



Ringo and Riley

We dig it



PUPPY
LOVE

Spring 2014



▲ Riley (with collar) and Ringo made their modelling debut in fine form, with thanks to our friend Kirsty Pilkington.

Let's embark



Dear friends,

I'd like to take this opportunity to do two simple things:

1. Thank you for choosing to support Guide Dogs Tasmania through your regular contributions to Puppy Love. Together, we are all ensuring that blind and vision impaired Tasmanians will not go without services they need to live the lives they want; safe, independent, mobile. Together, we can make anything possible.
2. Please consider opting into receiving these newsletters via email. Emailing a PDF version to you each quarter will save on postage costs, and paper, but the file is still able to be downloaded and printed at home if you would like. Email admin@guidedogstas.com.au to update your sending address, and don't forget to tell us your name, and "D-Number" if you know it. Thank you for considering the move.

Now, onto puppy business! We've got some great photos courtesy of Kirsty Pilkington again this edition, and the pups have clearly been adventuring their way through the last three months. Enjoy!

Kate Grady, Funding Development Manager.

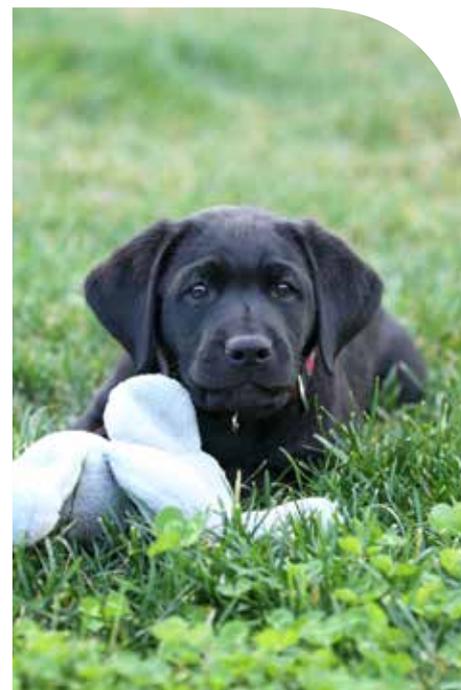
Date of Birth:
29 April 2014
Region: North



▲ When life gives you lemons...



▲ ...find a little peaceful spot...



▲ ...and some clover, and all will be perfect.

Hello there!

My name is Riley and I am now 14 weeks old. I have been happily living with my puppy raisers in West Launceston for five weeks. I share a home with two grown ups (Vanessa and Rod) and two Burmese cats (Pedro and Mouse).

I have two crates - one at home and one at an office - and I love sleeping in them with my special comfort dog. I have pulled the insides out of lots of soft toys but I just like to cuddle up to my comfort dog - he is very precious so I am very gentle with him.

Vanessa has taken me to lots of places with my coat on. I really like going to Bunnings, but walking nicely down the aisle past the Dynamic Lifter and Blood and Bone is just too hard! Vanessa says I need to practise this more.

I have been on the escalators in Myer, and once you get travelling it's actually quite easy and fun. When we go into a bank I know exactly what to do, and when I sit

beautifully and wait at the counter I have lots of people behind in the queue saying nice things about me like "How gorgeous!"

I also love going to the chemist and the supermarket, except the other day I forgot about not doing "busy busy" inside. When I did a really big wee in the self checkout where there were lots of people it caused quite a fuss and someone accidentally stood on my tail and Vanessa had to hand me to a kind man while she dealt with the mess...

Sometimes I go with my puppy raisers and the cats to another house called The Shack. When I am here I get to paddle in a HUGE bath of salty water which is fun, but the water tastes terrible! My puppy raisers have told me about swimming, but I think the idea is crazy!

I have some good doggy friends, including a Springer spaniel called Luna and a Labradoodle called Louis. They are happy to share their toys and beds and I love

to run around like a lunatic.

I like to see the two brown Labradors over the road but they are very old and apparently have a "resigned" look about them when I jump on them and pull their ears and tails. I'm not sure what this means but I also heard the words "long-suffering" and "whipper-snapper", so I am trying to work it all out.

