

PawPrints

guidedogstas.com.au 🐾 Spring Edition 2025

You are changing lives – thank you!

Hello from Cydee,
our new Ambassador Dog!

Inside

New Ambassador Dog, Cydee.
Image: Puppy Tales Photography

- Meet our new puppies-in-training
- Thank you for the gift of Digby
- Brood mums like Daisy need your help • **Plus more...**

**Guide
Dogs
TAS**



Reflections from our CEO

Anna Presser
CEO, Guide Dogs
Tasmania



We are so grateful for your kindness.

It has been a whirlwind of a year so far and there have been so many reasons to say, 'thank you'. Your care and compassion for Tasmanians in need has helped so many people.

Our annual Tax Appeal, which shared the story of Emily and retired Guide Dog Harvey, raised a record \$163,000. These funds will make an incredible difference for Tasmanians living with low or no vision, disability, illness or facing life-challenges. And Emily has met her next perfect match!

We also celebrated several important milestones across the 24/25 financial year.

- 45 working Guide and Assistance Dogs in the community
- 30 puppies in our Training Program
- 11 puppies born through our Breeding Program, and
- More than 150 wonderful Volunteers supporting dogs through their training journey.

In June, it was my great honour to share the story behind Guide Dogs Tasmania's Breeding Program at the biannual gathering of the International Guide Dog Federation in the UK. The success of this program means many more Tasmanian born puppies, and an increasing need for community support.

We are seeking Volunteer Puppy Raisers and Dog Boarders, and as you'll read inside, there are opportunities to become a Brood Carer, too. We urgently need more kind-hearted people to join our 'orange army'!

None of our work would be possible without the steadfast support of donors, volunteers and supporters who care so much about delivering greater independence, freedom and hope. Your generosity means the world to us.

Thank you.



You're helping train more Guide Dogs like Harvey – **thank you!**

Wonderful news! Our 2025 Tax Appeal, sharing the story of Emily and her retired Guide Dog Harvey, captured hearts and inspired incredible generosity. Thanks to the exceptional kindness of donors like you, more than \$163,000 was raised!

And the best news of all? Emily has found her next match – Andrew! Emily is back out in the community, enjoying her independence with Andrew at her side, and Harvey has the new role of 'big brother'.

Thank you for ensuring we can train more Guide Dogs like Harvey, so Tasmanians like Emily do not have to wait too long for their next match. We are so grateful to you.



Big news! Cydee is our new Ambassador

After eight proud years of service as Guide Dogs Tasmania's North Ambassador Dog, it's time for Paris to take a rest – and welcome new Ambassador, beautiful Cydee!

While Cydee has big paws to fill, her loving, friendly personality makes her a paw-fect fit for this important role. Cydee will educate the community about Guide and Assistance Dogs, champion the importance of access rights and help build a more inclusive world.

Paris was a much-loved member of our team. Known for her calm, friendly, gentle nature, she played a central and inspiring role in raising awareness of the incredible work of our Guide and Assistance Dogs. **Thank you, Paris - enjoy retirement with your loving family.**



Brood mums like Daisy need you



Brood mum Daisy with her puppies Fable, Freddie, Flossie, Figgy, Forrest, Freya and Flora.

Guide Dogs Tasmania urgently needs Brood Carers to support our Breeding Program, and this could be you!

Brood Carers provide safe, loving homes for future Guide and Assistance Dog mums and their litters, and help raise confident, healthy puppies who will go on to transform lives. Guide Dogs Tasmania's expert breeding team will provide all the support and advice you need, covering all costs related to food, vet care, and supplies. All you need to do is give them your love and care.

Breeding Program Volunteers, Rosemary and David, loved playing a role in caring for Brood mum Daisy and her seven incredible pups.

"Daisy joined our home in February 2025, and a litter of seven pups was soon confirmed. With the whelping area all prepared, Daisy quietly went into labour the day before her due date and all seven big black pups arrived during daylight hours (thank you Daisy), ably assisted and supported by Karlo and Clare from Guide Dogs Tasmania."

Rosemary and David said Daisy proved to be a super mum from day one, which made their role so much easier.

"As the pups grew (fast) the demands did as well, and we settled into a routine to provide varied enrichment for the pups and maintain hygiene for all involved. It was wonderful to nurture the pups as they developed their unique personalities, we are so proud of them all, and Daisy, who was simply the best Mum and mentor."

"It was hard work, but we are grateful for the opportunity. These incredible pups will all, no doubt, transform the lives of many people."

When you provide a safe, loving home for specially selected female dogs and their litters, you are directly helping raise the next generation of life-changing Guide and Assistance Dogs. We'd love to welcome you to our Volunteer team. To learn more about Volunteer roles available at Guide Dogs Tasmania, visit our website at www.guidedogstas.com.au/getinvolved/volunteering-positions-available/



Teo (left) and Maiten with Digby.
Inset: Drawings of Digby
by Teo and Maiten.

