

Guide  
Dogs  
TASMANIA



# Archie & Abby

the A team has arrived



PUPPY  
LOVE

Autumn 2015



▲ The newbies, Abby and Archie; and Archie posing beautifully at the Botanical Gardens. Photography by the great Kirsty Pilkington.

## Let's embark



Dear friends,

Welcome to the latest edition of Puppy Love. I write this introduction with mixed emotions, as there are both heart-warming and wrenching things to tell you before we share the latest pupdates with you.

Firstly to the good news. Just before Christmas we welcomed Abby and Archie and we are happy to have them as our feature pups this edition. We also met a wonderful young girl, Ella from Launceston, who was introduced to former GD pup, Buddy, and was so taken by him that she committed to raising funds for Guide Dogs Tasmania. In only a couple of months Ella personally raised nearly \$1,000 and she's still going. The world is in good hands when people like Ella exhibit such selflessness and determination, don't you think? Thank you, Ella.

On New Year's Day we were devastated by the passing of GD Puppy, Ringo. Ringo became quite ill just before Christmas and never recovered. Our thoughts are very much with Annie, Ringo's puppy raiser. Annie's devotion and dedication to Ringo were unwavering. Guide Dogs Tasmania would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the veterinarian, Dr Michael Reilly, the owner of Sheffield Veterinary Clinic. Michael went well and truly above the call of duty, spending most of Christmas Day and indeed much of the Christmas break trying to give Ringo every chance to recover. We are unsure exactly what the cause of Ringo's illness was; however, it resulted in Ringo being unable to regenerate lost blood cells. We feel it is important to be honest with our supporters, which is why I have taken the time to include this news here. We appreciate you, and we hope you respect that we will report the bad with the good. Integrity is a value we hold true. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Kate Grady. Funding Development Manager, Guide Dogs Tasmania.

**Date of Birth:**  
29 October 2014  
**Region:** South



▲ Pooped, but cute!



▲ Bromeliads made even more beautiful.



▲ This photo? Kirsty nailed it in under 10 seconds!!

## Hi everyone!

My brother Archie and I arrived a couple of days before Christmas, which was a great time to arrive because there were lots of people (and dogs) around to welcome me into my new home.

I settled in very nicely and even left the decorations on the Christmas tree alone – well, for the first few days anyway, then I couldn't help myself and had to investigate! I'm pretty sure I was the reason the tree and decorations were taken down early this year!

There are two other dogs at my new home. We have lots of fun together and I love playing with them. They are trying to teach me how to walk nicely, but sometimes I get excited and pull on the lead, or I get a little tired and lag behind.

One day, when I was really little, I was tired and just lay down on the footpath, so mum had to carry me! But I don't do that anymore.

I have had a very busy time learning lots of new skills. I experienced "Christmas" at the shopping centre, where there was lots and lots of people and noise.

I have also learnt to ride on travelators and escalators. I am very good at the supermarket and in shops and sit quietly when I am told. I went out to dinner with my puppy raising family only a few days after arriving, and while mum was a little concerned at how I would go, she needn't have worried because I was very good. I rolled over onto my back and slept that way the entire dinner! Everyone at the restaurant was very impressed and told mum what a good girl I was!

I love getting out and about and wear my blue coat with pride. I am growing quickly and have gone from an extra small coat to a small one. I hear lots of people saying how gorgeous I am, but I am learning to ignore them and concentrate on my very important job of becoming a Guide Dog.

And, I'm just as gorgeous without my coat, too! Some people think I have to wear it all the time but I don't. And some people think when I'm in it I'm not happy, but they obviously don't look at my tail wagging so much! I love it; all of it.

I am really looking forward to letting you all know how I am progressing in my journey to becoming a Guide Dog in future editions of *Puppy Love*. Until next time ... Bye!

*You can find more photos of the A team and all our pups on our Facebook page: 'Guide Dogs Tasmania-Puppy Love' and at our website: [guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au)*

**Date of Birth:**  
29 October 2014  
**Region:** South



▲ Singing in the rain.



▲ Model material. Seriously.



