

Pupdates



Your ongoing support helps every amazing pup at Guide Dogs Tasmania reach its full potential. Whether they're training or learning the basics with their Puppy Raisers – our pups can't become the heroes they were born to be without you! Check out what some of them have been up to over the past few months. As you can see, it's certainly not all hard work!

Guide
Dogs
TAS



Paw Prints

Thank you
for making
a difference!

Harvey brings Emily happiness, safety and friendship

“He's just brought so much love and happiness and increased Emily's confidence”

— mum, Wendy

When we first introduced you to Emily Pettit in our August 2019 edition of Paw Prints, she and Guide Dog Harvey were still getting to know and trust each other.

But even in those early days, Harvey was already changing Emily's life. Two years later, their relationship has deepened and so has Harvey's impact.

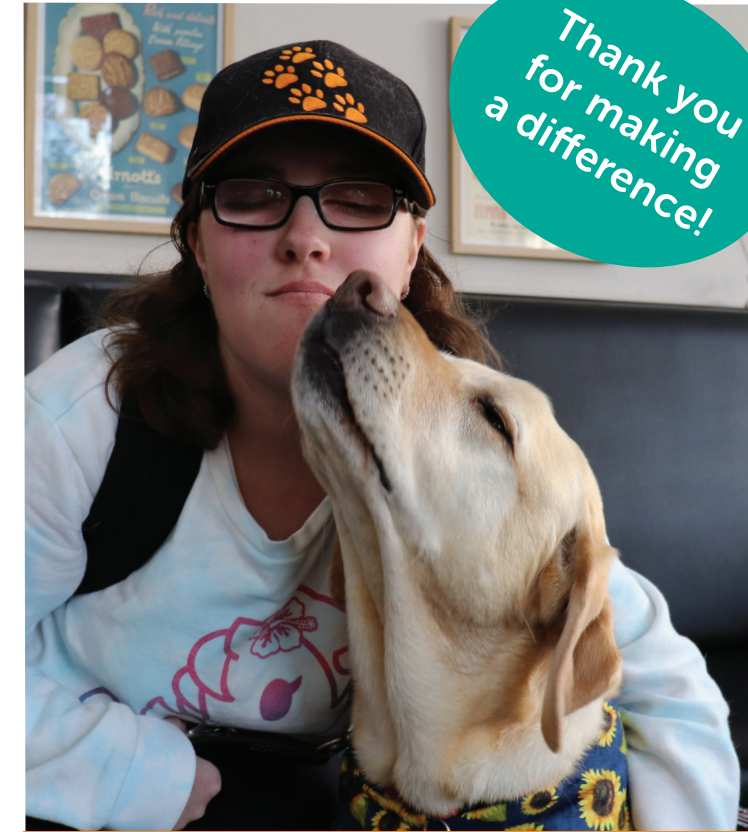
“Having Harvey is very freeing,” the 22-year-old from Margate says, adding that she “wasn't a huge fan” of using a white cane before she was given the big golden Labrador. “Harvey goes around obstacles. With a cane, you just run into them and then the cane hits you in the ribs.”

But Harvey has also kept Emily safe from much more serious harm than the odd bump or bruise. Twice in the same week recently, he stopped Emily at the kerb when she was intending to cross a road. Both times, he saved her from being hit by cars she hadn't realised were nearby.

Remarkably, Harvey also understands Emily when she asks him to take her to certain familiar shops.

“I trust Harvey more than I trust any person to guide me – except maybe Mum,” Emily says.

“He's my best friend. I don't know how I would have got through the COVID [isolation period] without him as a support.”



Emily and Guide Dog Harvey

And now, thanks to Harvey, Emily is more confident about meeting and talking to people. She recently helped out at our Test Drive a Guide Dog Camp for young people with vision impairment, which she described as ‘a lot of fun’. It's something she wouldn't have contemplated before Harvey came along.

Her mum Wendy has also generously joined our team of volunteers. As a puppy boarder, she is now caring for puppies in her home when needed. For Wendy, it's a way to help other amazing puppies reach their potential to change lives, the way Harvey has changed Emily's.

“He's just brought so much love and happiness and increased Emily's confidence in getting out and about,” she says. “He's really changed her perspective on life.”

Your continued support is helping more Tasmanians like Emily find confidence, safety and companionship with a remarkable Guide Dog by their side. Thank you!

