



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Paws

For a moment

Issue 1 – 2024



Thank you
for helping
to care for and train
more pups!



Thank you

A very special thanks to you for your kind and constant support for people who are blind or have low vision. You are truly transforming lives.

Deb has re-discovered her love of adventure with Seeing Eye Dog, Zazu by her side, and it's wonderful to see how Zazu has adapted to becoming a 'snow dog'. And thanks to you, we've matched another 22 Seeing Eye Dog teams in the last six months, bringing new beginnings, joy and independence!

If you're looking for the chance to make an even bigger contribution, we would love to talk to you about caring for a Seeing Eye Dog puppy. It's an unforgettable, life-changing experience, and we need people just like you! Check page 8 for all the details.



Ron Hooton
Chief Executive Officer
Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs



Welcome to the world puppies!

With your support
these puppies are heading for big things.

<p>Flossie, Fennel, Fonzie, Flipper DOB: 1/3/23 Breed: L Mum: Fern Dad: Quincy</p>	<p>Inari, Icarus, Ike, Inca, Indigo DOB: 21/4/23 Breed: L Mum: Omari Dad: Yoli</p>
<p>Gizmo, Gotham, Golda, Gracie, Glenda, Gambo, Gwyneth, Gregory, Gershwin, Geeta, Gilda DOB: 25/3/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Nel Dad: Tiger</p>	<p>Pirate, Poppy, Porter, Pendles, Pecan, Paco, Peter, Polly, Paris, Paddy, Preston, Petal DOB: 27/6/23 Breed: L Mum: Doris Dad: Keanu</p>
<p>Haiku, Hubble, Homer, Hamlet, Hamish, Honey, Heidi, Handel, Halo, Harpo, Hathi DOB: 27/3/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Wooley Dad: Laurance</p>	<p>Nacho, Nugget, Neville, Neon, Nels, Nasa, Nudge, Nikki DOB: 18/6/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Natasha Dad: Robbie</p>
<p>Justin, Jerrell, Josie, Joyce, Jupiter, Jimbo, Jocko, Jodie, Jacqui, Java DOB: 29/4/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Sienna Dad: Robbie</p>	<p>Radar, Richard, Rio, Rummy, Rover, Rupert DOB: 25/7/23 Breed: L Mum: Zara Dad: Tiger</p>
<p>Kelso, Kaleb, Krackle, Kevin, Kane, Kaya, Kenya, Kendra, Koko, Kingston DOB: 21/5/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Hickory Dad: Bingo</p>	<p>Sophie, Sana, Scarlet, Shelby, Stanley, Sheena, Saffy, Seamus DOB: 12/08/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Gaia Dad: Laurance</p>
<p>Lenny, London, Lana, Layla, Lara, Leo, Logan DOB: 30/5/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Tammy Dad: Jedi</p>	<p>Trisha, Scott, Trevi, Tonka, Tori, Janelle, Tommy, Truffles DOB: 24/08/23 Breed: L Mum: Keitha Dad: Finch</p>
<p>Mirring, Ngawan-M, Kirrip-M, Nikeri-M DOB: 11/6/23 Breed: L Mum: Kamini Dad: Ajay</p>	<p>Urban, Umar, Uno, Utah, Uri, Ugene, Usko, Unity, Udon DOB: 24/08/23 Breed: GR Mum: Honshu Dad: Gambler</p>

Pups in Parliament

Just as our Seeing Eye Dogs teams love to get out in the community, so do we, especially when we have the chance to meet the Prime Minister!

Our visit to Parliament House in Canberra with our Seeing Eye Dogs puppies in training was wonderful opportunity to showcase what you make possible for Australians who are blind or have low vision.

Speaking to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Vision Australia's Chris Edwards, with his Seeing Eye Dog Eva, discussed the importance of accessibility and safety for



all people accompanied by a Seeing Eye Dog in the community, no matter where they go or how they travel.

Your generosity helps us in so many ways, including shining a light on the crucial role Seeing Eye Dogs play in the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. Thank you!



Paul and Lynne's passion to help is making a difference!

