

# PawPrints

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Thank you for making a difference!



Velvet

## Inside

Meet Ian and Harmony • The joy of  
Puppy Raising • Eight new pups! •  
**Plus more...**

Guide  
Dogs  
TAS



# Bringing harmony to Ian's life



They've only been together for about four months, but even in that time, Guide Dog Harmony has changed Ian's life.



**“ I go out more, I'm not as scared of falling. ”**

Ian Preston's vision deteriorated significantly four and a half years ago, due to a condition he'd been born with. "It got to the point where I decided I'd better not be farming and playing with cattle and chainsaws any more. I had to establish a new life, so I walked away from the farm," he says.

Ian, of Dover, says having low vision is "very tough." But the aptly-named Harmony has brought a sense of structure, renewed energy and possibility to his life. "One of the things Guide Dogs do is stabilise your emotions and your mental approach to things – your ability to pick happy over sad or depressed," he says.

"It's that little pair of black eyes nudging you under the doona in the morning, as if to say 'let me out, boss,'" he laughs. "It's that reminder that someone's here – so I get straight up. Before, I could sleep in til 10.30 because there was nothing to do. You think, 'I can't read a book, I can't this, I can't that' ... but now the 'I can't's' have floated away."

In fact, Harmony's can-do influence was felt even before she arrived at Ian's home. Knowing he needed to fence his property to keep her safe, Ian decided to try the job himself. He had the tools and the skills, but had never attempted such a big job with so little vision.

Bit by bit – and with the help of friends and neighbours on the trickier parts – Ian fenced his 1000 square metre block. "That was the most fun I'd had in two years, because it was the most motivated I'd been," he says.

Harmony is passionate about the beach, and has plenty of doggy mates that she loves to play with. Having lived there for about 30 years, Ian is very familiar with Dover, but says: "Harmony is getting me to go to places I wouldn't normally have gone because I'm trying to entertain her, which is entertaining me more as well. It's also enhanced my physical health - I go out more, I move faster. I'm not as scared of having falls or tripping over things."

And as he and Harmony spend more time getting to know and trust each other, life is looking rosier every day.

**It's your support that makes such makes such hopeful stories possible – thank you!**

# The pleasure of giving back

**Puppy Love member Sharon Fotheringham is one of those people who finds more joy in giving than she does in receiving.**

Sharon, of Forcett, served the community as a police officer for 20 years. Now retired, she takes her own dog Gabby, a sweet-natured border collie, to visit the residents of the Lillian Martin aged care facility in Mornington every week. What delights her most is seeing the happiness and comfort it brings to the residents.

Sharon has also been making regular monthly donations to Guide Dogs Tasmania to support the puppies in our program for more than two decades. Asked why, she describes the sense of satisfaction she gains from giving back.

Sharon says: “When I was young, the community helped me a lot, and I received so much from working as a police officer. Now, it’s just nice to be able to return that favour. Supporting Guide Dogs Tasmania is not a task for me; it’s a real pleasure.”

Sharon loves knowing she is helping our extraordinary puppies be raised and trained, and go on to change people’s lives right here in Tasmania.

“I can’t do it personally, but by donating, I can see it happening and there’s just so much personal satisfaction for me.”

“Guide Dogs are just so special,” she says. “They give so much to the people they’re given to, and they really love what they do. Guide Dogs Tasmania obviously chooses very carefully the people that each dog is placed with, and you can see the bond - this fantastic bond - between them. It’s brilliant.”

“I also like to see donations staying in Tassie and to see us excel in this area.”

And to anyone considering becoming a Puppy Love member through regular monthly donations, Sharon says: “I’d say, it’s so worthwhile. I’m so happy to be donating and it’s great.”



“Guide Dogs are just so special, they give so much and they really love what they do.”

**You can find out more about becoming a Puppy Love Member through a regular monthly gift at [guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au) or phone 03 6232 1222.**



# A bundle of joy



**For first-time Puppy Raisers Georgie and Blair Smith, taking on tiny Teagan brought joy at a difficult time.**

After their beloved Labrador Doug passed away quite suddenly last year, the Kingston couple saw a Guide Dogs Tasmania Facebook post seeking volunteer Puppy Raisers.

“We were still pretty sad and grieving, so we thought it was a good way to have all the awesome things about having a dog but not yet getting a new pup of our own,” says Georgie.

The couple applied, attended information sessions and had an assessment to ensure their home was safe for a puppy. “I work at the Antarctic Division and Georgie’s a nurse, so I had to get permission to take her to work with me on the two days we’re both working.

But once that was approved, we just waited until we got the nod for a puppy,” explains Blair.

“It was good to have something nice to think about,” Georgie says. “The last few years being a nurse have not been ideal with what’s been going on in the world at the moment. So it was good to have this little soul who came to us full of excitement and joy.”