The newsletter for people helping pups become heroes

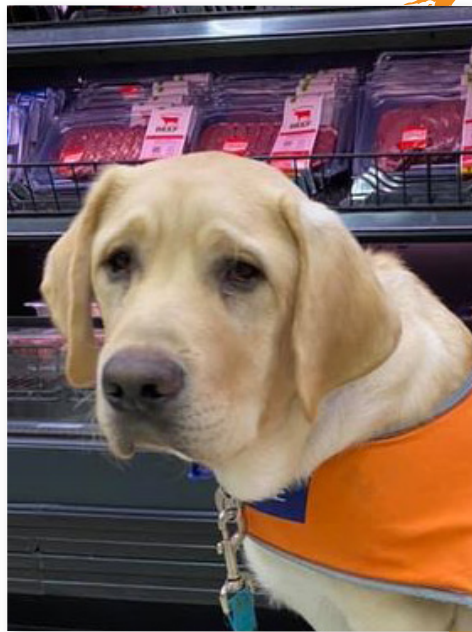
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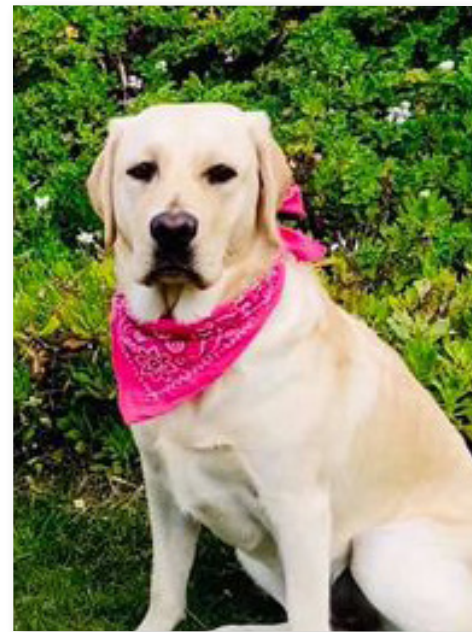
Girls just wanna have fun! Sisters Betty and Bonnie enjoyed catching up recently.



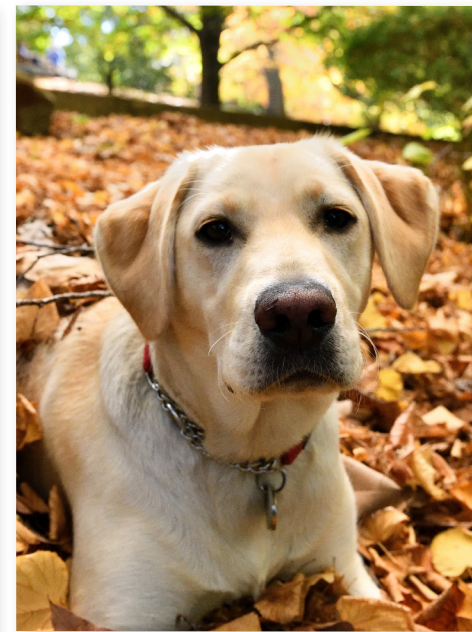
Regal Dougie, having some relaxing time at home.



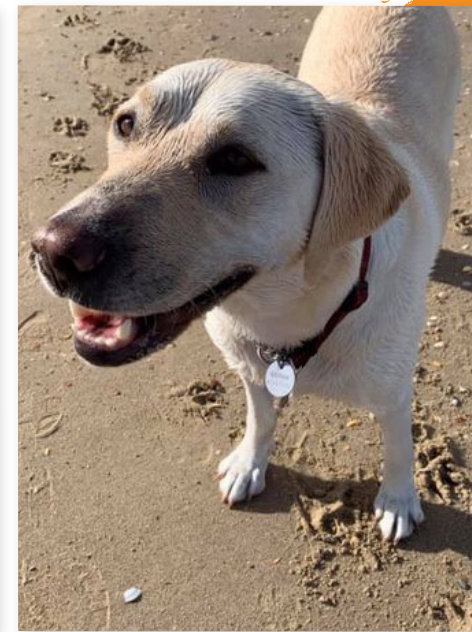
Do. Not. Be. Distracted. By. Delicious. Meat. You passed, Felix!



