

Paws

For a moment



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Issue 1 – 2018

Update

**Perfect
pups!**

Inside:

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Seeing Eye Dogs



**Welcome
from Ron**

Hello! If this is your first edition of 'Paws', welcome. If not, we hope you will once again enjoy reading about how your generosity is helping to make such a big difference to people who are blind or have low vision.

Your support means we can care for and train more puppies to become the next generation of Seeing Eye Dogs and make even more perfect matches – just like Shelley and Evan, or Cyndul and Enya, whose stories you will read over the coming pages.

Every day with your help, Seeing Eye Dogs are changing the lives of Australians who

are blind or have low vision. I want to thank you for making it all possible.

These amazing pups are partnering with young people striving to succeed in the thriving IT scene, they are building new relationships with those who have been matched with a Seeing Eye Dog before, and they are working with people who are experiencing the independence and freedom that comes with their very first Seeing Eye Dog.

Your support also enables our dedicated team to continue to provide the best care, training and veterinary support available to ensure these pups keep transforming lives, now and into the future.

Thank you again for your amazing and unfailing support. Please enjoy your newsletter!

Thank you,

Ron Hooton
CEO

A six-legged partnership

Cyndul is a bright, ambitious, active and independent 24-year-old woman. She has retinal prematurity detachment – a condition that has caused total blindness in one eye and only the ability to detect dark or light in the other.

Recently, Cyndul partnered up with Seeing Eye Dog Enya, and the two of them have become very close, very quickly. Cyndul loves Enya's personality.

'Enya has really improved my life. I love her to bits. She's the best thing that has happened to me for a while,' she says.

Cyndul is passionate about technology and has recently started an Information Technology degree. When asked what she is considering after graduation, Cyndul says: *'I'm hoping to work at Apple, possibly in the USA or maybe Australia.'*

While it will take four years, with Enya by her side Cyndul is looking forward to completing the qualification she needs to pursue her dreams. She also has a goal of living independently after graduation.

We would not have been able to train and match Enya with Cyndul without your generosity. Thank you for contributing to such a successful partnership, and to what will no doubt be a promising career.



Cyndul and Enya are the perfect team.



Help sponsor special puppies today!

It takes a lot to train one puppy. When puppies are born they need to be vaccinated, micro-chipped and given the right care. It can then take up to 500 specialised training sessions and over two years to unleash their potential to become a Seeing Eye Dog. The cost really adds up, totalling around \$50,000 for care and training over their lifetime.

By becoming a sponsor and making a regular gift you can help with the training and care as these special puppies start their journey to become Seeing Eye Dogs.

As a sponsor, you'll receive regular letters and photos from puppies, a cute puppy photo frame for your puppy photos and the PAWS newsletter.

We need your help to turn these special pups into fully trained and professional Seeing Eye Dogs!

Please call 1800 42 20 07, complete the coupon attached, or visit our website sed.org.au/donate – thank you!

Perfect puppies

We are excited to introduce you to some of the adorable pups that have been born at the Seeing Eye Dog puppy centre.

Misha, Tabitha, Poppy, Harper, Willow, Tilly, Molly, Marley – Labrador
Dam: Saffron, Sire: Lenny, DOB 4/5/2017

Franklin, Digby, Bosco, Memphis, Zorro, Zeke, Zula, Ziva – Labrador
Dam: Dolly, Sire: Dempsey, DOB 29/5/2017

Amber, Aspen, Austin, Arden – Labrador x Golden Retriever
Dam: Vonnie, Sire: Spencer, DOB: 14/6/2017

Chip, Clyde – Labrador
Dam: Jade, Sire: Quazi, DOB: 25/6/2017

Fleming, Falcon, Freddie, Finbar, Foxy, Fulton, Farrah – Labrador
Dam: Dinah, Sire: Manny, DOB: 27/7/2017



Dinah and her beautiful babies.

Gillian, Gloria, Gretchen, Gerry, Garwood, Gandalf – Labrador
Dam: Raven, Sire: Wizard, DOB: 28/7/2017

Dam = Mum Sire = Dad

A day on the job – the life of a Seeing Eye Dog

It's hard not to stop and admire beautiful dogs as we go past. Many pets are friendly and enjoy a chat and a pat with strangers who come to give them a tummy rub!

While that's great for a pet's socialisation, for a Seeing Eye Dog it is very different as they can become distracted by the attention, lose focus or perceive it as a possible threat to their companion.

Shelley, a Vision Australia client from Gisborne, Victoria, knows the feeling of confusion and even fear, when a Seeing Eye Dog becomes distracted.

'It happens every day and can be really scary,' Shelley says. 'That is why it is really important to ask the handler first before patting or touching a Seeing Eye Dog.'

Shelley relies on her Seeing Eye Dog, Evan, to help her get around safely as she was born with bilateral optic nerve atrophy, a condition that damages the optic nerve and causes vision loss.

'I am grateful for Evan every day – I'd be lost without him,' Shelley says.

