

SPRING 2015

PUPPY LOVE

Guide
Dogs
TASMANIA



Spring has Sprung
Comin' atcha!

Let's embark

What better way to kick off the Spring edition of Puppy Love, than to showcase some of our pups and dogs during one of their recent training get-togethers at Montrose? It's pretty amazing what our friend Kirsty Pilkington can do with her camera, some canines and a few crazy volunteers to hold, call, wrangle, chase and bribe them for the 'winning shot'! With new pups on their way to Tassie in a few weeks, these guys know the little ones will soon get all the attention, so they took advantage of this opportunity completely. Remarkably, not a single pup or person got wet in the process, but BOY were we all on high alert. To find out about all the pups in the program, read on - and for even more information and images you could:

- Like our Facebook page – 'Guide Dogs Tasmania – Puppy Love' for up to the hour adventures of the pups, interesting links to stories and videos, information about upcoming events and even the occasional frivolity and silliness.
- Sign up for eNews – go to guidedogstas.com.au and subscribe to our eNewsletter. These feature more information, images and stories about our services and how we are working with Tasmanians who need our support.
- Visit our website regularly and take a tour of the Puppy Love pages for past editions of the newsletter, even more images and information.

And, if you really love the labs, do it all.

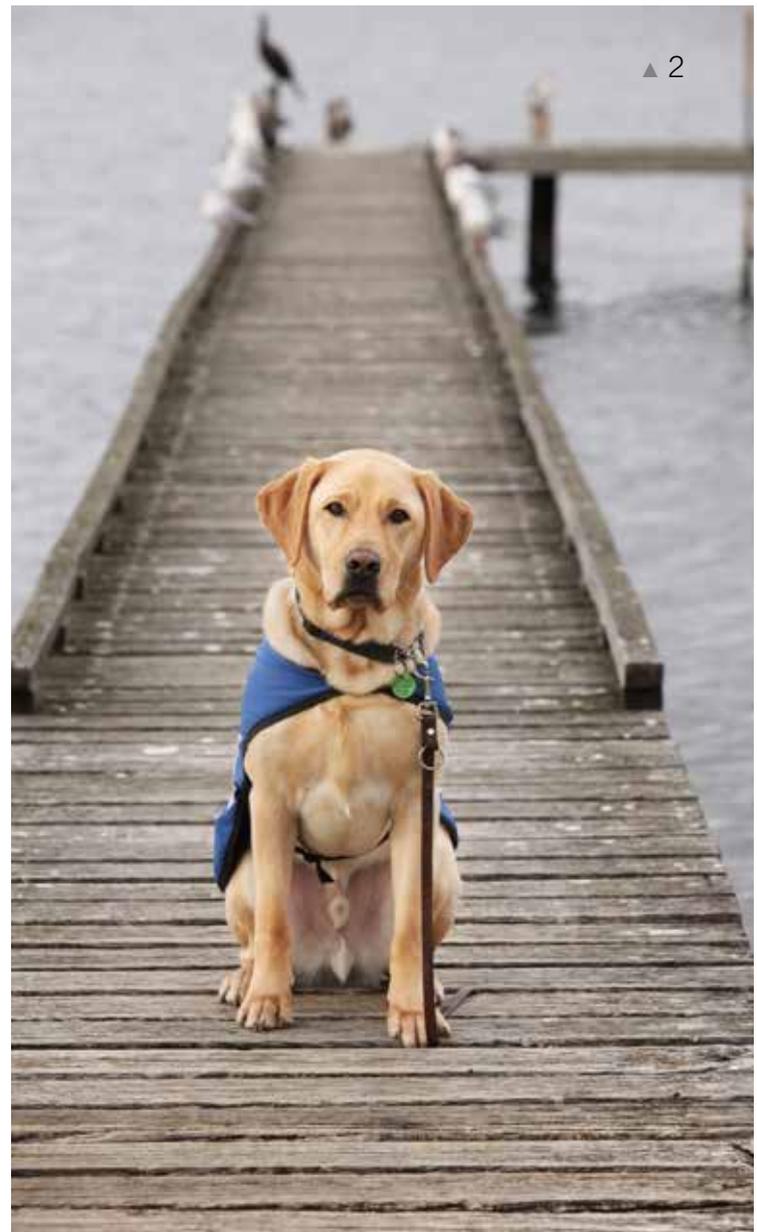
Thank you for your continued support. We couldn't train these beautiful pups into amazing Guide Dogs without you.