Generous Queensland couple, Paul White and Lynne Porcsin, love being able to support the health and wellbeing of our amazing Seeing Eye Dogs, so they in turn can change lives.

X-rays are absolutely vital to ensuring that our Seeing Eye Dogs' knees and elbows are in good condition for their working life. Two years ago, when Paul and Lynne heard that Seeing Eye Dogs' x-ray machine needed an upgrade, they were more than willing to cover the cost needed to improve the quality of x-rays for hundreds of dogs. We were so grateful to them for this incredible gift!

And when Seeing Eye Dogs recently embarked on a project to renovate our oldest boarding kennels, Paul and Lynne were there for us again. They are dedicated to investing in the health and wellbeing of our dogs, which is our top priority. Their kindness enabled us to create a more modern and pleasant environment.



Paul and Lynne understand how a dog makes a lasting impact on your life. Ruby, a 15-year-old red cattle dog, is a much-loved and cherished part of their family.

When asked what inspires their philanthropy to Seeing Eye Dogs, Paul and Lynne said, without hesitation, that they **'love being able to contribute to helping people get independence, support, joy and companionship.'**

'We would encourage others who may be looking for a worthwhile cause to definitely consider Seeing Eye Dogs. Their dedication to supporting people who are blind or have low vision is just wonderful.'

If you'd like to make a difference just like Paul and Lynne, we would love to speak with you! Find out how you can contribute to special projects at Seeing Eye Dogs by getting in touch at philanthropy@visionaustralia.org

'Fawn and I have the most incredible bond. She's not just my companion, she's my freedom.'

- Max and Seeing Eye Dog Fawn



Meet Zazu the Seeing Eye 'snow' Dog – matched thanks to you!



When Debbie, who is legally blind, started the painstaking process of matching with her first Seeing Eye Dog, she had two unusual requests. Her dog needed to be very comfortable with adventure – and in particular, snow!

Enter incredible Seeing Eye Dog, Zazu, who fit these requests perfectly, and has been absolutely life-changing for Debbie. And it's a match only possible because of you.

'I can't see much out and about. I find moving around in social spaces and crowds the most difficult. I hadn't realised it before but in the last few years, I've started to become anxious in those situations. I've tripped and hit the deck a couple of times which is a real shock. Those little things compound and really make you lose your confidence,' she said.

'Zazu is one in a million. She's very, very clever and a lot of fun. Sometimes I think

she's reading my mind, because she seems to know where I want to go before I've even told her.

'I think she was destined to be with me, because she has a sense of adventure just like me!'

After a 'warm-up' trip to Mount Buller, Zazu recently accompanied Debbie on a six-month trip to Canada. Debbie is a super keen skier, using a guide, and has spent several winters in Canada as a volunteer instructor teaching people with disabilities to ski. Zazu took it all in her stride... the long plane trip, cold temperatures, guiding in the village, and even the toilet breaks in -27 degrees!

'I'd like to say a huge thank you for making it possible for Zazu and I to be together. When I don't have her, it's so obvious that I need her. Life now moves really smoothly with her in my life – it's not about obstacles!'



Your kindness brings such joy

Your generosity is helping transform the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. These incredible Seeing Eye Dogs are giving new freedom and independence to so many people, who can now step out with confidence because of you. **Thank you – and congratulations to:**

SEEING EYE DOG *Orlando* MATCHED WITH *Mark*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gidget* MATCHED WITH *Terri*

SEEING EYE DOG *Lars* MATCHED WITH *Pim*

SEEING EYE DOG *Nicklaus* MATCHED WITH *Karen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Toffee* MATCHED WITH *Rhonda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ully* MATCHED WITH *Ian*

SEEING EYE DOG *Wallace* MATCHED WITH *Robin*

SEEING EYE DOG *Helga* MATCHED WITH *Cody*

SEEING EYE DOG *Easton* MATCHED WITH *Leah*

SEEING EYE DOG *Earl* MATCHED WITH *Jennelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yuma* MATCHED WITH *Gordon*

SEEING EYE DOG *Thea* MATCHED WITH *Michael*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mirla* MATCHED WITH *Michelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Angela* MATCHED WITH *Phoebe*

