

"Neesha is my guide and she's my companion, my confidence, my company."

- Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs client Cassie and Seeing Eye Dog Neesha



Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs

Animal Welfare Code

Choice - Care - Connection



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At Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs we take a person-centered approach in how we support people who are blind or have low vision.

Likewise, we adopt a 'dog-centered' approach towards our Seeing Eye Dogs in how we care for them, from birth through to retirement.

Who we are

In breeding, caring for, and training Seeing Eye Dogs, we strive to develop and maintain innovative, high-quality dog services valued by people who are blind or have low vision.

We are an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) and Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

A Seeing Eye Dog works as a team with a person who is blind or has low vision (often known as a client) to:

- safely, efficiently, and confidently travel to work
- access education and recreation activities
- visit friends and family
- use public transport.



We provide the highest level of care to ensure our dogs live happy and healthy lives, so they can support people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose.

Seeing Eye Dogs pups and dogs living happy and healthy lives

At Seeing Eye Dogs, we follow international and domestic welfare legislation and guidelines in all our practices.

We are committed to applying the Five Domains Model* of animal welfare through our three principles of choice, care, and connection to promote positive experiences and welfare outcomes.

Choice

● Training

Positive reward-based training is used with all our dogs based on the individual dog's preferences. Rewards are given when the dog chooses to complete a behaviour we would like to encourage.

● Engagement

All our dogs have the choice of how to engage with their space, including how and when they interact with people and other animals as well as opportunities for play, socialisation, and enrichment.

● Cooperative care

We are committed to implementing cooperative care with all our dogs. Cooperative care uses trust and choice to allow dogs to actively participate in their everyday care. It is a two-way communication between the dog and the person.

*Five Domains Model:

Mellor DJ, Beausoleil NJ, Littlewood KE, McLean AN, McGreevy PD, Jones B, Wilkins C. The 2020 Five Domains Model: Including Human–Animal Interactions in Assessments of Animal Welfare. *Animals*. 2020; 10(10):1870. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10101870>

Two yellow pups wearing Seeing Eye Dogs puppy coats sitting side by side.



Care

- **Health**

Our scientific and holistic health program encompasses all stages of a dog's journey with Seeing Eye Dogs

- **Environment**

We take care to ensure all spaces our dogs encounter are safe, secure, clean, and comfortable.

- **Holistic care**

Many elements work together to support a dog's welfare. Providing care that considers multiple factors such as the dog's environment, nutrition, social interactions, and health allows us to maintain higher welfare standards.



Vision Australia
Seeing Eye Dogs
client Colleen with
her Seeing Eye Dog
Xian.

Connection

- **Positive connections**

We facilitate meaningful interactions and positive relationships between dogs and the humans in their circle by providing ongoing support and education to clients, volunteers, and staff.

- **Connecting the dog to the role that they choose**

Our teams identify the best pathways for each dog, including graduating as a working Seeing Eye Dog, other assistance roles, or offering companionship to a family as a pet.

- **Life transitions**

We stay connected with all dogs in our program and support them through transitional phases including retirement. We ensure that any future owners of our dogs agree to provide the same standards of welfare provided by Seeing Eye Dogs.

Contact

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