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

▲ 1



▲ 2





▲ 3



▲ 4



▲ 5

▲ 1. Young Jerry and his Puppy Raiser, Alison, enjoying a quiet moment together. 2. Taylor: simply stunning. 3. Jerry: eager to please and follows Kirsty's instructions perfectly. 4. Nelson: he's BIG and he really, really wants to get in that water! 5. Goldilocks couldn't make it to the photo shoot. Nelson, Abby and Jerry doing their best to show that Learner coats come in a variety of sizes. COVER: Taylor (and if you look closely) Archie and Abby demonstrating outstanding recall and a fair amount of competitive spirit as well.



▲ 1 & 2. So, we had this GREAT idea for a cover page photo: A cheesy-grin-ball being held in perfect position by a black pup looking directly at the camera. One hour and five pups later you'll notice the cover features a golden pup with no cheesy-grin-ball and we hope these attempts with Abby and Yoda show that we came close, but not close enough. Tough day at the office.

3. Abby beside the River Derwent. One take, twenty seconds: beautiful. Great day at the office.



▲ On one of my outings, I visited a local pond and did not go in.



▲ Polished steps with gaps? No problem for me!

Date of Birth:
9 Feb 2015
Region: North

HELLO!

My favourite things are Frankie J (my Golden Retriever) and my bed – although I don't spend as much time in it as I should.

My mornings start early 'cause my people are early risers. Frankie J goes for his morning walk and I help mum at home until he returns and I can have breakfast. After breakfast I go to work with either mum or dad and learn how to behave in their offices. I often go for a walk around town and I am learning how to ignore dogs and other animals while I have my coat on. My afternoons are normally spent running at the park and then helping mum around our house or visiting friends.

I have been to the museum and Mummy took me through the perception tunnel and I had to lead her out as she was not feeling too well. Poor Mummy! I also like travelling on buses; they are just like Mum's car but with many more people in them.

There are so many commands that I must learn to be a good Guide Dog. I practice them each day and can now do sit, down, up, come, stay and "busy busy" when told. I know "no" and "leave it" really well now.

Dad took me to the Examiner last month to have my photo taken to celebrate Guide Dogs being declared the most trusted charity brand for the third year in a row. They took lots of photos before they got the one they wanted. I got a little tired towards the end but my photo was in the paper the next day! See you soon.



▲ Two of my favourite things at once: best buddy Pedro and snuggling.



▲ Metal steps with gaps? No problem for me! Us J boys sure are clever.

Date of Birth:
9 Feb 2015
Region: South

Hi folks!

I've been a busy boy since the last Puppy Love. I have lost my sharp puppy teeth, grown LOTS, and now weigh 20 kilograms and wear a blue coat that's two sizes bigger! I am much taller too, with BIG paws, but I still have a puppy face, so much so that if I didn't know my name was Jerry, I'd think it was "Cute", as that's what everyone calls me!

I've been shopping quite a bit lately and often ride the escalators and travelators. I went into a hospital the other day; I was so well behaved that the nurses and patients asked me to "come back anytime". I'm learning new commands and practising old ones; I'm pretty good at most of them but 'stay' is still a bit tricky when you have as much energy as me. I've also learnt to walk up and down all sorts of stairs. Open stairs, where you can see right through the treads, were a bit scary at first but I'm OK with them now. I am also pretty good at waiting on my bed before teatime; I love my food but I don't start eating until the 'release' whistle blows!

Occasionally I have a 'mad minute' where I simply MUST run fast, or jump on a sleeping Pedro (my raisers' pet Labrador), or steal a shoe and stand in the doorway with it in my mouth, looking cheeky. I love to play; my favourite game is tug of war with Pedro or chewing on my toy bone. Life as a Guide Dog certainly isn't all work and, when play and work are all done, I snore next to Pedro. What a great life! Bye 'til next time.



▲ I LOVE my favourite frog toy. It's MINE!



▲ Penna Beach, even in winter, was great!

Date of Birth:
29 Oct 2014

Region: South

Hi there!