▲ There's a GDT manager lying on her back behind this fountain and out of shot, holding onto the lead!

## Hello!

I arrived with my sister Abby from Queensland just before Christmas and what a lovely present to add to my Puppy Raiser's Christmas tree (amongst the abundance of dog toys that were there already waiting for me – how lovely!).

I have doubled in size since I arrived, having outgrown my extra small coat that to begin with was dragging behind me.

I have tried to be a very good puppy for my raisers, leaving their shoes, remotes and mobile phones alone; however, I do love toes and with my sharp puppy teeth my human friends make a lovely squeaky noise when I find toes to play with.

I am learning lots of new things every day, and now ask to be taken outside to be toileted, which I do on my lead every time. This is so that when I am a big Guide Dog it will be much easier for my human friends to clean up after me and toilet me when in public places. I didn't know

that, and I bet you didn't either! It was a little daunting at first, having to relieve myself so close to people, but I am getting used to it and they give me a little pat as soon as I am finished. I like little pats a lot.

Sometimes I go to visit my mum's work. She works part time in a therapy centre, and I lie quietly in the corner with my coat on. I have learnt that 'coat on' means I must be a very good boy and 'coat off' means that I can play and have lots and lots of fun with everyone. I love children, so concentrating hard while mum works with them is a big learning curve for me, but if I wait patiently, at the end of the session my coat comes off and they all get to say hello. I guess everyone can get on with the job, including me, when the cosy coat is on.

Morning walks are my favourite thing, along with playtime with my puppy raising family at home, although one member of my new family is still not too certain about me – she runs away and hisses at me when I try to play chase. They call

her 'The Cat'. The bunny is much friendlier, and my family laugh when we play chase – that is, the bunny chases me around the garden!

I have visited so many exciting new places over summer, including a holiday resort, beaches, shopping centres and activities with the kids. I love the beach, where I get to run free through the sand. And when I hear a whistle, I come racing back to my puppy raiser, as then I get a treat for returning. This gig is heaps of fun and very important, so I think I'll stick with it.

See you next time!

*Did you know that we provide support, advice and training to all our volunteer puppy raisers every step of the way? It is a real team effort. To find out more about joining this team, including the selection criteria, visit [guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au) and go to the Volunteer section.*



▲ "First Mate Riley, reporting for duty!"



▲ "I may be getting big, but I still love my teddy."

**Date of Birth:**  
29 April 2014  
**Region:** North

## Hi!

Now that summer is well and truly here I am relishing every opportunity to get into water, whether it be jumping in and out of my clam shell on the lawn or leaping about in the waves at the beach. Everywhere I go people say "Oh my goodness, hasn't he grown!" I now weigh 28.4kg and have just turned nine months old.

I love everything every day - meeting dogs at the off-lead areas, walking along busy streets, doing my very best 'stay downs' when we are shopping, playing with my cat friends at home, going in the car and wondering where I'll be when I get out this time, sitting with lots of people at concerts, and playing with all my toys. I have a few names other than Riley; I get called Mr Happy Pants, Slobber Chops (apparently I'm the world's messiest drinker...), and Blackboard (because when I grumble in my sleep I sound like Blackboard off Mr Squiggle).

I've been out in the sailing boat quite a few times, and I've got a special bed on a towel under the foredeck where it's nice and cool. Once I was on the pontoon at the marina and a huge seal snorted behind me. I jumped and Vanessa let out a squawk too - we both got a big surprise!

The other day I was with some musicians at Bunnings and the 'Examiner' camera man took our photo and he wrote my name down in his notepad. The next day there we all were in the paper!

I LOVE being me!



▲ "I learnt this thing called 'Obedience'... with a different handler!"

**Date of Birth:**  
1 February 2014  
**Region:** South



▲ "Happy First Birthday to me! Hip hip, hooray!"

## Hi again everybody!

In between the last Puppy Love newsletter and this one, I turned into a big one year old! My puppy raisers gave me a special hat to wear on the day, and I posed for lots of photos.