I love being around old people and children and am learning not to chew on their hands. Going for walks is good but only if I have been there before, so if I am not too sure I just sit to have a think about it.

My very favourite thing is having cuddles on the floor with Vanessa, but her lap is getting smaller and now I often fall off! I think life is good being a Guide Dog puppy as you always get to be with nice people and you get lots of smiles and pats.

You can find more photos of Riley and Ringo on our Facebook page, 'Guide Dogs Tasmania-Puppy Love'.

Date of Birth:
29 April 2014
Region: North



▲ A puppy with a head-tilt can make anyone smile!



▲ And a puppy withOUT a head-tilt can't hurt, either.



▲ Curiouser and curiouser! The lot of a puppy is to investigate!

Hi everyone!

I have been with my puppy raisers now for five weeks, and over this time I have learnt so much! But let me tell you, it was very daunting at the beginning, especially when I had to be separated from my brother Riley! But don't worry, we've seen each other plenty of times since, and I always LOVE catching up with him.

It was a cool move, in every way, from Queensland to Tassie, but Annie's house is warm with a special heater for me on frosty mornings, and we have had plenty of those! The four hens are fascinating, but I can't touch nose to beak because of the fence.

I've already been to plenty of places, and something I've noticed is that there are rarely any other dogs around! I must be special or something.

One event I have been to with my puppy raiser was Devonport Jazz in July. This was very fun, and the organisers loved my yellow L plate

(yellow is the Jazz festival's signature colour). I was on my best behaviour, watching the band and dancing. Annie seemed very pleased with me.

The adventure didn't stop there. The next day we rode on the Don railway steam engine, with lots of noisy children, steam and whistles and clickety-clack wheels! It was a bit scary, but I got smiles of approval from the stationmaster, so that made me very happy!

Since arriving in Tassie I've learnt to ride on travelators and escalators. It gets easier as my legs get longer. People watch me and are very helpful, waiting while I get ready.

The bus rides are going well too, although sometimes I need help up the big step. The drivers all know my name and say hello. I could get quite used to travelling on the bus, with all these friendly people!

At the moment I am very partial to retail therapy. I just love browsing the malls and all the shops there, which is great because my puppy

raiser doesn't have to worry about me getting bored when she wants to go shopping! How could shopping be boring when there's so much to look at? Lots of folk admire me and my shiny coat. Again, I rarely see other dogs when I go shopping. Don't they like it?

See you all next time!

Did you know that Riley and Ringo are both being raised by first-time puppy raisers? They are doing a great job at socialising the boys, don't you think? And, they are helping us create heroes one escalator, bus, supermarket, swim, shop, walk, play and cuddle at a time.

To find out more about Puppy Raising, including the selection criteria, visit guidedogstas.com.au and go to the Volunteer section.



▲ I'm almost getting too big to sit on Dad's lap on the floor!



▲ ...but next to my mates Diesel and Buddy, I guess I've still got a lot of growing to do!

Date of Birth:
1 February 2014
Region: South

Hello!

My favourite thing at the moment is my soft pink piggy. I play with her during the day and cuddle up with her every night. Mum thinks piggy should have a bath, but I think piggy smells just fine!

I have been very busy over the last few months learning lots of Guide Dog skills. I have been going on escalators and travelators, going in lifts, going to shopping centres, doing the grocery shopping, going out to restaurants, as well as lots of other cool things. I am learning that when I am in my blue coat I am not allowed to talk to people or other dogs. I think I am going well, but sometimes I forget and just want to get some pats.

I like going to group sessions and seeing all the other Guide Dog pups and seeing my brother Nelson. I am starting to learn that when we are all in our blue coats we are not supposed to play and I must sit quietly. I am happy to do this though, because I know that when we get home I will have lots of fun and cuddles with Mum, Dad, Danni and Diesel (the dog).

Bye for now, and maybe you'll see me one day when I'm out and about!



Date of Birth:
1 February 2014
Region: South

▲ So, in just a few short months, I've grown heaps, don't you think?

Hi everybody!