I know lots of people complain about the cold weather in Tasmania, but I absolutely loved winter in Hobart! My puppy raisers took me up the mountain in my puppy coat when the first snow fell, and I could barely contain my excitement! It was incredible and I did not even feel the cold at all, especially since I had a lovely blanket wrapped around me on the way down. I think I was too excited to even feel anything! I will miss the snow but look forward to winter again next year!

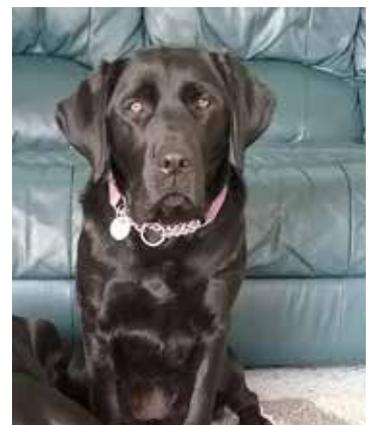
In other exciting news, I have moved out of the crate and I am now sleeping in my big boy bed with my favourite frog toy. When I visit my Puppy Raiser's work, I am still a novelty and so many people love me there. I have a special place to sleep under the desk, with a window view of the street – one cannot ask for much more.

Play time in the dog park or at the beach every day is a definite highlight and again, social as I am, I have made so many wonderful friends.

As you can see, being a learner Guide Dog is certainly not all hard work! I look forward to telling you about more of my adventures in the next Puppy Love!



▲ After my surgery I got out and about again - this time to the paint shop.



▲ Why wouldn't this face make everyone happy?

Date of Birth:
29 Oct 2014

Region: South

Hi again everyone!

My favourite thing on these cold days is finding a nice sunbeam to sleep in. I just love to sleep in the sun, and I especially love it when Nina (and sometimes mum) snuggles up with me.

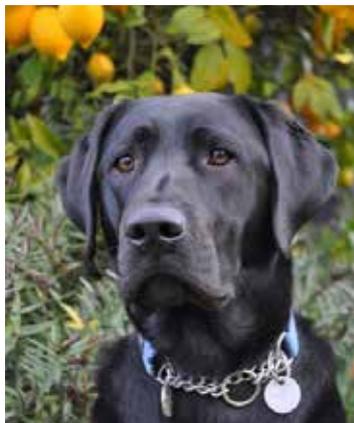
I have had a very "hospitably" time over the last three months. First of all I had to have a minor (I thought it was major!!) surgery. But don't worry, I am all recovered and have had my stitches out and I am now as good as new. Then on the same day I had my surgery my puppy raiser's son had ankle surgery, so I have been learning to stay well away from his ankle. He also has had his stitches out, but he is not quite as good as new yet. Then my puppy raiser's mum got very sick and had to go to hospital; she is still in there so I have been going into the hospital nearly every day, where I have been a very good girl. The nurses all love me and tell mum and dad what a very well behaved and good dog I am. They say I am so good, you wouldn't even know I was there. I get lots of smiles from the patients, doctors and nurses. I hope I help brighten people's day!

As you can see from my photo I went paint shopping. Well, I waited patiently while Mum and Dad picked colours! I wonder if they will let me help paint?

Bye until next time!



▲ When Mum got the mud off me, her car, and herself, she said I was “bonkers”.



▲ When life gives you lemons, just take a look at me and you'll be happy.

Date of Birth:
29 April 2014
Region: North

Hello everyone!

This is Riley, the happy dog from the North!

I have been very busy with my Puppy Raisers since the last newsletter, going everywhere with them because they say I am an absolute joy to have along. I have been to a music concert, lots of visits to the gym, the beach, the physio, the dentist, into lots of shops, cafes and restaurants, up and down escalators and in lifts. I had a trip to Hobart with Zoe from Guide Dogs and before we left I had to fill in for Ambassador Dexter at a school. This was an important job for me and I think I did all the right things. I stayed in Hobart for a week and was a good boy for my boarders. I got to sit up the front of a big bus for the trip home and that was interesting, especially the noise the door makes when it opens and shuts.

I'm learning to keep my excitement for the off lead dog parks, and when I see lots of dogs there I just don't know who to greet first, so I run around “bonkers” my Mum says.

It's been very cold lately so I have let Pedro the cat sleep with me if he wants to. My Raisers put a warm rug over me and always wish me a good sleep and nice dreams, and of course I get a big cuddle. I'm a very lucky boy that's for sure.

