

Seeing Eye Dogs Impact Report 2021-22



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

What your support made possible

Your incredible support has changed the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.

This year, your generosity led to more clients being matched with dogs than ever before, the biggest registration of puppy carers in our 62 year history and the largest number of puppies born.

This has only been possible because of the wonderful commitment from generous people like you. Thank you!

Seeing Eye Dogs offer a huge level of safety and independence for someone who is blind or has low vision. This remarkable partnership takes almost two years of training, dedication and careful matching, to ensure the perfect client and Seeing Eye Dog team.

Our training program has continued to evolve finding new ways to support Seeing Eye Dogs puppies, dogs in training, clients, volunteers and staff. We now offer a hybrid training model that includes in-person and online meetings, a training program to support clients who use a wheelchair and have a Seeing Eye Dog, and a youth program for teenage clients to determine if a Seeing Eye Dog is the right path for them.

Your donations also allowed us to cover expert care and vet bills, food and enrichment for our puppies in training.

Here is how you helped improve people's lives in 2021-22

Support and care

- Supported **231** clients and Seeing Eye Dogs teams in the community.
- **50** clients matched with Seeing Eye Dogs.
- Wait times reduced by half for client and Seeing Eye Dog partnerships to just **seven months**.

Proudly supported by:



Petbarn
Foundation



ROYAL CANIN



Breeding and veterinary

- Record **200+** puppies born.
- **270** dogs in the Seeing Eye Dogs program.
- Performed **200** surgeries through our veterinary services.
- Conducted **60** ultrasounds and **150** X-rays.
- Kennels refurbishment - Phase one upgrade of treatment rooms complete.

Better training services

- Developed new program to support clients with a Seeing Eye Dog who are wheelchair users; successfully supported two clients under this new framework.
- **Six** clients aged 12-18 participated in our youth program which introduces them to life with a Seeing Eye Dog.
- Trained **650** volunteers to house, train and care for pups and dogs.
- Steering committee members represented in various global associations including:
 - the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) accreditation committee and development committee - provide support to Assistance Dogs International (ADI) with dog guide education and upholding industry standards with the latest techniques and research.

Living with two degenerative eye diseases, Ros said she was **"living in a grey world"**.

She stopped going out, and things were becoming increasingly frustrating.

Her life changed dramatically when she was matched with Seeing Eye Dog Ringo.

Ros has gained back her independence and now feels confident to hike. Recently she and Ringo travelled by train all the way to Darwin and explored the Northern Territory and Uluru.

"Ringo gave me my life back," Ros said.

Your support has changed Ros's life!