I've had heaps of fun over the winter months, even if it has been really really cold!

My puppy raisers and I visit the shack regularly, which is a nice little holiday for all of us. Everything seems to be a bit more relaxed at the shack for some reason, but there is still plenty of opportunity for play!

I've also recently had a mini holiday with what is known as a "boarding family". They had a really big block of land so I was able to let out all of my puppy energy.

I love being with the grandkids and going to watch them play soccer. I also bravely went with them on the air walk during the holidays.

I am getting really good on my walks now, although sometimes I like to just sit down and not move. My puppy raiser tries to encourage me on with high pitch sounds and calling my name, and eventually I move on. I have also learnt to come back when the whistle is blown, and how to step on and off escalators safely (this was very scary at the start).

I love going to group training sessions and learning off all the older dogs there. Last time we played a weaving game where I had to sit between every other dog. I think we weren't supposed to say hello to each other, which was very hard, because they're all my friends!



▲ I like to know what the cat is up to all the time...



▲ ...and when the cat sleeps, I sleep.

Date of Birth:
28 Sept 2013
Region: South

HI! It's Ollie again!

I've been doing all sorts of things since the last Puppy Love newsletter. Not only do I go on walks every day, but I've been on planes, buses, trains and boats. One time I did all these things on one day!

It's only about 30 big sleeps to my first birthday. I must be growing up, because now I only have one big meal a day (gee it tastes good).

Finally I have got my puppy raiser sorted out. I know all sorts of things, like the way we go to the bank, the way to the letterbox, and when we are about to go for a trip in the car. I even know familiar places we go in the car, without looking, just by the smell of the air coming through the dashboard vents.

I still get into a bit of mischief though. My puppy raiser got really embarrassed when I started barking in the Officeworks computer section last month, and at home he still doesn't seem to like me chewing up pot plants, firewood logs, and rocks all over the carpet floor.

Last week we went fishing. It took us almost all day to catch two tiddlers, but it was great fun. I especially liked them flipping and flopping around on the floor of the boat. I got a bit close one time and got a sharp prick on my nose! Too much fun for a pup!

Hope to see you when I am out and about.

Cheers, Ollie.



▲ Grooming time means getting a massage AND looking awesome afterwards!



▲ Quinton and I either like snuggling, or this bed is worth fighting over!

Date of Birth:
25 July 2013
Region: South

HELLO!

My favourite thing at the moment is being brushed with my "zoom groom". It tickles and feels good, but puppy raiser mum said it also helps with my shedding.

I am one-year-old now and usually puppies start to grow up and be very well behaved about now, but my puppy raisers think I am getting a bit naughty. They think I am trying to be bossy, like when we go for a walk to the shop I pull on my lead and think we should go to the dog park instead (what dog wouldn't try this?). I also like to pull towards other dogs on walks because I think we should say hello to them, but my puppy raiser mum tells me this is naughty and I must not do it. I think I need to try a bit harder and let her tell me where we are going. That does seem to make her happy.

I have been very good at other things though. I am now good at staying where I am told to stay and I have learnt a new command called "up sit". It is really easy - all I have to do is sit up when we are getting ready to go, and not stand up ready to walk off. I don't mind, because sometimes we don't walk straight away.

I am happy the weather is getting better. Sometimes during winter Quinton and I really had to snuggle close to keep warm, and I didn't always want to go for a walk, but now with more sunshine it's great.

See you soon!



▲ Frankie J and I have lots of adventures together, even when we're sleeping!



▲ I would like to make it perfectly clear that a bed and a blanket are two WONDERFUL things!

Date of Birth:
18 May 2013

Region: North

Hi!

My favourite thing during winter was my bed. It has warm blankets and woolly sides that keep me snuggly and warm.