That's all for now, sending everyone lots of tail wags, from Riley.

For more on Riley's adventures, visit:
guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/2015-2/



▲ ...and when I give you the rope, like this, you pull on it, and then I wrestle it from you. See?



▲ I found this guy, and he said his name was Stay, and he was helping me become a Guide Dog! Cool!

Date of Birth:
1 Feb 2014
Region: South

Hi again!

Apparently I have been working really well lately- well, that's what Mum tells everyone. I must say I do enjoy going out now and getting lots of praise for doing everything right.

Remember I lost my favourite toy, a nyla bone? Well after a trip to the wonderful smelly pet shop, I now have a brand new one (am still chewing madly to get it just right).

I love going to off lead dog parks, but on the cold wet days often there is no one else to play with and I do enjoy a good wrestle.

Recently I got to catch up with all of the southern learner Guide Dogs for a big photoshoot – the results of which you can see on the cover and first few pages of this edition of Puppy Love! It was a fun day – I don't think I've had this much fuss made over me since I first arrived as a young pup. Apart from a camera, which I am very used to seeing in front of me now, there was also a big shiny reflector thing, which I'm told would help to make me look better in the photos. Maybe it was more for the other pups as I think I am handsome enough as it is!

TTFN! (Ta ta from Nelson)



▲ Not many dogs can say they get to go to work with their people!



▲ Not many other dogs can say they get to go on adventurous bus rides, either

Date of Birth:
28 Sept 2013
Region: South

Hello!

I'm not sure I like the cold Tassie winters much! My Puppy Raiser takes me out and about, even when the cold wind is blowing off the snow on the hills. I really would like to stay curled up on my bed at home with my best buddy (the cat), and when I'm at my Puppy Raiser's workplace, I love it when they put my blanket right over the top of me.

Because my Puppy Raiser tells me I've got higher duties to perform and things to learn, we are on a mission and we do all sorts of exciting things together. Just this week I've been shopping, caught a couple of buses, and been on some great walks around town.

Even though I really do enjoy being out and about in my blue learner coat – particularly because I seem to make people smile wherever I go – I do enjoy getting home and settling down in my bed for the evening. I guess that's the great thing about learning to be a Guide Dog; there is great variety during my day – some sleeping, some eating, some playing and some learning! What more could a dog want?

See you around soon!



▲ Birthday bones are the BEST!



▲ I'll take the largest one you've got, thank you. :)

Date of Birth:
25 July 2013
Region: South

Hi all!

Want to know what my favourite thing is? My blue learner coat, because when it goes on, I know I am going out on another adventure!

Since the last edition of PL I've had a birthday! I am now 2 years old and my Puppy Raiser has said that I must now be really well behaved because I am not a puppy anymore; I am all grown up. The good news is for my birthday I had lots of fun! It started the day before my birthday, when we went out and did our shopping like normal. But afterwards, we called in to the butcher shop, and I know I sometimes get a treat when we go to the butchers. So I waited patiently and watched intently. I was not disappointed! After a few seconds a large marrow bone was produced, and I know that when we get these I get the bone. I was a little excited but tried to remain calm and carry on working. When we got home, I was disappointed when the bone disappeared into the refrigerator! I nearly always have the bone the same day it arrives. I went to my bed and slept. I was sad.

The next day my Puppy Raiser gave me a big pat and said "happy birthday" (that didn't mean much to me, but I enjoyed the pats). The big marrow bone I had seen from the day before was brought outside for me, and it was so great! My Puppy Raiser said it is good for my teeth - I don't know about that but it sure tasted good...

To find out what else Taylor got up to on his birthday, head to...
guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/2015-2/

Most Trusted Charity... Again

For the third year running, Guide Dogs has been voted Australia's Most Trusted Charity in the Annual Australian Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand poll. Thank you, for trusting in what we do and for helping us to do it when we ask for your support.

Read our media release and more information about this award on our website:

guidedogstas.com.au/guide-dogs-do-it-again

We are the only organisation training Guide Dogs in Tasmania, but we also provide so much more than dogs. We are encouraged and driven by the support we receive from the community and look forward to that support continuing in the future.

In true Guide Dogs Tas style, we're pretty proud of this award, but we're also pretty busy doing what we do, so we're just going to get on with it. Our educated guess is that you'd prefer that to a song and dance.