And although caring for a puppy takes time and dedication, Georgie and Blair find Teagan gives them so much in return. “We’ve gone out and done a lot more to expose her to different places when we might otherwise have been staying home, which isn’t always good for us,” says Georgie.

**“I feel like we’re helping her but she’s also helping us quite a lot as well.”**

“I’m enjoying learning all the dog behaviours and how to raise them and pick up on things,” says Blair. “It’s good to see the changes in her and how much progress she makes. It’s nice to just walk up to an escalator and know that three months ago, she’d be scared, but now, she’s fine.”

Asked how they’ll feel when the time comes to part with this cheeky, funny girl, Blair reflects: “It’ll be upsetting to know she’s going to leave us, because she’ll be missed. But I think the overwhelming feeling will be that she’s going somewhere really good, and she’s going to be helping people.”

“I’m going to cry,” says Georgie, “but I’m going to be proud.”

To find out more about becoming a Puppy Raiser visit [guidedogstas.com.au](https://www.guidedogstas.com.au)

# Meet your latest puppies



Thanks to the support of wonderful people like you, eight new puppies have begun their journey to becoming life-changing Guide or Assistance Dogs for Tasmanians living with low vision, disability or illness!

Enjoy getting to know your adorable new puppies below, and if you're interested in sponsoring one, contact Melanie today at [melanie.spunt@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:melanie.spunt@guidedogstas.com.au)



## Velvet

Born: 11 Oct 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Northern Tasmania

Velvet came as a small black ball of happiness ready for anything. She shares her home with two miniature horses named Moet and Hobo, and pet dog Alice.

**Sponsor:**  
The Bruce Wall Trust



## Vicky

Born: 11 Oct 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Northern Tasmania

Vicky entered her Puppy Raisers' home full of energy and eagerness for new things. Swimming at the shack with the grandkids is simply the best fun ever.

**Sponsor me!**



## Ruby

Born: 12 Oct 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Southern Tasmania

A lovely calm girl, Ruby has had her first experience of a formal dinner event in the city and has learnt to negotiate stairs really well.

**Sponsor:**  
Anonymous



## Roxie

Born: 12 Oct 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Southern Tasmania

Roxie is very lucky to have a big sister Freda, who's her mentor. She loves the great outdoors and has a special camping bed.

**Sponsor:**  
Mrs Barbara Self



# Meet your latest puppies



Vicky, Andy, Arlo, Bronte and Baxter are all looking for sponsors to help them on their two-year journey. You can find out more about the range of sponsorship opportunities at [guidedogstas.com.au/supportus/sponsorapuppy](https://guidedogstas.com.au/supportus/sponsorapuppy)



## Andy

Born: 4 Dec 2021  
Gender: Male  
Lives: Southern  
Tasmania

Andy and Arlo are brothers. They've had a couple of playdates together and Andy is settling in well to life in Tasmania. He loves going to the Botanical Gardens.

**Sponsor me!**



## Arlo

Born: 4 Dec 2021  
Gender: Male  
Lives: Southern  
Tasmania

Arlo has been with mentor Murphy doing travelator training. It seems Murphy is also teaching him to sleep – he had a huge nap during café training!

**Sponsor me!**



## Bronte

Born: 25 Dec 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Southern  
Tasmania

A sweet, calm and inquisitive little pup, Bronte is settling in well with her Puppy Raisers.