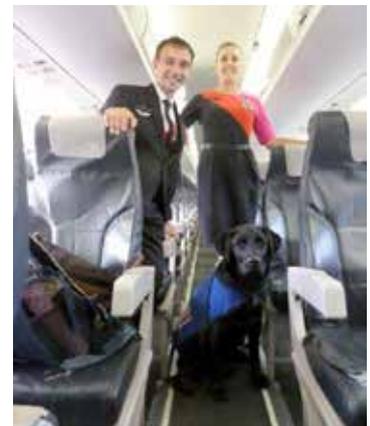
Recently, I have been helping my puppy raisers finish renovating their laundry. The sound of power tools is my call to action, and I come to see what they are doing next. My black nose is very helpful in finding things that they have dropped – although I do take off with the occasional piece of wood when they are not looking (sometimes I think I am still a puppy).

Frankie J and I went to the Million Paws Walk and spent the morning walking through the mud. I also went traveling around the North East with puppy raiser mum and her friend from Melbourne. Unfortunately it rained the whole time and I didn't have much fun. I don't like cold rainy days. Last week we went to Hobart for my hip x-rays and drove through the snow. Yoda was at the vets too, so we cuddled together after the anaesthetic. It was nice to have him there with me. I wonder if the weather can get any worse? I am really looking forward to summer when it is nice and warm.

Thank you for following my adventures. I'm enjoying my training; everything is such fun but serious sometimes too.



▲ I'm thinking someone put this old bed of mine into the clothes-dryer!



▲ These friendly people made me feel very welcome and comfy on the big adventure!

Date of Birth:
18 May 2013

Region: North

Hello all!

My favourite thing is just being with family, sharing lots of love and care, and going about the task required to achieve my end goal - to be a successful Guide Dog. I am often reminded of this when we go out into places like cafes, the cinema and the city, when I try very hard to do the right thing. I always feel happy when I see THAT smile!

Remember the BIG adventure brewing last Puppy Love? It was a trip away to the mainland - on a plane! I was a little startled when the steps up to the plane moved, but then I settled down, slept till I felt a bump, and wondered what would happen next. Two changes of planes and we reached our last stop with a three-hour car trip. What a long journey!

I was excited to meet the new puppies here in Launceston. They are black like me and my brother, very little and full of play. I wish them a happy time in their puppy raising, learning lots and growing into their blue coats soon.

Winter meant feet wiped every time I went inside. My wet body needed to be dried, and I had to go on fast walks to keep warm, but the fire is sooo comforting to lie in front of with my two house friends close by - one snoring (I do not snore!), the other lying on her back, legs in the air.

That's all till Summer. Take care.



▲ I love Love LOVE my new soccer ball. In sunshine...



▲ ...and in snow!

Date of Birth:
29 Jan 2013
Region: South

HI THERE!!!!!!

My favourite thing at the moment is my new soccer ball! Mum lets me play with it at the dog park in the mud! I like to push it around with my nose and carry it around in my mouth. Sometimes, other dogs at the park try to steal it because it is just so cool! Who can blame them? I let them share it and Mum says I have lovely manners.

Lately I have been on a HEAP of doggy adventures with heaps of my doggy friends! I recently had a sleepover at Pedro's house for the weekend. Remember him? He said to say g'day!

Mum and I also doggy-sat our Labrador friend Ellie for a weekend. Then I went on an excursion to the beach with my mum's Uni friends and their dogs! I wish they were all allowed to come to Uni with their mums like I am, it would be a lot more exciting having some other pups around!

Have you noticed that the stories my brother and I are telling in Puppy Love are moving further and further towards the back? You know what? It doesn't mean we are not as important as the little pups, it means we are getting closer and closer to formal TRAINING! How exciting is that! That makes us pretty important indeed! I think I should say thank you to you all for helping me get this far, and hope you wish me luck for the coming months. I'll do my best, as always.



▲ Well, they say pilates is good for EVERYONE, so why not me!



▲ Snow: meh.

Date of Birth:
29 Jan 2013
Region: South

HOWDY!

I am now 18 months old and still growing. I now weigh 40 kilos and am the tallest Guide Dog puppy that most people can remember.

So much has happened over the winter months. My puppy raisers took me on the plane to Melbourne again and I behaved really well. We sat at the front of the plane and all the staff loved me.

We stayed at Mt Martha and I loved the beach. There were lots of new dog friends to meet and I went swimming. I also visited friends who had a black Labrador called Tina and we had so much fun together.