▲ Have you seen our latest Facebook banner and email signature? Ambassador Dexter features, along with the three 'Most Trusted' awards for 2013, 2014 and 2015. Nice work, Dex.

PUPPY LOVE

Together, anything is possible.

From as little as \$15.00 per month, your Puppy Love Membership can help Guide Dogs Tasmania train Guide Dog heroes. Receive regular pupdates and invitations to special events, and know 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 Direct Debit Request (DDR) form

OR

Download the DDR form at guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/puppy-loveoverview/

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

Name:.....

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State: Postcode:

Telephone: (.....)

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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 (\$.....)

I would like to pay my monthly membership by () VISA () MasterCard

Card No: / / /

Expiry Date: /

Signature:

Please tick this box if you would like to receive information on leaving a gift to Guide Dogs Tasmania in your Will.



▲ The current crop of training dogs got involved in the Kirsty Pilkington photo shoot, too. Yuri, Yoda and Pepper fell into line immediately.

Training Dogs

Yoda, Yuri and Pepper are now into their formal harness training and learning the commands needed to safely guide a Vision Impaired person.

Yoda is quick to pick up commands; after being shown something once he's so eager to please that he remembers the task and completes it again during the next walk.

Yuri has his little quirks that make training him fun. Off duty, he is full of beans and is a cheeky sole, so he provides a lot of laughter and smiles throughout the week. Although at times this cheeky side can get him into a little bit of trouble, like the time when his trainer pulled her chair out to sit on, he thought she was getting it ready for him so he quickly jumped up and lay down on it before she had a chance.

Pepper is a sweet dog in training, although she can come across as a little anxious at times with new routes or unfamiliar situations. She is starting to gain more and more confidence as the weeks go by, and hanging out with the 'Y' boys will hopefully also show her there is nothing to be concerned about. We closely monitor the temperament of all our dogs to make sure that they do not get too worried on their walk, and with time she will hopefully increase in confidence and guide out strongly.

Office time is becoming a game of first in best dressed with the training dogs, with them all deciding that the best bed to sleep on is the one that receives the sunbeams that come in through the window. You can often find all three dogs squished up together on the one raised dog bed, which is starting to buckle under all the attention it is receiving. But it is super cute to see them all snuggled together.

Thank you

Guide Dog Chester – who retired recently after providing 8 years of service to his handler in Hobart. Chester was a wonderful Guide Dog, and provided an initially unsure and hesitant handler with great independence and motivation to get out and about into the community.

According to his handler, Chester was “the best thing that has ever happened to me, it turned my life around”.*

Chester will remain with his handler as a much loved pet following his retirement.

Remember us?

Guide Dog Holly (2015 Graduate) and her new handler have recently graduated as a team and are now completing independent walks around Hobart.

She is a little too clever at times, often trying to take her client on short cuts to find the quickest way to her destination, but with a little reminder she is happy to go the correct way and walks along with a high wagging relaxed tail showing everyone how proud she is to be out and about doing her job.

We recently checked in on **Guide Dog Iris** (2014 Graduate) to see how she and her client are getting on in the north.

Guide Dog Iris certainly has settled in well and is enjoying the work and relaxation of her new routine. She looooooves her bed as it is in the sunniest spot of the house, but also loves to see the harness come out which means they are off on another adventure.

Her client reports that they have increased the number of routes that they go on, and she is out doing something every day now; a huge turn around from feeling housebound prior to receiving a Guide Dog.

Iris has given her the confidence to get out independently and attend events at her children's school, take longer walks, and complete weekly tasks on her own.*

(*This couldn't happen without our Puppy Love members, who enable us to train these wonderful pups into amazing Guide Dogs. Thank you. KG)



▲ 1



▲ 2



▲ 3

▲ 1. Guide Dog Holly and her handler, stepping out and about together in Hobart. 2. Guide Dog Iris taking time out for a snooze on her best bed. 3. Recall after a free run session... the training pays off, even with a ratio of 1:6!

Training tips

Over the next few editions of Puppy Love, we'll pass on some of the tips that our Instructor gives to Puppy Raisers. These are tips, not guarantees, and our fine print says that there are SO MANY variables in Guide Dog training, but we thought you might appreciate a little bit of 'inside info'.