“Digby brings magic to our lives.”

Back in their home country of Argentina, loving family Seba, Agustina, Maiten and Teo had a horse, cat and a dog that brought them endless happiness and joy.

When they came to Tasmania and had to leave the family pets behind, their absence was devastating, especially for Maiten.

One day, Agustina was listening to an Argentinian podcast, Espacio TDAH, about the mental health benefits of dog companionship. That was the moment she knew they needed a Companion Dog, not only for Maiten, but for them all – and she applied to Guide Dogs Tasmania.

“From the moment Digby arrived, happiness flooded our home. He’s gentle, affectionate, and energetic and the kids instantly felt at peace. Digby always stays close to us, enjoys playing with the kids, and wags his tail nonstop. He’s patient when he must wait, and playful when given space to run. And his

goodness goes far beyond our family. Everyone lights up when they see him.

“Just a few days ago, we visited friends with two young children, one of whom was afraid of dogs. Seeing Digby changed that instantly. He wanted to pat him, play, and felt safe and loved. That’s the kind of magic Digby brings. Thank you for making Digby part of our lives.”

Guide Dogs Tasmania’s Companion Dog Program helps to improve the quality of life for adults and/or children living with disability, illness, or facing life-challenges. Their extensive socialisation and training ensure they are well prepared for this important role and are carefully matched with each individual/family to offer comfort, relief, or reassurance.

Your support makes life-changing matches happen! Companion Dogs, alongside other career outcomes like Guide, Assistance, Facility and Brood Dogs, transform life for families like Maiten’s. To learn more about Guide Dogs Tasmania’s Companion Dog Program, visit our website www.guidedogstas.com.au/ourservices/companiondogs

**“It’s about
what you
can do in
the future.”**



Rhonda Cronan

A gift in your Will is a gift for generations.

It's a chance to make a difference for years to come, providing life-changing support and enabling greater independence, freedom and hope for Tasmanians living with low or no vision, disability, illness or facing life-challenges.

That's why Rhonda Cronan, a generous donor, decided to remember Guide Dogs Tasmania in her Will.

Rhonda has been a dedicated Volunteer with Guide Dogs Tasmania for the last 10 years, inspired by her great love of dogs and passion for helping others.

“Volunteering taught me so much about the impact of Guide and Assistance Dogs,” she said. “Leaving a gift in my Will feels like a natural extension of my support and a meaningful way to help continue the work I believe in,” Rhonda said.

“It's not something you're going to see the results of in your lifetime. It's about what you can do for someone in the future. I'm proud to be part of something that makes a real difference in people's lives.”

If you'd like to speak to us about joining this growing donor community, just like Rhonda, email giftsinwills@guidedogstas.com.au, call us on (03) 6232 1222 or scan the QR code:

We will send you our Gifts In Wills Information Pack.



Welcome to our newest (and cutest!) recruits

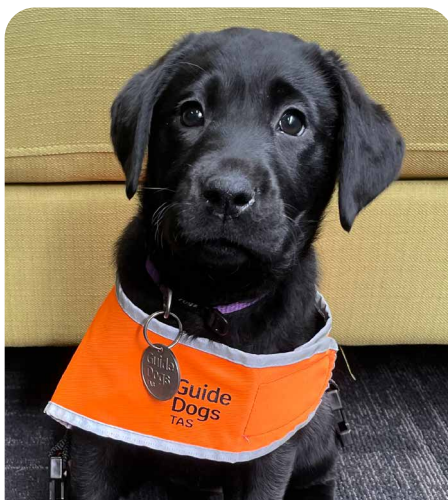


Amber

DOB: 17/01/2025

Gender: Female Lives: South

Confident, affectionate, and well-behaved, Amber is a regular passenger on the school bus run with her Puppy Raiser and sits quietly as the children enter and exit.



April

DOB: 17/01/2025

Gender: Female Lives: South

Friendly, confident and well-behaved. Whistle and voice recall are very good. Fond of the TV and loves mentor walks with other pups and Puppy Raisers.



Arty

DOB: 17/01/2025

Gender: Male Lives: South

A beautiful boy who has settled nicely and obeys commands. Loves Vegemite Kong treats, beach time and dog parks with his bestie, April.



Aztec

DOB: 17/01/2025

Gender: Male Lives: South

Very social puppy - likes meeting new people and pets. Confident in everyday experiences, including stairs, traffic, bikes, and skateboards.



Bella

DOB: 25/01/2025

Gender: Female Lives: North

Bella is settled and focused navigating crowds. Great confidence with escalators, stairs, lifts and unusual objects, and tackles traffic noises with ease.



Blossom

DOB: 25/01/2025

Gender: Female Lives: South

Tackles stairs with confidence, especially when mentored by another dog. So many outings, including Botanical Gardens and the Museum. Life is fun!

Say hello to your new puppies in training!



