



MEDIA RELEASE:
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RACE TO FIND 30 GUIDE DOG PUPPIES HOMES

Guide Dogs Victoria urgently needs new Puppy Raisers to begin caring for a Guide Dog puppy by Melbourne Cup Day in November.

Naomi Wallace, Puppy Raising Coordinator, Guide Dogs Victoria said: "**Guide Dogs Victoria** places 150 pups a year, and right now we need at least a dozen new volunteer Puppy Raisers in the Geelong, Metropolitan Melbourne and Ballarat area's who are ready to love and socialise a pup over a period of approx. 12 months."

The role of Puppy Raisers is to ensure that the pups are toilet trained, able to walk on a lead and are introduced to the sights, sounds and smells they are likely to encounter as a working Guide Dog. The pups are returned to **Guide Dogs Victoria** at approx. 12 months of age when their potential as future Guide Dogs is assessed. Those that make the grade go on to a further six months intensive training.

The pups' food is provided free, along with all veterinary care, and Puppy Raisers are fully supported by supervisors who visit every six weeks.

To take on the fulfilling role of Puppy Raiser, you need to:

- Live in metropolitan Melbourne or the Geelong or Ballarat areas and have your own transport.
- Not leave the pup for more than 3 hours.
- Have a securely fenced yard.
- Not have children under school age.
- Allow pups to sleep inside the home overnight.

Guide Dogs Victoria provides a range of mobility services to people who are blind or vision impaired, including Guide Dog Mobility and services for people whose vision loss results from an acquired brain injury such as stroke.

With minimal government funding, **Guide Dogs Victoria** relies heavily on the generosity of Victorians to continue to provide services completely free of charge. Services are available across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

To register to become a Puppy Raiser,
please call Guide Dogs Victoria on (03) 9854 4444.

We would love to hear from you!