year anniversary of our amazing partnership with Petbarn Foundation this year. For the entire month of July, Petbarn will be raising funds in store for our Seeing Eye Dogs, to help us 'Train-up a pup' and change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision, empowering them to lead the life they choose.

Over the past decade, Petbarn Foundation's unwavering support has been nothing short of phenomenal. We are incredibly grateful to be

partnered with a Foundation that makes such a profound impact on our community and beyond. We thank Petbarn staff, customers, and the Petbarn Foundation for their continued dedication to our Seeing Eye Dogs.

If you're passing by a Petbarn store next month, be sure to stop by and show your support for the Train-up a pup appeal. Petbarn staff do an incredible job and they deserve your appreciation!



We are excited to announce our new partnership with Zoetis, one of the world's leading animal health companies, driven by a singular purpose: to nurture our world and humankind by advancing care for animals.

At the start of this year they donated a year's worth of their product 'Simparica Trio' to keep our Seeing Eye Dogs safe from ticks, worms and other parasites.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Zoetis for their commitment to animal health and their dedication to supporting the well-being of our dogs. It's heartening to work with a company that shares our vision of providing the best possible care and we look forward to an exciting partnership ahead.



HEALTH IS LIFE'S FOUNDATION



INCREDIBLE IN EVERY DETAIL

Raising funds while keeping fit

We love perfect matches – and that's what we've found in our community partnership with Michael Lewis and the Dog Football Club.

Michael was ecstatic at the opportunity to partner with us and support the work of Seeing Eye Dogs.

The Dog Football Club proudly display the Seeing Eye Dogs logo on their match day shirts and donate profits from kit sales and collections on some of their match days. They have raised more than \$2,790 so far – what amazing support from their club and community.

'We wanted to make a difference,' says Michael. 'Knowing the great work Seeing Eye Dogs do, and that their love of dogs matches our own, we're incredibly proud of our partnership.'

Our thanks to the Dog Football Club and their community for caring so much and helping breed, train and care for Seeing Eye Dogs.



If you would like to know more about the Dog Football Club and how they support Seeing Eye Dogs, visit: fundraise.visionaustralia.org/fundraisers/dogfc



A change in luck for John, our lucky lottery winner

When John's phone rang with a call from an unexpected number, he discovered he was the winner of a brand new car – courtesy of Seeing Eye Dogs Lucky Puppy Lottery!

'I honestly thought the caller was joking or it was a scam. Then I realised this was real! And I actually needed a new car,' John smiles.

John was mourning the loss of his wife and beloved dog when he found out some wonderful news.

The proud owner of a new Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross, John entered the lottery following his own diagnosis of glaucoma, as he wanted to give back to an organisation he knew was supporting people who are blind or have low vision.

'Seeing Eye Dogs is a good organisation to support when you consider the possibility that any one of us could lose our sight and need help,' says John.

To find out more about the Seeing Eye Dogs Lucky Puppy Lottery and how you can make a difference in the lives of Australians who are blind or have low vision, visit: lucky puppylottery.org.au