I still love playing in the park with my friends and going to the shack with my puppy raisers. Even though I am a big boy now I still manage to find cosy spots to curl up into and sleep.

Over summer I have attended some fun training sessions with the other dogs in the Guide Dog Development Program, all outdoors! A recent one was called 'Obedience', and this involved lots of sitting, dropping down, staying, and waiting. I don't know why we had to do it so often, but once I'd done it with my puppy raiser she handed me over to someone else! I didn't know this person as well and they were asking me to obey all their commands. They seemed to know the rules though, so I had no choice but to obey! Maybe this is what obedience is?

Another training session was held at the Botanical Gardens on a really hot day! We found plenty of shade and walked around the gardens, while our puppy raisers watched what we were doing. Apparently this class was 'more than just a walk'. Well whatever it was, we all deserved a big drink of water at the end!

Until next time, Nelson.



▲ "GD Erin sleeps this way, so now I do too!"



▲ "GD Erin sits quietly, so now I do too!"

**Date of Birth:**  
28 Sept 2013

**Region:** South

## Hi there!

Since we last spoke my puppy raiser has taken me to all sorts of places. A couple of experiences stand out, firstly the special time called 'Christmas Day'. Woah! All this excitement of unwrapping the presents with coloured paper flying everywhere, and I even got comfortable with the banging and cheering of the Christmas bonbons.

One of the other things I have loved recently is the time I've spent around other dogs. I love playing, but get a bit too enthusiastic.

At White Beach there were dogs of all shapes and sizes! We spent a lot of time down there and so had lots of practise learning what's required.

Then it gets even better; Daisy the Blue heeler came to stay for a couple of weeks. She was a lot different to me, but we had a great time, hardly getting out of control at all, even though I really didn't understand the rounding up sheep thing.

Recently at my puppy raiser's work place I've got to hang out and get to know Erin. She's a proper Guide Dog and has been doing her job for years. She has been showing me how to behave just right. She may be my new hero!

The sun has finally come out again so I'm off on another adventure. See you soon!

Olly.



▲ "I can normally sleep anywhere, but my bed is tops!"



▲ "Sometimes, waiting for my walk is a real drag."

**Date of Birth:**  
25 July 2013

**Region:** South

## Hello!

My favourite thing at the moment is... the holidays! And of course, my nyla bone is just great also.

Over the past few months my puppy raisers have been 'overseas and on the mainland', wherever that is I am not sure. But it was great for me because I went to a Guide Dogs Tasmania boarder whilst they were away. My boarder is Arthur and he is really great. Arthur often looks after Guide Dog pups when their puppy raisers are away or unable to look after their pup, so he is used to puppy sitting. It was really nice to have a break with someone different, but my puppy raiser was happy that when she picked me up from the Guide Dog office I was not over excited to see her, I just wagged my tail and quietly went and sat next to her. She hopes this is a good sign that I am well-adjusted and happy to go to someone different. She hopes that one day I will have someone to guide around, and I know wherever I go Guide Dogs Tasmania will always keep a close eye on me.

I was taken out one Wednesday night after my dinner to the ABC, where I met a very nice man named John X. Kim, my Guide Dog Instructor, and Holly were also there, and John asked my puppy raiser and Kim lots of questions. I didn't mind because I got to lay under the table with Holly and have a little nap; they only woke us up to go out into another room and have some photographs taken with John. I don't think this is really hard work, as I can normally sleep anywhere. You can find photos of me at the ABC in the PR section...Dexter didn't mind one bit!



▲ "I was a very good boy when I visited the hospital; a very good boy indeed."



▲ "I just wanted to make sure they didn't forget me in the move."

**Date of Birth:**  
18 May 2013  
**Region:** North

**Hi!**

My favourite thing is helping mum and dad with the packing. My people are moving and are taking me with them!

Puppy raiser dad broke his ankle recently and I visited him several times in hospital. The hospital is very big and full of wonderful smells, people on crutches and beds that move. I had to sit quietly and not upset the patients, as some of them were very sick but they said they enjoyed my visit. Dad is now in a wheelchair and I have to keep checking where my tail, feet and head are – he tells me I have to look where he is going.