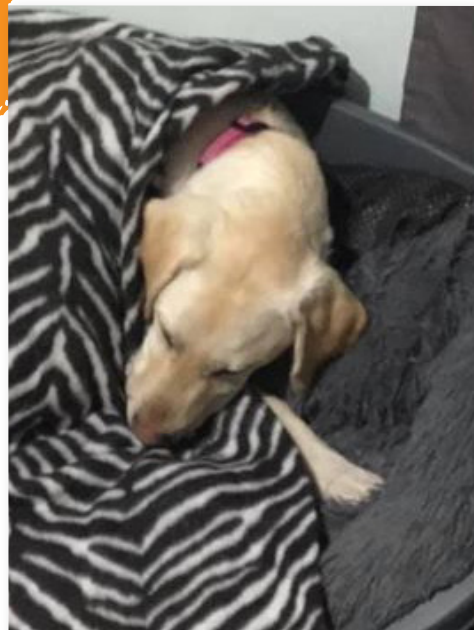
Looking cool in her pink bandana, it's Kula!



Lily, looking gorgeous in the leaves, at the Botanical Gardens in Hobart.



Millie takes a break from training, at her favourite place



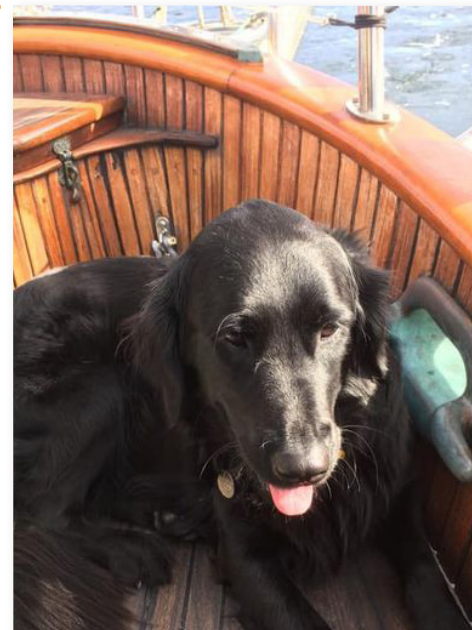
Freda tucked in after a busy day being a puppy.



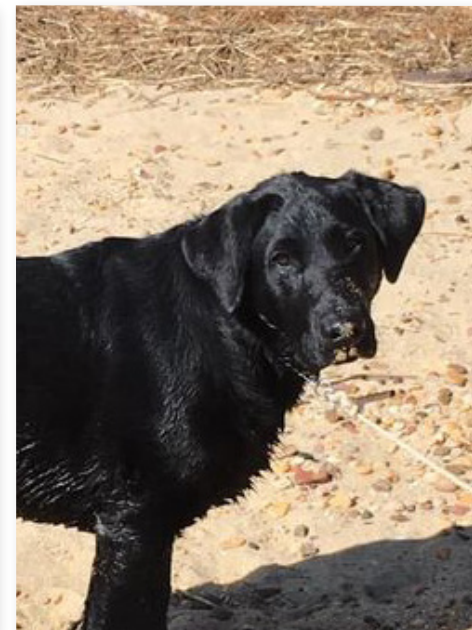
Indi, doing some laps at the Devonport Aquatic Centre (doggy splash day!)



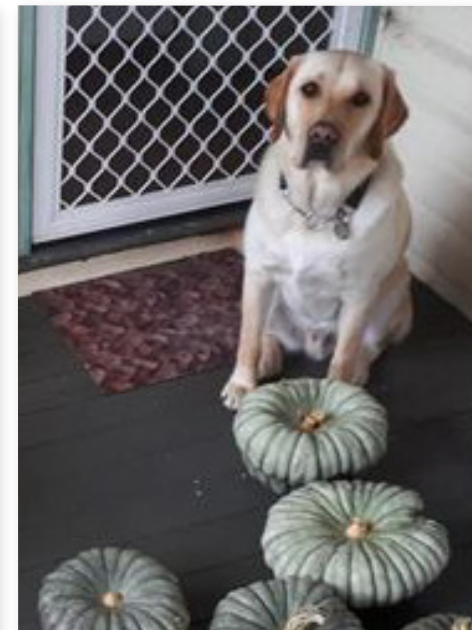
Handsome Jonty, enjoying the sun.



Sea-dog Sasha enjoyed a day out on the water.



What a surprise! Another Lab (Lulu) that loves the beach :-)



Zazu taking pumpkin harvest guarding very seriously.



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Tony and Felicity Walch

14 years of supporting puppies to change lives

“It’s nice to think that we’ve contributed a bit. It all helps.”

As dog lovers, following the progress of our special puppies continues to be a joy for long-time supporters Tony and Felicity Walch.

