



Puppy Development Program

Puppy Raising & Boarding

Our Puppy Development Program involves caring for a potential Guide or Assistance Dog from around eight weeks of age until he or she returns to us, at around 18 months.

Without the commitment and contribution of Puppy Development Volunteers, we would not be able to train the incredible dogs, who provide essential assistance and independence for so many Tasmanians living with disability.

When you raise a puppy, you'll receive ongoing support and instructions with monthly group training sessions and individual walks with Guide Dog staff.

The primary goal of the Puppy Development Program is to produce well-socialised, temperamentally and physically sound young dogs to be assessed and, those suitable, trained as Guide or Assistance Dogs for Tasmanians living with disability.

There are different roles available to help support a pup's journey to becoming a Guide or Assistant Dog.

Puppy Development Program volunteer roles

Puppy Raisers

Puppy Raisers assist Guide Dogs Tasmania in the rearing of a well behaved and socialised puppy that can then enter formal training at a suitable age of development.

Boarders

Boarders provide temporary care to pups and older dogs on our program.

Bed & Breakfast Boarders

B & B Boarders provide care and downtime for Guide Dogs in training when they are not required in the training program (mostly overnight and on weekends).

Dogs will need to be dropped into the office each week day.



1. The primary goal of the Puppy Development Program is to produce well-socialised, temperamentally and physically sound young dogs to be assessed and, those suitable, trained as Guide or Assistance Dogs for Tasmanians living with disability.
2. We place eight week old puppies into homes of accepted Puppy Raisers, where they remain until they are approximately 12-18 months old.
3. Pups can be surprisingly strong, unpredictable, and grow to around 30-36 kilograms. You will need a moderate fitness level and be physically healthy enough to manage the physical, emotional and cognitive demands of the role.
4. The puppies have been specifically bred for their important future role as Guide or Assistance Dogs. Puppy Development volunteers play a vital role in preparing the pups for future training.
5. The leadership the puppy receives in its new home will shape its future emotional development and temperamental suitability for guide dog training.
6. The young puppy will enjoy the care, security, praise and clear boundaries it will receive from living with our volunteers.
7. The puppy will need to be house-trained, and taught well-mannered behaviour within the home.
8. The puppy will need to be taught to walk correctly on the leash and be discouraged from pulling and sniffing.
9. The puppy/young dog will need to be walked every day to ensure well-rounded socialisation.
10. Progressively, the areas in which the puppy/young dog is walked will extend from down-the-street to around the block; from down to the local shops to shopping centres and into busier areas where the dog will become conditioned to the presence of people and traffic. Pups will also need to be introduced to public transport.
11. The puppy should also have the opportunity to mix with friendly cats and dogs. It is good for the pup to meet livestock too if the opportunity presents itself.
12. It is essential that you have a dog-proof fence. This prevents the puppy from wandering and also prevents other dogs from getting in. If you have a swimming pool, it should also be adequately fenced.
13. Puppy Development Program volunteers receive regular visits from our Puppy Development Supervisor who will check on the puppy's progress, answer any of your questions and advise how you should proceed to the next stage of the puppy's development.
14. We supply all equipment required, including food, however there may be small costs associated with bones or toys etc.

Puppy Raisers

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The following criteria is essential to be able to full-time puppy raise.

1. Do you have more than one adult in your home? **Yes / No**
2. Do you live within 30kms of the Hobart, Launceston or Devonport metropolitan area? **Yes / No**
3. If you have children - are they all aged five years or older? **Yes / No**
4. Is your property adequately fenced to ensure a pup cannot stray and other dogs cannot enter your property? **Yes / No**
5. Does at least one adult in your home work part time or less? **Yes / No**
6. Are you prepared to cope with puppy behaviours such as chewing and digging? **Yes / No**
7. Are you happy for the pup to live inside the home with the family? **Yes / No**
8. Are you prepared to socialise the pup daily, exposing it to a variety of environments? **Yes / No**
9. Are you able to meet with a Puppy Supervisor on a regular basis, during business hours? **Yes / No**

If you answer no to any of the above, you may still be eligible to help us as a boarder.



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Bed & Breakfast Boarders

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Application form



I'm interested in:

Puppy Raising

Boarding

Bed & Breakfast Boarding

Name Date

Residential Address

Phone number (M) (H) (W)

Email

1. How did you hear about the Guide Dogs Tasmania Puppy Development Program?

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2. Why do you wish to care for a Guide or Assistance Dog puppy?

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3. Do you work away from home? **Yes / No** If yes, average number of hours daily

4. Number of household members? Ages of family members

5. Have you ever owned a dog before? **Yes / No** If **yes**, when and for how long?

6. Do you currently own a dog?

Breed Age Sex Neutered **Yes / No**

7. Do you have any other pets? **Yes / No** If **yes**, please list

8. Is everyone in your home keen to care for a Guide or Assistance Dog Puppy? **Yes / No**

If no, please explain who and why

.....
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9. Do you have a car in which the puppy can travel? **Yes / No**

10. Is your property adequately fenced (dog proof)? **Yes / No** Type Height

11. Are you prepared to socialise and walk puppy daily? **Yes / No**
12. Are you aware of, and prepared to cope with puppy behaviour (i.e digging, chewing)?
Yes / No
13. Are you aware the puppy lives in your home, must sleep indoors and be house-trained?
Yes / No NB: Please discuss with your landlord prior to submitting your application
14. Are you prepared to cover some of the small costs of raising a puppy (e.g toys, bones)?
Yes / No
15. If a young puppy is unsuitable for you, would you be prepared to accept an older pup / dog for shorter periods? **Yes / No**
16. Please provide the names and contact details of three character referees.

(Only one of these can be a relative)

Referee 1	Referee 2	Referee 3
Name	Name	Name
.....
Relationship	Relationship	Relationship
Phone	Phone	Phone

We are committed to providing a safe environment for our clients, staff and volunteers. All staff and volunteers over 18 years must undergo a police clearance and Registration to work with Vulnerable People (RwVP), before commencing work. Guide Dogs Tasmania volunteers who cannot provide a copy of their current (within 6 months) National Police Clearance Certificate will be required to undergo a Volunteer National Police Check (costs covered by Guide Dogs Tasmania), with confirmed appointment dependent upon a satisfactory outcome. Each volunteer's National Police Check must be renewed every three years. Police check results are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Guide Dogs Tasmania reserves the right not to appoint a volunteer applicant on the basis of unsuitability. This could be for any reason including police check results which show traffic and / or criminal offence history information.

The information I have provided above is true and accurate. I give permission for Guide Dogs Tasmania to apply for my Volunteer National Police Check.

Signed:

Name: Date:

Please complete and return this form to Guide Dogs Tasmania via email, post or in person
 info@guidedogstas.com.au 164 Elizabeth Street Hobart TAS 7000