**Sponsor me!**



## Baxter

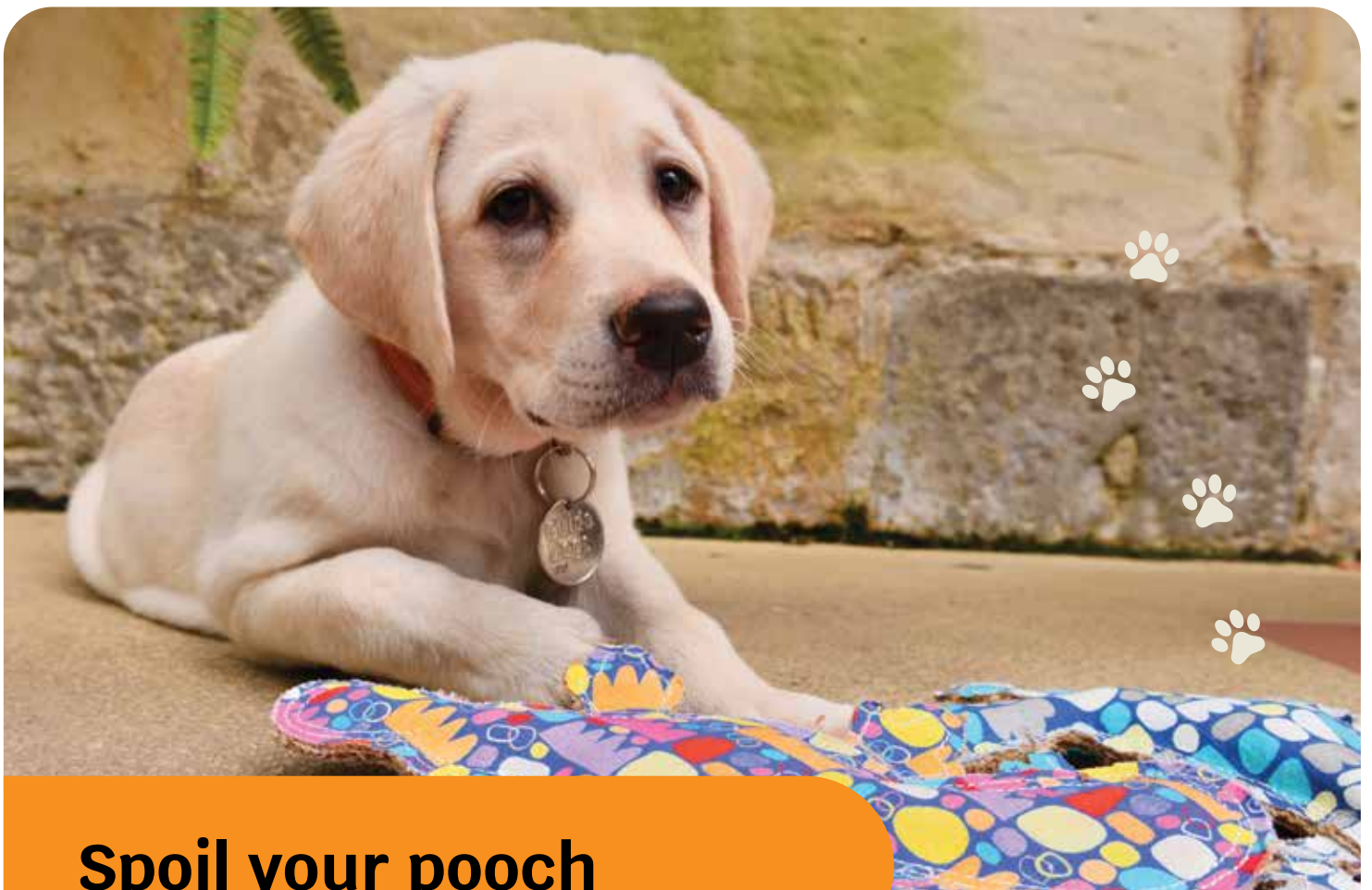
Born: 25 Dec 2021  
Gender: Male  
Lives: Southern  
Tasmania

Baxter already shows determination and initiative and is growing very quickly!

**Sponsor me!**







## Spoil your pooch

**Some exciting news that combines two of the things we love most – our four-legged friends and clever, creative people!**

We've added some wonderful doggy care products to our online shop – and we wanted YOU to be the first to know!

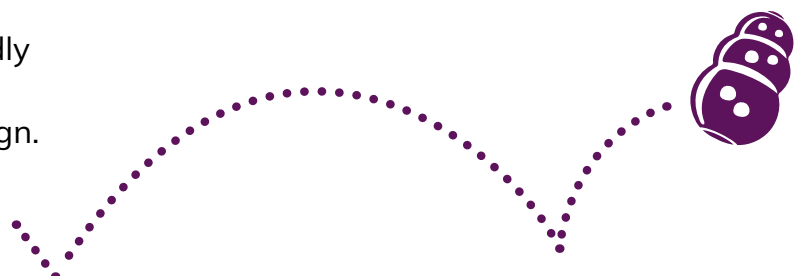
We have collars and leashes, walkie pouches and pop-up pools (that can also be used as ball pits) from DOOG, an Australian company that specialises in practical, innovative, stylish gear for dogs and their humans. With walking and playing in the great outdoors in mind, these products not only look great, but are robust and practical.

We also now stock a range of doggy toys from Outback Tails, another proudly Australian-owned company with a passion for quality, contemporary design.

Their beautiful products feature the work of Pauline Napangardi Gallagher and Ursula Napangardi Hudson from the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation in the Central Desert region of Australia. Both artists use an unrestricted colour palette to give a modern interpretation of traditional culture and ancient Dreamings.

We've taken a lot of time and care in choosing these wonderful items for sale, and hope you enjoy spoiling yourself and your favourite pooch.

Available from our online shop at [guidedogstas.com.au/shop](https://guidedogstas.com.au/shop)



# Pupdates

Our beautiful puppies continue to grow and thrive – thanks to your incredible support! We hope you enjoy seeing how much they've been experiencing, learning and playing.



**Lilly**

Gorgeous seascape, gorgeous pup.



**Felix**

Up close and personal.



**Victor**

Loves making a splash!



**Kayla**

Prettier than any flower.



**Kula**

Surrounded by some of her best friends.



**Oakley**

Life's a beach.



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