Puppy Love Member Tony Walch has given regular monthly donations for the past 14 years. His wife, Felicity, helped sponsor Guide Dog Frankie, who was placed with his handler last October.

The Margate couple says receiving regular updates on the pups as they grow and learn is always interesting.

“I like seeing new puppies arriving and following them through that journey,” says Felicity. “Frankie has gone to his new job and he’s doing well and it’s just lovely to hear.”

Felicity and Tony remember meeting our former Ambassador Dog, Dexter, at their local dog walking association AGM many years ago. They were struck by “the good that a Labrador can do and that they had an important role to play.”

Tony says that having had labradors of their own over the years makes him appreciate just how much time, effort, patience and money go into training a Guide or Assistance Dog.

Tony and Felicity modestly downplay their role in supporting our puppies to learn and grow and reach their potential as life-changing Guide and Autism Assistance Dogs. But when pressed, they do concede they feel a little proud knowing they have helped make a difference.

“It’s nice to think that we’ve contributed a bit,” says Felicity. “It all helps. You just do what you can. You just go through life doing what you can.”

Tony says setting up his monthly gift was a very simple ‘set and forget’ process – but he knows he can make changes with a quick phone call any time he wants.

To set up easy regular donations and join a special group of caring Tasmanians helping our pups on their amazing journeys, please contact Zoe on 03 6232 1252 or at puppylove@guidedogs.com.au.



Judy Wade

Feel good, do good!

“The more generous people we have giving their time, the more people we can help.”

If you want to do something that makes you feel good, Judy Wade has one word. Volunteering!

The Somerset local began helping with our iconic Collection Dog program this year. It’s her first time volunteering, and she only has positive things to say.

“Volunteering with Guide Dogs Tasmania makes me feel good, and I enjoy the interaction with the people that I meet,” she says.

“It’s satisfying knowing you have helped someone less fortunate than yourself and made a difference in their life.”

Judy ensures our collection dog tins in her local area are picked up on a regular schedule. And knowing the area like the back of her hand makes this super easy – and quick!

It also means that less money is spent on sending staff from our Launceston office to do the job.

Community Fundraising Coordinator, Kristy Wright, says volunteers like Judy are vital to the organisation.

“Without our wonderful volunteers, we could not train life-changing dogs for Tasmanians.”

To see available roles, go to guidedogstas.com.au/getinvolved/volunteer



Vinnie

A new best friend

Autism Assistance Dog Vinnie has already made an incredible difference for six-year-old Lucas and his family.

It’s still early days, but Lucas’s mum Natalie says Vinnie has proved himself to be a very calming influence, helping Lucas recover much more quickly from ‘meltdowns’ - intense responses that occur when Lucas becomes overwhelmed. Natalie says it used to take two to five hours for Lucas to regain a sense of calm. But recently, for the first time ever when Lucas had Vinnie to snuggle up to on the couch, it took only 20 minutes.

In another extraordinary first, Lucas has now slept in his own bed for the first night in his life, with Vinnie close by his side. For his parents, it has meant some much-needed sleep and a physical break. For Lucas, it has meant independence and the ability to find comfort with his new friend.

There’s still a lot of learning to be done, but Natalie says “In just the few weeks he’s been here [he’s] making a massive positive difference to the potential of what’s possible for Lucas.”

We look forward to keeping you posted on their progress.



Meet your latest puppies!

Thanks to wonderful people like you, these gorgeous pups have begun an amazing journey at Guide Dogs Tasmania. Your continued support will help them become the heroes they were born to be.



Pixie

Date of Birth: 24 March, 2021

Gender: Female

Lives: Southern Tasmania

Pixie is one cute and cuddly puppy! She’s a little shy with new experiences, but give her time and she loves to explore new areas.



Olive

Date of Birth: 13 March, 2021

Gender: Female

Lives: Northern Tasmania

Olive is a bright and outgoing puppy! She enjoys exploring and discovering new things, especially on bush walks with her Puppy Raisers.



Pippin

Date of Birth: 24 March, 2021

Gender: Female

Lives: Southern Tasmania

The opposite of her sister, Pippin is an outgoing pup who absolutely loves play sessions! These are especially fun when they’re with sister Pixie.



Oakley

Date of Birth: 13 March, 2021

Gender: Male

Lives: Northern Tasmania

A fun and adventurous puppy, Oakley is settling in well to family life. And even in winter, he still loves playing in water.

Interested in sponsoring a pup? Call Melanie on 6232 1222