SEEING EYE DOG *Vincent* MATCHED WITH *Gillian*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kimba* MATCHED WITH *Kirsten*

SEEING EYE DOG *Melvin* MATCHED WITH *Joe (Guiseppe)*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kirby* MATCHED WITH *Michael*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mabel* MATCHED WITH *Clare*

SEEING EYE DOG *Jarvis* MATCHED WITH *Nick*

SEEING EYE DOG *Phil* MATCHED WITH *Jo*

SEEING EYE DOG *Izzy* MATCHED WITH *David*

'Life-changing connections' celebrated at our graduate alumni event

The annual Seeing Eye Dogs graduation event, 'Life-changing Connections' was held on 6 September 2023 at Kensington Town Hall.

With over 100 guests in attendance, Melbourne turned on some beautiful weather for a special morning that celebrated more than 50 Seeing Eye Dogs teams reaching graduation. It was a day of triumph for all, whether first time dog handlers, or those with their second or third dog. Our very special breeding

dogs were also acknowledged as part of the graduating alumni.

Thank you for everything you do to make such joy and

independence possible for people who are blind or have low vision, the day wouldn't have been possible without incredible people like you.



The power of partnerships

Thanks to thousands of donations from people across Australia at Petbarn stores and Greencross Vets, the Petbarn Foundation broke a new fundraising record for the 10th annual Seeing Eye Dog Appeal.

The Appeal raised over \$1.35 million, which will fund the training of 27 Seeing Eye Dogs!

Since 2014, the Petbarn Foundation and Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs partnership has raised \$7.6 million and funded the training of 152 Seeing Eye Dogs.

Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs CEO Ron Hooton says,

'We are so thankful for every donation, especially in these trying times. It really shows the power of community.'

'It takes a lot to raise a Seeing Eye Dog, over \$50,000 in fact, with specific training and expertise to

match with the right person,' said Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs CEO, Ron Hooton.

'Seeing Eye Dogs increase a client's independence, provide companionship, help overcome social isolation and contribute enormously to their quality of life.'



Did you know about one in ten dogs is sensitive to pollens of grasses, trees and weeds, house dust mites and other elements in the environment?

What signs should you look out for?

Itching, scratching and self-biting are the first symptoms you may see, and they are often only a sign of what's going on beneath your dog's coat. Interestingly, 82% of dogs who have environmental skin allergies spend most of their time indoors, where some of the most common allergens like dust mites are to be found.

All these symptoms can severely affect the quality of life of your dog, in particular because

canine atopic dermatitis (CAD or "atopy") is often chronic and needs to be managed on a long-term basis.

What can you do?

Speak to your vet about these symptoms and if environmental skin allergies are the prognosis, our new ROYAL CANIN® Skintopic™ range, is specially formulated to assist in the management of skin problems and environmental allergies in adult dogs. The diet helps manage inflamed skin and helps support the skin barrier



with a unique blend of nutrients which includes Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, Vitamins A and E, minerals and biotin.

This range of new diets has a scientifically proven performance for providing significant itch reduction in 8 out of 10 CAD dogs.

Visit royalcanin.com/in/dogs/products/skintopic to find out more.





Could you welcome a Seeing Eye Dogs pup into your life?

Have you ever thought about caring for a Seeing Eye Dog puppy? We would love to hear from you!

Whether you've got a big family or are living alone, working full-time or enjoying retirement, live in an apartment or have acreage with plenty of room, you can make an incredible difference.

Volunteering for Seeing Eye Dogs is a very rewarding experience. When you care for a future Seeing Eye Dog, you play a part in changing someone's life, and you'll create some wonderful friendships along the way.

There is no cost to you – just your dedication, time and love.

'We know the pups are only with us for a while, and while we shower them with love and affection, we know they will grow up to help others.'
Volunteer carer, Jess S.

For more information and how you can get involved, visit:
sed.visionaustralia.org/puppy-caring/apply-now

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or

\$60,000 cash!*

*Gold bullion in Vic & QLD



Every ticket sold in the Lucky Puppy Lottery helps to support the care and training of Seeing Eye Dogs pups.

Get your paws on a ticket at
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