Christmas was so much fun. We went to visit Nan for Christmas lunch and I enjoyed spending time with the family. The day ended up with a barbeque and I was able to run and play with Frankie J and open my presents.

At the end of last year, we all went and watched the New Year's Eve fireworks at Royal Park. They were loud and bright but they didn't scare me – I thought they were pretty but I ended up going to sleep.

Recently, mum said it was time to replace my collar, so we went and visited my furry friend Harry and his mum who makes me my very own special collars and leads – it is important for a puppy to look his best. Harry and I played and played and played until we both fell asleep. Life's pretty good and it's about to get a whole lot more exciting!



▲ "Did I mention that I love human companionship, and the 'grandson'?"



▲ "Did I mention that I love all kinds of outings?"

**Date of Birth:**  
18 May 2013  
**Region:** North

**Hello to you!**

Holidays have passed with many family get-togethers and the very special time reacquainting with the grandson from New South Wales who I met last April. Definitely my favourite thing since the last Puppy Love report.

My brother and I are now at the end of the Puppy Love 'pupdates', so we should be joining the training team in the south very soon. I have hopefully fulfilled the puppy level of learning and will move on to the real Guide Dog training. I'm pretty confident the basics are well learnt now, so that I can achieve the more difficult tasks required for guiding. I enjoy life, human companionship, and the tasks asked of me. There's just something in me to want to help someone with vision impairment.

I also enjoy the city with the hustle and bustle, people, all kinds of outings, noises, quiet time at home and many other things that are just part of what I have experienced so far. But now, so much more needs to be learnt to be a successful Guide Dog. I think this is a very exciting time and I really want to succeed.

Wish me that success, and maybe we'll see each other around and about one day, when I'm a Guide Dog. We'll all be proud, don't you think?



▲ While Paddy certainly looked the part, he wasn't really interested in playing the part of a Guide Dog...just in playing, so we said ok.



▲ Holly in her harness. It's getting close now!



▲ Puppy raiser, Dee, with "Pep" the day Pepper came back to us for training. Thanks Dee, and Pepper, you're doing just fine!



▲ Nina is a dear girl who will be well-looked after and very much loved.

## Training dogs

Holly is well and truly on her way to her graduation day. She confidently pushes her head through her harness, and wags her tail throughout the entire training walks.

She is taking over a lot more responsibility each walk, with her trainer closing her eyes at times, working up to the days when her trainer will wear a full blindfold for the duration of walks. We need to be 100% confident in our dogs before we graduate them and pass them over to vision impaired Tasmanians for their important role. Holly is super proud of her harness and attracts a lot of smiles as she walks along wagging her tail from side to side.

Although Paddy showed some promise in some areas of the training program, he lacked the eagerness to please and follow commands on training walks at times. This caused inconsistency in his progress through training and would result in an inconsistent Guide Dog in the future. He was much happier to do things the way he wished, rather than follow commands of his trainer.

Guide Dogs offer independence and ease of mobility to our clients, and we need to have dogs graduate that are responsive, and willing to go out to work, to make it an enjoyable experience for clients and dogs. Because of his eagerness to do his own

thing rather than what was needed, Paddy was withdrawn and can now relax his days away with his adoption family. He is most certainly doing that already!

Nina unfortunately continued to present with health scares related to neurological seizures, and has therefore been removed from the program. We aim for all our dogs to go through the program and working life in good health, and her seizures posed too much of a concern for her future, and the safety of both herself and her possible future handler.

It is sad and frustrating, but you would understand the risk of continuing a puppy with health concerns through the program. We wish Nina all the best in her new 'pet' role, and we are happy to report that her quality of life is not affected by the seizures and all is going well so far.

Pepper has joined the training group in the past week and is currently undergoing her assessment and is settling in to the new routines. Not a bad life really; new toys and a big comfy office bed, walks during the day, free-run at the beach every other day, and relaxation all night in a comfy home after a day of study.

With Holly nearing graduation, it will not be long before the Y boys come in to training, and we look forward to having them join us.