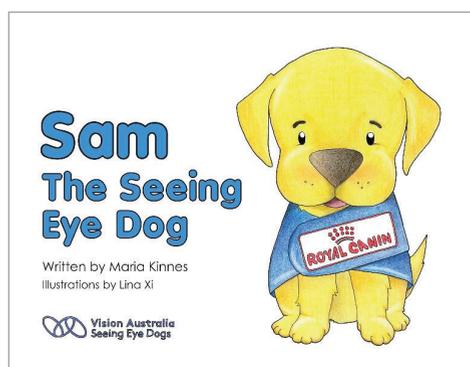
'He has brought life back, the life I used to know before losing my sight. I get out



Evan is always by Shelley's side.

a lot more now, I'm not afraid to try exploring new things, and I'm more confident – especially around obstacles. It's fantastic.'

To help support more people like Shelley and their dogs, head to sed.org.au/donate



The cover of 'Sam the Seeing Eye Dog'.

Sam the Seeing Eye Dog

This beautiful story book helps children learn about the important role that a Seeing Eye Dog plays in the life of someone who is blind or has low vision and the journey it takes to become a Seeing Eye Dog, from the time of being born at the centre, living with their puppy carer, right through their training and eventually graduating to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

All proceeds go towards the care, training and support of Seeing Eye Dogs.

You can purchase your copy at shop.visionaustralia.org/sam

**Braille version also available.*

A perfect match

Congratulations to our Seeing Eye Dog graduates and their new handlers.

A huge thank you to all our carers and generous supporters.

We couldn't do it without you!



Robert and Wickham



Roslyn and Zaidee



Errol and Darby



Graham and Elton



Stephen and Colby



Joshua and Wolfy

Client	State	Dog name	Breed	Sex	Puppy carer
Jenny	QLD	Ita	LR	F	Stanley
Joan	VIC	Isa	LR	M	Susan
Cyndul	WA	Enya	GR	F	Michelle
Grant	VIC	Bucks	LR	F	Marilyn
Gayle	VIC	Wren	LR	F	Jane
Kelvin	VIC	Angus	LR	M	Rosemary
Tony	WA	Papio	LR	M	Steven
Monika	WA	Junior	LR	M	Dina
Graham	QLD	Elton	GR	M	Amanda, Patrick
Robert	QLD	Wickham	LR x GR	M	Sandra
Joshua	QLD	Wolfy	LR x GR	M	Barbara
Roslyn	QLD	Zaidee	LR	F	Kerry, Dawn
Stephen	QLD	Colby	LR	M	Geoff
Errol	QLD	Darby	LR	F	Michelle



Petbarn

The partnership between Petbarn and Seeing Eye Dogs has been going strong since 2014 and has raised over \$2 million. As a result of their generous, ongoing support an amazing 45 puppies have been cared for and supported through Seeing Eye Dog training.

Staff at the Petbarn stores across the country get involved every year and with the help of their generous customers raise money to help support Seeing Eye Dogs.

A huge thank you to the Petbarn community for their support of Seeing Eye Dogs.



Maverick's litter.

Meet Maverick

Maverick was a Petbarn sponsored pup and has gone on to great things – he was selected to be part of the Seeing Eye Dog breeding program and is now a proud dad to the next generation of Seeing Eye Dog puppies!



For the love of ~~Dogs~~

CATS



George, Head Cat at Seeing Eye Dogs

What is your favourite part of the job?

Over my career I have *purr*fected the art of sleeping all day, sneaking the puppies' food, getting affection when I feel like it and teasing all the new pups. Unfortunately, they quickly master the art of completely ignoring me so it is not as much fun then.

What advice would you give someone thinking of becoming a puppy carer?

It's important that new carers know what a brilliant job I and my fellow cat team do in ensuring that the pups learn really quickly that I am the boss and to ignore distractions.

Although we had lots of fun teasing this rowdy bunch, we would really like to get rid of this latest batch of smarty pants so... we are hoping you can help us out.

It would be really great if more humans can help towards the care and training of these pups so that they are able to become Seeing Eye Dogs and can go off to live with their first family... somewhere else.



That way I can get all the attention for myself, just as I deserve. Endless pats and affection from the humans – *purr*fect... but only when I want it of course.

George, Head Cat

Best mates and perfect partners

Musician and performer, Michele, a client of Seeing Eye Dogs, found her perfect match with her new Seeing Eye Dog, Ellis.

Born totally blind, Michele has had the support of a dog by her side since her time at university, helping to keep her independent and mobile. *'I felt it was safer to have a dog because they can navigate around things, without having me constantly bumping into obstacles.'*

One of the first things Michele noticed about Ellis during training was their well matched style. *'Ellis' walking pace and temperament is very similar to my own. He picks up on things really quickly so I feel so much more confident with him... we've become great mates,'* said Michele.

