

# Paws

For a moment



Seeing Eye Dogs  
Vision Australia

Issue 1 - 2019



Thank you  
for helping to  
care for and  
train puppies.





**Thank you**

Welcome to the latest issue of Paws for a Moment, where I have the pleasure of updating you on all the wonderful things you are making possible at Seeing Eye Dogs Vision Australia.

Your support is making an incredible difference.

On the following pages, you'll read about Alison and her Seeing Eye Dog Ashton, who, since being matched, have achieved remarkable things together, including being involved in the Commonwealth Games.

You'll also get to know Adam, a marathon runner. His life has been transformed with the help of his Seeing Eye Dog Usher.

Thank you so much for helping to change the lives of many Australians who, because of you, now have a Seeing Eye Dog by their side. Please enjoy the puppy-packed pages ahead!

Ron Hooton  
Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the world

**Puppies!**

Meet some of the adorable pups that have been born at the Seeing Eye Dog Puppy Centre.

DOB: 27/6/18 Breed: Labrador x Golden Retriever  
Dam: Saffron Sire: Dewey

Riva, Robbie, Rosie, Rocket, Romy, Ringo

DOB: 15/6/18 Breed: Labrador Dam: Katy Sire: Pablo

Sheba, Theo - S, Sydney, Skye, Margery - S

DOB: 14/6/18 Breed: Labrador Dam: Lily Sire: Marlin

Presley, Pixie, Phoebe, Puffin, Petra, Polo, Pretzel, Pascal, Pearl, Pebbles

DOB: 22/5/18 Breed: Labrador Dam: Capri Sire: Quazi

Nugget, Nico, Nala, Neville, Neesha, Noodle, Nellie, Norah, Neon, Noah

DOB: 2/5/18 Breed: Labrador x Golden Retriever  
Dam: Sofie Sire: Maverick

Linus, Leeroy, Lola, Larry, Lesley, Laura, Libby

DOB: 28/4/18 Breed: Labrador x Golden Retriever  
Dam: Giselle Sire: Wizard

Kel, Keiran, Kuma, Kaleb

DOB: 16/4/18 Breed: Labrador Dam: Hannah Sire: Dempsey

Iliana, Immy, Izzie, Indira, Ivy, Ireland, Indiana, Inari, Innes, Indigo

DOB: 27/3/18 Breed: Labrador x Golden Retriever  
Dam: Flick Sire: Quazi

Harriet, Heather, Hetty, Harvey, Henna, Helen, Holly, Hazel, Hani, Henry, Hadley

DOB: 23/3/18 Breed: Labrador Dam: April Sire: Iggy

Griffin, Gino, Grover, Guytano, Genie, Ginger, Garnet, Georgia, Gus, Giovanni



**The 'A' team go for gold!**

Alison had just turned 18 when she lost her sight in a shocking workplace accident. Today, with the help of a gorgeous Seeing Eye Dog named Ashton she has her life back on track.

Alison and Ashton bonded so well that they are known as 'The A Team' and have gone from strength to strength since being matched.

Alison says, 'We grow closer every day; we take everything in our stride and overcome challenges as a team.'

Having Ashton in her life has gifted Alison a world of new opportunities. With the increased mobility and confidence Ashton has given her, Alison is pursuing her dreams of working in the health sector and is now studying a Diploma of Health Science at Griffith University.

'There have been many challenges in navigating a new area though Ashton has taken all of it in his stride. It has been a big learning curve for both of us. But we face the challenges and unknowns together as one,' Alison said.

Last year, Alison and Ashton had the honour of being Baton Bearers in the Queen's Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Their moment in the spotlight was one they'll never forget.

Of the special day, Alison says, 'The feeling was phenomenal. It was an adrenaline rush for the both of us. Ashton was as excited as I was. He strutted his stuff in front of the crowd and cameras. I will forever cherish that once-in-a-lifetime experience. Having my best mate Ashton sharing that moment with me was very special.'

Alison has nothing but the highest praise for the Ashton who changed her life.

'Ashton is a real character with a massive heart, he makes me chuckle. He loves to relax, work hard and play hard. It seems as though nothing is too big or too small for him. He is up for anything.'

Without people like you, Alison wouldn't have Ashton, so she wanted to pass on this message to Seeing Eye Dogs supporters:

'Thank you so very much. Your support is undeniably amazing. Words cannot describe how thankful I am for getting my life back by giving me my fluffy mate, Ashton.'



# Dylan puts his best paw forward



From the age of eight weeks to 12 months, puppies like Dylan live with carers who build the foundation for them to become Seeing Eye Dogs. Thank you for supporting their care and training.



I need to be on my best behaviour when I have my special jacket on. Car rides are such great fun because it means we are going somewhere exciting.



My table manners are impeccable. I know to wait for my carer to blow the whistle three times, which is my signal to eat. Yum!



My carer coaches basketball after school, and I am told I'm such a good boy as I don't chase the ball. Aren't I obedient?