Well, winter is finally over, and although it was really cold, I still had lots of fun. I went to Dark Mofo several times in my coat. So many people tried to pat me but my puppy raisers had to keep reminding them I was working. When we came home I got to do my favourite thing - lay in front of the fire and go to sleep.

I recently had my first play in the snow. I didn't like it very much, it was too cold. I don't know what all the fuss is about really!

I am still doing all my Guide Dog practice. I walk lots, go to restaurants and shops, and go in the lifts and on the stairs. Soon my real training will start.

Cheers for now, Paddy.



▲ If you look closely, you'll see a Bella, above. And if you look closely you'll see a Bella in her new bed, above right. Right is the beautiful Holly, on her first day of formal training. Below right is, well, probably the best snapshot we've ever taken! Featuring Holly and Iris, we like to call this "Puppy Love", of course!

Training dogs

Bella continues through training and is trying very hard to do the right thing, although she does like to have a very good sniff of things as she goes along and is very driven by her nose, which can sometimes distract her concentration from guiding work. She is also full of energy and finds it hard to control this at times in training, although she is starting to work out that "when the harness is on I must concentrate, and as soon as it comes off I get to play away." We hope she settles down in the coming weeks, as she gets used to this relatively new routine.

Buddy entered his assessment phase of training, but with ongoing skin allergies presenting themselves the difficult decision was made to cease his training. We could not be certain that the skin allergies would disappear in future, which would have made it difficult for a client to monitor, treat and have him fit for work on a daily basis.

Holly has entered her assessment phase and has adapted to training very quickly. She settles in the office when asked, and enjoys showing off on walks and will soon be introduced to harness work, which we are sure she will take to very quickly.

Holly's brother, Hudson, did not demonstrate such enthusiasm. When asked to concentrate hard, ignore other dogs and focus on guiding when in coat, his anxiety continued to show through and he was not 100% comfortable with Guide Dog work. We want all our working dogs to be happy and proud of what they do, and enjoy getting the harness on and going out and leading their

client. Hudson's temperament just did not quite fit the niche for Guide Dog work and hence he has been withdrawn for a more relaxed, chilled out lifestyle where his general anxiety can be monitored.

Both Hudson and Buddy have been placed in loving families through the GDT adoption program.





▲ Guide Dog Wendell. He can still steal your heart with those eyes!



▲ Guide Dog Eddie. Relaxed and composed as always.



▲ Eddie again, taking it easy between walks with his handler.

Where Are They Now?

From time to time we like to catch up with Guide Dogs that we have followed closely through the Puppy Love program. It seems only reasonable, given the following the puppies gain through their first two years of life.

This edition, we decided to take a look at two recent graduates; Wendell and Eddie. These boys were very popular and while completely different in temperament and personality, there was something very determined about them as pups. Here's how they're going (and don't forget, all of us - including Puppy Love members - helped them to do it!):

Wendell was placed with an experienced Guide Dog client in the South in June 2013. He has adapted well to full time work as a Guide Dog, taking on

a protective role of his client and her family, making sure they all remain together when out on walks.

Recently he took on the pretegiuous role of accompanying his client on stage for her involvement in Festival of Voices. Our hearts are full of pride when we see him negotiating the busy Hobart environment with confidence and ease.

Eddie was placed with a first time Guide Dog client in the North of the state in October 2013.

Working with a Guide Dog can be daunting, and even seem overwhelming, for some first time handlers as they progress through the four weeks of intensive training. Eddie's laid back style made it possible for his handler to feel confident and safe quite quickly. Eddie's handler recently reported that after

one year of living and working with him 'there is no way I would give him back'.

Eddie and his client recently led the parade for International Guide Dog Day, guiding a group of volunteer puppy raisers and their pups through Launceston city. He did us all proud, that's for sure. Good boy, Eddie!

There's no doubt that puppies and dogs are cute, but these two boys remind us of what is possible 'together'. The team includes donors, puppy raisers, instructors, the dogs and the handlers. Confidence, independence, mobility and safety for Blind and Vision Impaired Tasmanians are all possible because of the work we do together.

