

Pupdates - it's a dog's life



When he was told to "say cheese", Alfie found the cheese instead!



Austin exhausted after a big day at St Columbia Falls



Bonnie demonstrating how well she can sit and stay



Ronnie keeping her puppy raiser company on a cold, wet day



Jasmine misread "stand" for "lie down and relax"



Sara took her puppy raiser on a blindfolded walk - you go girl!



Follow us for more pupdates
@guidedogstasmania

Pupdates continued



Sasha and Shadow practice escalator training together



Tyson enjoying a Sunday morning stroll at Seaport



Victor practices his social - not sweets - distancing.



Vinnie looking dapper at home



Zazu (right) and his mate Charlie try to out-handsome each other



Ziggy ready for her close up



Follow us for more pupdates
@guidedogstasmania

PAW PRINTS

The newsletter for people creating change for Tasmanians

Guide Dogs TAS

A constant companion

"I found myself relying on Pepper as a friend and companion more than ever before."

It has been a challenging year but thanks to your support Tasmanians like Sara who live with blindness or low vision have adapted to the uncertain and changing environment with their beautiful companion by their side.

For Sara and her Guide Dog, Pepper, 2020 has also provided an opportunity to reconnect with one another and find joy in getting back to the basics.

"When Coronavirus restrictions came into place our whole routine changed. Pepper's role was suddenly stripped right back and she was becoming restless, especially in the evenings," says Sara.

While guiding work quickly took a back seat, Pepper found fulfilment and motivation in other activities - like more playtime!

"Slowing down and taking a step back made me realise that our relationship isn't all work," says Sara.

"Dogs need that social connection too, and I found myself relying on Pepper as a friend and companion more than ever before."

Since 2016, Sara's faithful Guide Dog has been making things easier - and more possible.

From completing her studies and starting work, to moving house and living more independently, Pepper has been there to support her every step of the way.

"Our strength has always been in working things out together," says Sara. "And when you have trust in each other, the outcome will take care of itself."

Thank you for making a difference!



Sara & Pepper

This team-work was evident more than ever this year when the pair had to adapt to new social distancing rules in place. For someone with no depth perception, Sara has no way of knowing how close she is to the person next to her, let alone if she is maintaining the 1.5 metres distance.

"Guide Dogs haven't been trained to keep that much distance either but Pepper has been a wonderful learner and now tends towards quieter spaces," Sara says.

Sara has no doubt that this year would have been a lot harder - and lonelier - without Pepper.

"She walks beside me every day, so to not have her there through this journey would have been really tough. I just love her to bits."

Your ongoing support to Guide Dogs Tasmania will ensure more Tasmanians receive the life changing gift of independence, freedom and hope- just like Pepper has provided to Sara.



Sara

"I felt a bit lost for a while. But I understood the precautions that were being taken and knew it wouldn't last forever. I was just counting down the days until I could be back at Guide Dogs Tasmania!"



Hazel

Support our pups can count on

"I'm so pleased to be a Puppy Love Member, knowing my small, regular donations help these incredible puppies on their journey to transform someone's life."

Thanks to Puppy Love Members like Hazel, a regular stream of income meant the pups on our program didn't miss out on essentials, even during a difficult time.

When all face-to-face events were cancelled this year, and a full fundraising program put on hold (collection dogs), Guide Dogs supporter Hazel Bucher was pleased to know she could continue helping puppies become life-changing dogs.

As a Puppy Love Member, Hazel donates monthly to ensure each pup is provided with everything it needs to become a Guide, Therapy or Assistance Dog, and ultimately change the life of a Tasmanian.

"I'm so pleased to be a Puppy Love Member, knowing my small, regular donations help these incredible puppies on their journey to transform someone's life," says Hazel. "I like knowing I'm also helping ensure Guide Dogs Tasmania has funding it can count on, and I'm proud of the difference that together, we're helping to make in our own little part of the world."

Regular Giving coordinator Zoe Polacik says monthly donations, no matter how small or large, have always been a vital part of Guide Dogs Tasmania's long-term work.

"During what has been an extremely difficult year with a huge loss to our fundraising revenue, our Puppy Love Members have proved to be more important than ever," she says. "With the support of their regular donations, the goal of ensuring every Tasmanian who needs a Guide, Therapy or Assistance Dog is placed with one is made far more achievable."

If you would like to join this special group of people and become a Puppy Love Member, please contact Zoe on 6232 1252 or puppylove@guidedogstas.com.au

Volunteers welcomed back!

After a six-month hiatus, volunteers like Sara are pleased to be back and making a difference in their community.

We've loved seeing the friendly faces of our volunteers back in the office over the last few months. Sara Dane – who has been with the organisation for over eight years - couldn't be happier to be back doing what she loves.

"Guide Dogs Tasmania is like a family to me," she says. "I'm so glad to be back and part of a team that is making a difference to the lives of Tasmanians living with disability. After a day volunteering, I really feel like I've helped out in the community."

When COVID-19 hit, Sara was one of 14 volunteers that had to remain at home while our iconic collection dog program was put on hold. The six-month hiatus not only saw a huge drop in income for the organisation, it also impacted people like Sara who get a great sense of purpose from volunteering.

"I felt a bit lost for a while," says Sara. "But I understood the precautions that were being taken and knew it wouldn't last for ever. I was just counting down the days until I could be back at Guide Dogs!"

Along with travelling around to collect and replace full collection dogs, Sara spends time each week lovingly restoring the returned ones to make them presentable once again - yes, even collection dogs care about their looks!

Sara's reason for volunteering is simple: "You're part of something that's growing and changing people's lives," she says. "It's a beautiful thing to do and I recommend it to everyone."

Want to join the Guide Dogs Tasmania family? We urgently need a volunteer driver to help with our Collection Dog program every Tuesday in Hobart.

Contact our Community Fundraising Coordinator for more information on 03 6232 1233 or kristy.wright@guidedogstas.com.au

Join Puppy Love and your monthly gift will change a life

To learn more about becoming a Puppy Love member, please contact us

Ph: 03 6232 1252
Email: puppylove@guidedogstas.com.au

guidedogstas.com.au



Meet your latest puppies!



Kula

Date of Birth: 2 March 2020
Gender: Female
Lives: Southern Tasmania

Sponsored by: The late Betty Kula

Kula is a caring and cuddly puppy with a little bit of a stubborn streak, especially when it comes to walking up hill! She loves a nightly massage from her Puppy Raiser.



Bessy

Date of Birth: 4 March 2020
Gender: Female
Lives: Southern Tasmania

Sponsored by: Mrs Bridget Stott

Bessy is a long-legged bundle of energy who enjoys bush walks and exploring the local area. She is a quick learner and very willing to please.



Bridget & Bessy

Bridget meets Bessy

Mrs Bridget Stott of Sandy Bay had the pleasure of meeting her fourth sponsored puppy, Bessy, earlier this month.

"Bessy is named after one of my uncle's beloved collies, who I have fond memories of," she says. "I used to love wandering around my uncle's farm with the dogs, and I remember Bessy loved playing with the cows! She's a pretty puppy and I look forward to watching her progress."

Mrs Stott has also generously sponsored Derek, Gemma and Bob with a donation of \$35,000 each.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a puppy sponsor, please contact Melanie on 03 6232 1261 or melanie.spunt@guidedogstas.com.au