## Are you interested in becoming a Puppy Raiser? .....Do you know someone who might like to apply?

If you're interested in making a difference, and volunteering in a highly respected, supported role with Guide Dogs Tasmania, why not come along to one of our free, no-obligation, information sessions. We even address this: "I couldn't possibly give it back!"

Launceston:

- Friday 28 August, 12 noon

Hoart:

- Tuesday 26 May 4pm
- Tuesday 11 August 4pm
- Tuesday 3 November 4pm

RSVP and venue details: Call 1800 484 333 during office hours.

More information about Puppy Raising can also be found at [guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/](http://guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/)

## Thank you

- Aniko Taylor for puppy raising Yoda.
- Linda Pridham and Peter Green for puppy raising Yuri.
- Annie Watt for puppy raising Ringo.
- All our volunteer boarding families that provide holiday homes for our pups when needed.

## A little space for Ringo...

Such a young pup; so full of life and eager to please. He was showing great progress on the Puppy Development Program. He is and will be sadly missed. RIP handsome boy.



# PUPPY LOVE

Together, anything is possible.

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.

Fill in the details below and post to:

PO Box 82, North Hobart, Tasmania, 7002

OR

Phone 1800 484 333 to request a DDR form

OR

Download the DDR form at [guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/puppy-loveoverview/](http://guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/puppy-loveoverview/)

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other .....

Name:.....

Address:.....

State: ..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: (.....) .....

Email:.....

NOTE: We would like to send you the quarterly newsletter via email, as a PDF file. Please tick here ( ) if you would like to receive hard copies, via post, instead.

Please accept my monthly membership payment of ( ) \$15 ( ) \$20 Other (\$.....)

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▲ "My name is Dexter and you will LOVE me!"



▲ "My name is Dexter and Sandy Bay Rotary Club met me in February."



▲ "My name is Dexter and this is part of my job...or, at least, I've made it part of my job."

## The Dex Files

What a busy boy our Ambassador Dog, Dexter, has been so far this year! After having a couple of weeks off with boarders over the Christmas period, Dexter was more than happy to get back into working life when staff returned to the office in early January.

While the first week back was a little slow, things soon picked up and Dexter has been out at least a few days (and some nights) every week; visiting child care centres, holiday programs, schools, community groups and meeting the public at various PR events around the state, where there is much tummy rubbing involved.

Dexter really does fit right into the role of Ambassador Dog, as although he has to behave just as well as a learner

or working Guide Dog when in coat, the public get to see that a Guide Dog is just like any other dog when he isn't wearing it, and Dexter is more than happy to show them how (think legs in air and huge grin on face).

Dexter is looking forward to visiting more schools, workplaces, community groups and shopping centres over the next few months to help raise the profile of Guide Dogs Tasmania, teach people about the wonderful work that we do, and bring in some much needed funds to continue training our amazing Guide Dogs.

And, yes, he'll be the star of the show at Agfest again this year.

If you'd like to receive a visit from Dexter, please call 1800 484 333 or email [zoe@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:zoe@guidedogstas.com.au). He's ready for you!

## International Guide Dog Day - 2015

29 April marks International Guide Dog Day in 2015. This year we'll be focusing on the legislation that allows public access to working Guide Dogs and Guide Dog Pups.

Results from a recent survey conducted for Guide Dogs Australia, which included Tasmanian Guide Dog handlers, show that there are still incidents of misunderstanding or ignorance relating to this legislation, and these can result in acts of discrimination. We'll be using those survey results, and meeting some people and businesses who get it right, to remind the public that Guide Dogs can go anywhere.

Visit the Guide Dogs Tasmania website in the lead up to the Day.

## Guide Dogs Pet Insurance: HelpsYou. HelpsUs.

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](http://www.guidedogspetinsurance.com)  
or call 1300 131 636

## Woollies and Guide Dogs have it in the bag!

Tasmania is now a plastic-bag-free-state and we all need to remember to take our shopping bags into the stores with us these days.

Most reusable bags are very practical, but they don't often look fantastic...until now.