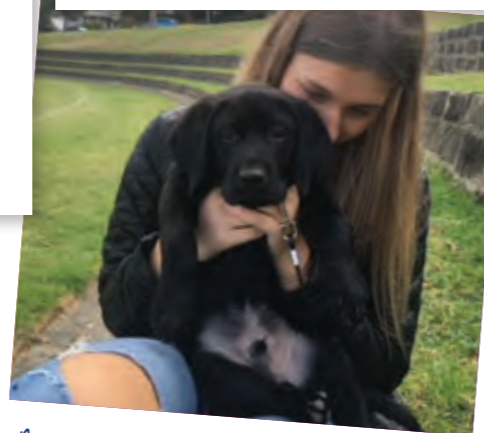
Stairs can be a bit tricky for a pup like me! I need lots of practice so I can be confident and calm when my human needs to navigate the stairs.



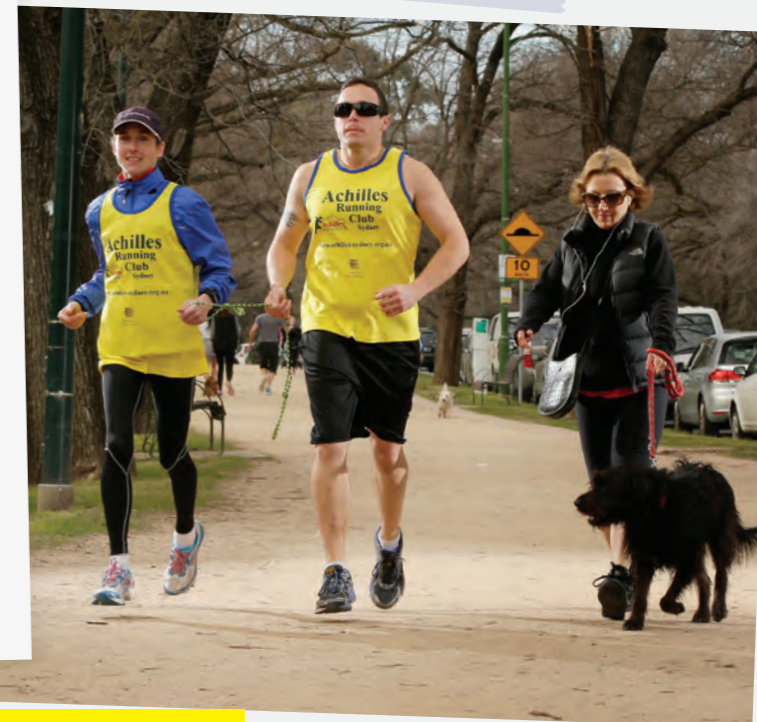
Look at me go! I am learning to walk in perfect position with my carer. It takes a lot of training and treats to get this right.

After this important training and development stage, puppies are assessed on whether they have mastered basic obedience. Only the best of the best can progress through to commence their formal training with Seeing Eye Dogs.

**Thank you for your life changing support to help care for and train puppies to become Seeing Eye Dogs.**



My carer's family are very active and we have lots of fun times together. They take me to netball, basketball and football games each week. I'm really good at sitting quietly even though there is a lot of excitement and bouncing balls around.



Credit: Darrian Traynor/Fairfax Syndication

## Ushering in a new life

Adam lives his life without limits, and with Usher his Seeing Eye Dog by his side, he knows he can achieve anything.

A rare eye condition took Adam's sight in his left eye at the age of 17, and by the time he was 22, he had also lost the vision in his other eye. Undeniably this was really hard for Adam to deal with. As a result he shut himself away from the world. He says,

*'I put on a lot of weight due to the isolation and depression. I was in a bit of a rut.'*

But a fluffy, cheeky pup helped Adam turn his life around.

*'After many years, I finally received the best gift of all and the catalyst to take control of my life - Usher my Seeing Eye Dog.'*

Usher's skills and companionship opened up the world again to Adam and bit by bit, he regained his confidence and independence.

*'Usher's very adaptable to all environments which surprised me. Even in places we've never been before, I can give him commands and he reacts*

*as he should. He knows where we are and where we want to be. He certainly streamlines travel for me, and definitely makes me feel safer in noisy, difficult areas.'*

With Usher by his side, Adam turned his life around. He completed his diploma in remedial massage, graduating at the top of his class, and found a new direction in life. He joined a gym, lost 38kg, and has travelled around the world.

Adam has now completed over one hundred races and fun runs, including five marathons and four obstacle races! Usher doesn't run marathons, but he does get plenty of exercise anyway.

*'Usher runs with me during training, and we go to and from the gym together, but it's not reasonable to expect Usher to run a marathon with me!'*

It's clear that Usher has made a big impact on Adam's physical and mental health.

*'After a difficult start and many years of not having any direction in life, I've finally found something that I truly love.'*

And it's all thanks to one gorgeous dog named Usher.



# CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRADUATES!

Well done on finishing your training! Best wishes on your new life together.  
You've made it to the end of your training and boy, are we proud!

Client	Dog name	Sex	Breed	State	Puppy carer
Robert	Zeno	Male	Labrador	Queensland	Vanessa
Chris	Youbi	Male	Labrador	Victoria	Narelle
Julie	Beatrix	Female	Labrador	Queensland	Leah
Neil	Yasmin	Female	Labrador	Queensland	Diana
Anne	Agnes	Female	Labrador x Golden Retriever	Queensland	Janice
Christine	Yoshi	Male	Labrador	New South Wales	Cassandra
Ross	Baya	Female	Labrador	Victoria	Michael
Diane	Audrey	Female	Labrador x Golden Retriever	Victoria	Ken & Geoff
Michael	Cody	Male	Labrador	Queensland	Richard
Diane	Bertha	Female	Labrador	Tasmania	Joan
Neil	Adam	Male	Labrador x Golden Retriever	Queensland	Meagan
Colleen	Xian	Female	Labrador	Western Australia	Michael & Jules
Allen	Apollo	Male	Labrador x Golden Retriever	Queensland	Emma



Colleen & Xian



Julie & Beatrix



Neil & Yasmin

Because of you, pups receive the care and specialised training needed to become Seeing Eye Dogs, so they can be matched with people who are blind or have low vision.

## YOU COULD WIN

Call our lottery hotline today on **1800 670 917**

Tickets are just **\$2.50!**



Your support of our Lucky Puppy Lottery is helping to transform gorgeous Seeing Eye Dog puppies into life-changing, loyal companions.

**1st prize:**  
**Mitsubishi Mirage LS**  
valued at \$18,450 (incl. on road costs)  
**PLUS \$20,000 in cash**



**Lucky Puppy LOTTERY**

Terms & Conditions of this lottery can be viewed at: <https://sed.visionaustralia.org/how-you-can-help/lottery/lottery-terms-and-conditions>

Please accept my life-changing gift of:

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

My choice \$.....

**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

**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](http://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

Your donation will help fund the Seeing Eye Dog program as well as other services Vision Australia offers, helping people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose.

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

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

ABN 67 108 391 831

## Help care for and train 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.



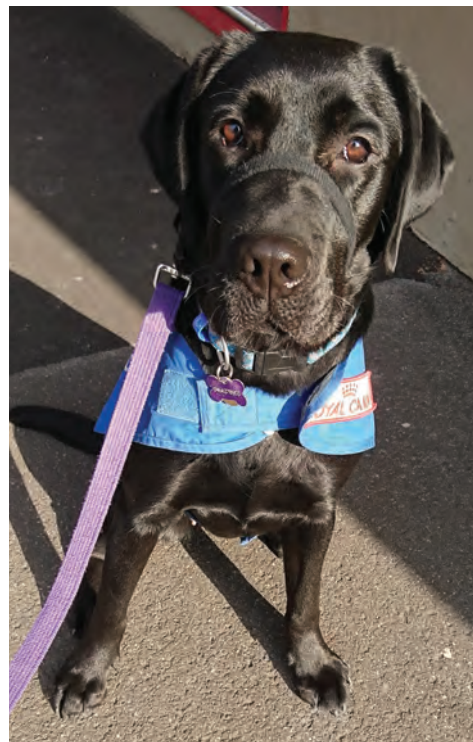
### PRIVACY STATEMENT:

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.sed.org.au/privacy](http://www.sed.org.au/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](mailto:info@visionaustralia.org), or call us on 1800 42 20 07.

## Willow



Willow the Seeing Eye Dog Labrador has certainly impressed so far with her willingness to learn, and her confidence in crowded environments.

Sponsored by the Petbarn Foundation, Willow has already mastered basic obedience and is well on her way to mastering the highly specialised skills needed to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

Willow has a cheery, playful nature and is highly motivated. She loves working, especially trying to find new ways to earn treats and she loves carrying around big stuffed toys - parading them around the house for all to see.

Seeing Eye Dogs' highly specialised breeding and training program would not be possible without the generous assistance of supporters like you, the Petbarn Foundation, and their supporters who have supported the Seeing Eye Dog program for the past five years.

Thank you, Petbarn Foundation, and the amazing Petbarn community for your generous support!



## DID YOU KNOW?

ROYAL CANIN HAS PROUDLY PARTNERED WITH SEEING EYE DOGS SINCE 2006, PROVIDING OVER 270,000 TONNES OF PRECISE NUTRITION FOR EVERY PUPPY AND DOG IN THE SEEING EYE DOGS TRAINING AND BREEDING PROGRAMS.

That's more than five times the weight of the Sydney Harbour Bridge!



Seeing Eye Dogs  
Vision Australia



INCREDIBLE IN EVERY DETAIL

For more information call 1800 42 20 07  
or visit [sed.org.au/how-you-can-help](http://sed.org.au/how-you-can-help)



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