Guide Dogs Pet Insurance: Helps You. Helps Us.

At Guide Dogs Tasmania, the health of our dogs is our top priority, and we know our supporters feel the same way about their pets. We all try to keep our animals safe and healthy, but accidents or illness can strike at any time and when it does, you could face veterinary bills in the hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Which is why Guide Dogs has launched its very own pet insurance to help you eliminate those unexpected vet bills and keep your pet in the picture of health. A percentage of your pet's insurance policy will fund our Guide Dog training program and ultimately change the life of a Tasmanian who is blind or vision impaired.

Cover is available for dogs and cats with plans that suit any budget.

For more information visit
www.guidedogspetinsurance.com
or call 1300 131 636

Ambassador Dexter - In The Wars!

Guide Dogs Ambassador, Dexter, has arguably the best job in the world. He travels with his human companion, meeting and greeting groups across the state. His human (who also has a name: Zoe) talks about what we do, and Dexter... well... basically Dexter sits and waits patiently for the cuddle-fest to begin!

Last month, Dexter had a huge and sudden health scare and we were extremely worried about him. He had an intestinal obstruction that could only be cleared with surgery.

An expensive operation, a few nights in hospital, 25 big stitches, and two weeks of recovery later, Dexter was back on deck and embracing the cuddle-fests with vigour.

This was a frightening episode for Guide Dogs Tasmania, and indeed for Dexter, as he really is a wonderful dog who brings lots of joy to many people.

We were so fortunate that Dexter was in safe hands at the Montrose Vet Centre. They have been looking after our pups and dogs for a number of years now, and nothing is ever too much trouble. We pass on our sincere thanks to the staff there, as well as all of our Facebook supporters who were keen to see Dexter make a full recovery.

If you'd like to receive a visit from Dexter, please call 1800 484 333 or email zoe@guidedogstas.com.au.

He's ready for you!

▲ Below: Dexter received some TLC from old pal, retired Guide Dog Cory. Right: Part of the healing involved laying around in the sunbeams, so it wasn't all bad. Below, right: He can joke about it now, but at the time, Dexter wasn't a well boy at all!



PUPPY LOVE

Follow the pups & feel the Love

It takes a lot of people and costs over \$30,000 to raise and train each beautiful puppy into a wonderful Guide Dog. We give them to people who need them and we receive no Government funding to do it.

For as little as \$15.00 per month, you can join Guide Dogs Tasmania's "Puppy Love" program. Become a member and receive updates on all our puppies, knowing you are making a real difference for Tasmanians who are blind or vision impaired.

Follow the pups' adventures, and their progress, as they become heroes.

Fill in the details below and post to:
PO Box 82, North Hobart, Tasmania, 7002.

OR

Phone 1800 484 333 / 03 6232 1222
to request a DDR form.

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

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Most Trusted Charity - Again!

For the second year running, Guide Dogs has been voted Australia's Most Trusted Charity in the annual Australian Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand poll.

Based on a national survey, Guide Dogs was recognised for its industry-leading services for over 60 years. We're humbled by and grateful for this level of public recognition of our vital work, which enables Tasmanians who are blind or vision impaired to be more independent.

Vision loss is a challenging disability but our services, including Guide Dogs and long canes, allow people to realise it doesn't have to be limiting.

And while we are so very proud to receive this award, we will not sit back and rest on our laurels. We'll continue to evaluate and improve our services, ensuring we develop skills, optimise choices and create possibilities wherever we are needed across the state.



PUPPY LOVE

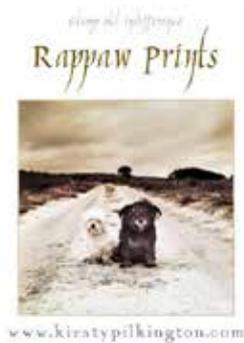
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Would you like your business or organisation to part of something special?

We're looking for Puppy Love partners and sponsors, and there are lots of ways we can work together.

To start a conversation, phone Kate on 1800 484 333.

We are very grateful for the support of all our sponsors, partners and members.



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