Recall and Free-running

Working Guide Dogs need to be given the opportunity to enjoy the freedom and exercise of a free-run. As you can imagine, if you can't see where your dog is going, you are going to want to know it will come straight back to you when you call. The stronger your pup's recall now, the more likely it is to be given free-running opportunities once it is working. The whistle feeding we conduct with our pups creates an association of the whistle with food. Luckily Labradors tend to love their food and this is generally enough incentive for them to come back!

The basis of recall training is the formation of two principles in the pup's mind:

- That coming back to the handler and making contact with them is a pleasant experience;
- That the sound of the whistle signals the presentation of food.

The pup will enjoy coming back to you if you shower it with praise, both verbal and physical, when it makes contact with you. It's really important that

the dog actually comes right up and touches you, since a vision impaired handler needs this contact to know the dog is there.

The pup will soon begin to realise that when the whistle is blown, food is given. Give several short blasts on the whistle, call the dog's name and use encouraging body posture to bring the dog back to you (crouch down if necessary – but be careful a boisterous pup doesn't knock you over). Food should be presented immediately after the dog makes contact with you at first. For older pups get them to wait for you to attach the lead and then give the food.

Beginning training

The first few sessions or so should take place in your own fully fenced yard. The pup can be called between two family members using the whistle and a food reward each time. The pup's name should also be used to help them learn their name at an early age. Once the pup begins to realise it's nice to come back because they will be praised and rewarded, you can start to venture out into other environments.

At first you may feel safest in an enclosed park. Choose a time of day when it will be quiet. The less distractions (i.e other dogs, kids, food, birds, etc) the better.

The pup should be made to sit and wait at the beginning of a free-run. A piece of food can be given (say as a reward for sitting), so the pup knows you have

food and thus will be more inclined to want to come back to you.

Once the pup has been let go, you should move around the area too. If you stand in one position the pup will run away and come back to find you still there over and over. The pup will then feel secure that you are going to be there waiting for him, so he will be likely to venture further away.

A good method to retain your dog's attention is to keep changing the direction you are walking in. If your dog shoots off in one direction, rather than chasing along behind, walk in the opposite direction and call the dog's name so it realises you are off somewhere else. Do not give your first recall whistle until the pup has had a chance to explore the area. You want to set the pup up for success, so wait until it has had a good sniff and run around, and then whistle and call.

Anticipating the end of a free-run

If you only ever call your pup back at the end of the run when you want to take him home, he is going to associate the whistle and coming back with the end of his fun.

Rather, you should try to call the pup back many times in each recall session. Attach the lead each time, and then let the pup go free again.

Good luck!

Two BIGGIES!

ONE: Guide Dogs Tasmania is proud to announce the release of our first locally produced television commercials in over ten years, starring recently graduated Guide Dog Holly.

Two 30-second advertisements have been produced and both ads champion Holly. One ad is focused around the working day of Holly and sees her in action in places that will be familiar to viewers in Hobart, as she safely guides her handler. The second ad gives an insight into the variety of services that Guide Dogs Tasmania provides every day.

We are really proud to show people what we do at Guide Dogs Tasmania - how we develop skills, optimise choices and create possibilities for our clients. There are so many services we provide, aside from training Guide Dogs, that people just don't know about. In letting people know, we hope to be able to extend and expand our services to support more Tasmanians.

We are really pleased to have been supported by local businesses Solid Orange and B. in the development and

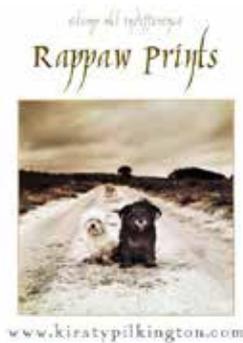
production of the advertisements. And it was great to be able to give Holly her shot at fame before she went off to work with her new handler.



▲ The 'hero' shot from one of our new advertisements. Nice work, GD Holly!

TWO: When you read this, Guide Dogs Tasmania will be back in our refurbished office space at 164 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. And, our new Viewing Room at the front of the building will be in use. Yay! We defy anyone walking past not to smile as we'll have dogs and pups there most days. We'll also be able to hold special VIP sessions in our new training room at the back of the building, so keep an eye out for exclusive PL member invitations to these once we've settled in.

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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