In addition to their working relationship, Michele and Ellis have a very special friendship. The companionship aspect of having a dog is very important to Michele. *'Ellis has filled a huge hole left by previous dogs. He's stolen my heart; he's just a beautiful dog and he's so willing to please.'*

Michele was eager to express her thanks to everyone who has had a hand in helping to turn Ellis from a little pup into an amazing Seeing Eye Dog. She wanted everyone to know in her own words: *'He's very happy, he's very well loved and I'm so very grateful for the support.'*



Ellis is a perfect partner for Michele.



PROUDLY SUPPORTING SEEING EYE DOGS
FOR OVER A DECADE



ROYAL CANIN® is the official provider of precise and tailored nutrition for every dog in the Seeing Eye Dogs program, helping to give these amazing dogs exactly what they need to do their essential job.

INCREIBLE IN EVERY DETAIL

Please accept my life-changing gift of:

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$200

My choice \$.....

- OR -

I would like to give a monthly donation of \$..... (min \$12)

My payment method:

Please debit my credit card (details below)

Card type: Visa MasterCard AMEX Diners

Card no: ____/____/____/____

Expiry: ____/____

Name on card:

Signature:

- OR -

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order payable to Seeing Eye Dogs (for one-off donations only)

My Details:

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Suburb:

State: Postcode:

Supporter number (if known):

Please complete this coupon and return to the below address.

Send to Reply Paid 9802 IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY, call 1800 42 20 07 or donate at sed.org.au/donate

Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact our supporters. This helps us reach additional generous Australians to support our cause. If you do not wish to receive communications from other organisations, please cross this box

Please read our privacy statement overleaf. If you do not wish to receive further information about the work Seeing Eye Dogs does in the community, please call 1800 42 20 07



Thank you for making a difference.
Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

SNLTF18

ABN 67 108 391 831

Help raise a Seeing Eye Dog!

\$30 can help pay for a general veterinarian examination for puppies joining the program.

\$50 can help pay for the harness and leads needed for graduating dogs.

\$100 can help towards the cost of intensive training sessions with a Seeing Eye Dog and their new handler.

\$200 can help towards the cost of veterinarian supplies and equipment.



1st prize:

Mitsubishi Lancer
valued at \$25,000
PLUS \$20,000 in cash

You could
WIN

**Lucky Puppy
LOTTERY**

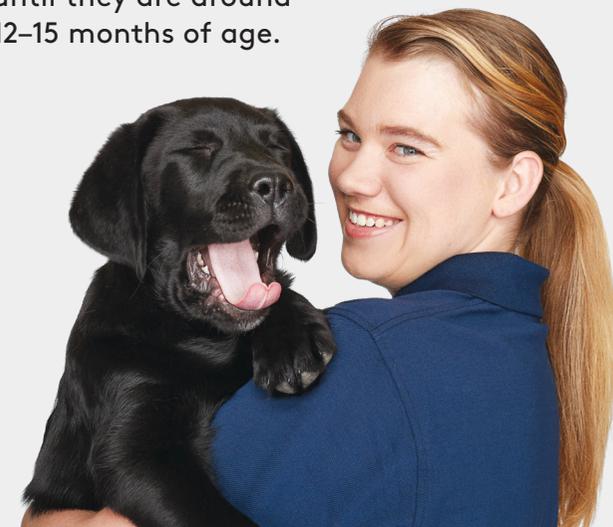
Call our lottery hotline today on 1800 670 917. Tickets are just \$2.50!
Through your support we will be able to help transform gorgeous Seeing Eye Dog pups into professional working dogs.

Ways you can get involved

-  **Give a donation** – your gift will help provide training and medical care for our newest litter of puppies who are destined to become someone's much-loved Seeing Eye Dog.
-  **Sponsor Seeing Eye Dog pups** – make a regular gift towards the care and training of puppies to ensure the continuation of these programs that will make a life-changing difference to people who are blind or have low vision.
-  **Leave a gift in your Will** – create a powerful legacy that will continue to positively impact and change the lives of many people beyond your own lifetime.
-  **Volunteer** – make friends and have fun while enjoying the sense of achievement that comes from helping others.

 **Fundraise** – run your own event, hold a cake stall, enter a race, have fun while raising funds which will help provide support for Seeing Eye Dogs.

 **Become a Puppy Carer** – enjoy the rewarding experience of caring for a puppy in your home from the age of eight weeks until they are around 12–15 months of age.



PRIVACY STATEMENT:

Seeing Eye Dogs Vision Australia respects your privacy and embraces the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). We obtained your personal information from you directly. When you return this form to us, we collect your personal information so we can process your donation and contact you again with information about us and our related entities, our services, our fundraising campaigns, and how you can support us again in the future.

We may contact you by email, mail or telephone, and you can opt-out at any time. You don't have to provide us with your personal information; however without it we are limited in how we interact with you.

Our Privacy Policy is available at www.seda.visionaustralia.org/privacy and contains important information about i) how we collect and handle your personal information, (ii) how you can access and correct your personal information, and (iii) how you can make a privacy complaint. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact our privacy officer by email at info@visionaustralia.org, or call us on 1800 42 20 07.

For more information call 1800 42 20 07
or visit sed.org.au/get-involved