Woolworths and Guide Dogs Australia have partnered up to sell beautiful Guide Dogs shopping bags, available in every Woollies store across the state - with all proceeds coming to Guide Dogs Tasmania! (There are some in Victoria and the ACT too, with proceeds going to those GD organisations.)

We've received great feedback from stores and customers about these bags and it's fantastic to see our brand dotted around the place already - carrying library books, beach towels, gym gear and of course, groceries.

Pick up your bag from your local Woollies and support the work we do with blind and vision impaired Tasmanians. And if that's not a good enough reason to get a bag (or five), how about these: they are functional, they carry a lot, they would make excellent gifts and they would accessorise nicely with everything from winter blacks to summer whites.

When the bags have sold out at Woollies we'll have some - not many - available for sale at Agfest and our offices soon.



## ABC welcomes Holly and Taylor

GD in Training Holly, GD Pup Taylor, Puppy Raiser Monica and Guide Dog Instructor Kim were all interviewed by John X of ABC radio earlier in February.

We are pleased to report that all canines and humans behaved and had fun!

Visit the Puppy Raising section of our Volunteer page here: [guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/](http://guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/) to listen to the terrific interview, and to find out why this type of volunteering is as rewarding as it is important.

As always, Monica spoke honestly about the experience, giving listeners an excellent understanding of what it means to 'Puppy Raise'.

Thanks ABC for the opportunity!

Dexter was advised, by the way, and he was pleased for a couple of the other dogs to learn the ropes of Public Relations on this occasion.

▲ Below: Taylor in coat, John X of the ABC, and Holly in harness following their recent interview on ABC radio. Good job!



## IT'S AGFEST TIME AGAIN

If you love walking around in the mud, staying out of the rain, and avoiding the wind then Agfest is for you and it's certainly for us!

Seriously, Agfest is a great opportunity for Guide Dogs Tasmania to talk to a lot of people about what we do and how they can support us do it, so we are back again this year at Site 412, next door to the Central Arena on Fourth Avenue.

We'll have a range of things to see, read, drop coins into, purchase and pat... and a few staff members to talk to as well!

See you in the paddock:  
9-11 May  
Quercus Park, 415 Oaks Road, Carrick

▲ Below: Wuppy and puppy both featured at Agfest in 2014.



## Short term pain; long term gain.

Hobart residents may have noticed that refurbishments to our head office in Elizabeth Street are in full swing.

If you plan on visiting the office in the near future, please do not be put off by the work that you may see going on.

While our main front door is no longer in use, another door just up from this can be used to access the building, with signs leading to the temporary reception area. We apologise that the building does not look as inviting at the moment, but we are all very excited to see the end result and think it will be something worth waiting for!

We have been in this building for many years and despite its size, the floorplan is impractical and inefficient – not only for the work we do currently, but it inhibits the kinds of activities and support we want and need to provide our clients

in the future. Upon completion of these refurbishments, our services will be able to grow and we think that is certainly worth the short-term inconvenience.

Many of you would have also noticed the sign on the front of the building that mentions a ‘puppy viewing area’ that will be part of the refurbishments, allowing the public to view any pups that may be visiting the office throughout the year. Just another reason why we must all remain patient!

We’d like to take this opportunity to reassure all of our supporters that 100% of donations continue to go to providing services now; these refurbishments are being funded through Guide Dogs Tasmania’s investments and we are fortunate to have gained support from the building company, Fairbrother.



▲ Above: While it doesn't look terribly inviting now, the entrance to the office will soon be accessible and will lead to a space that will benefit pups, clients, public and staff.

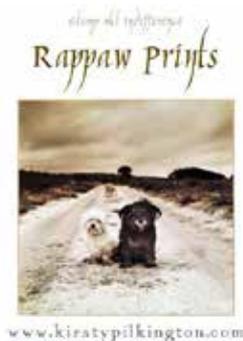
## PUPPY LOVE

Proudly Supported By

**Would you like your business or organisation to be 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. For more information on how these organisations help us, visit [guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au)



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