Ezra

DOB: 24/04/2025

Gender: Male Lives: Northwest

A boy from WA who is very sweet. Even so young, he coped well with a trip to the theatre and the noise of the chainsaw at home.



Waffle

DOB: 24/04/2025

Gender: Male Lives: South

Arrived in Tasmania in June from WA, settled quickly. Relaxed and adaptable character, learning life on the farm with humans and animal friends.



Xali

DOB: 16/12/2024

Gender: Female Lives: South

Xali is learning to control her excitement and high energy at home. She walks well on lead and sits nicely for her Puppy Raiser to groom her.



Xena

DOB: 16/12/2024

Gender: Female Lives: North

Xena is a friendly pup and loves playing and being groomed. Her new walking harness has helped with walking and concentration, so Xena can focus.



Yana

DOB: 31/12/2024

Gender: Female Lives: North

A sweet pup who has settled well. Improved confidence on escalators walks very well on lead. Very friendly with people and learning to contain her excitement around pets.

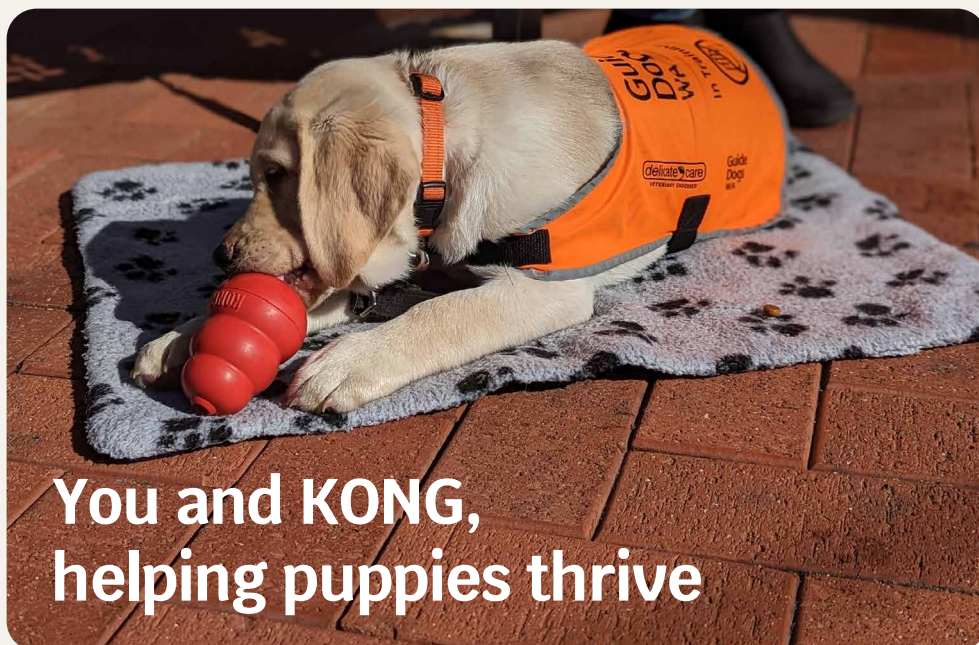


Yarra

DOB: 31/12/2024

Gender: Male Lives: North

A confident and friendly pup who walks well on lead. No reaction to sudden loud noises – good boy! Loves to play at the park and practice his voice and whistle recall.



You and KONG, helping puppies thrive

When our puppies, Guide and Assistance Dogs take a break, a KONG is never far away!

The KONG Company has been a wonderful supporter of Guide Dogs Tasmania for over seven years, helping enrich the lives of our dogs.

KONG toys and chews are more than meets the eye. They provide mental stimulation, healthy play, good chewing habits, and reduce stress. They also give adult dogs a clear transition from 'work' mode to 'rest' mode – because they are fun!

As grateful as we are, Natarcha Lunde, Company Director of KONG Company says our partnership is an honour. *"Every dog needs play and enrichment, and we're honoured that KONG toys play a role in the wellbeing and development of these incredible Guide and Assistance Dogs. KONG Company is proud to continue our partnership with Guide Dogs Tasmania."*

With you and KONG at our side, every puppy gets the best possible start – and every Guide and Assistance Dog is thriving.

What's On

Here's how you can support Guide Dogs Tasmania.

October

17 October, 11am

Online Puppy Development Volunteer Information Session

Register at
info@guidedogstas.com.au

November

15 November, 8.30am-3pm

Salamanca Market Pop Up Shop
Salamanca Place, Hobart

Stop by for adorable dog-themed gifts, exclusive merchandise, and a chance to meet our amazing Ambassador Dogs. Support Guide Dogs Tasmania while enjoying a tail-waggingly good time!

December

11 December, 2pm

Online Puppy Development Volunteer Information Session

Register at
info@guidedogstas.com.au

To keep up to date with current events and information sessions visit www.guidedogstas.com.au

**Guide
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