



Vision Australia
Seeing Eye Dogs

**Become a carer
for a future
Seeing Eye Dog**



Become a carer for a future Seeing Eye Dog

Everyone loves a puppy. This is your chance to take care of one and make a difference to someone's life.

Become a carer for one of our future Seeing Eye Dogs. You'll get all the joy of raising a puppy at the same time as knowing you are doing something vital for people who are blind or have low vision.

Choose how you want to care for a future Seeing Eye Dog

Vision Australia offers several options for puppy carers, from caring for our youngest pups (from 8 weeks old) to becoming a training dog carer or a breeder carer.

Victoria,
puppy carer



Become a puppy carer

Your pup comes into your care when it is about 8 weeks old and stays by your side for a year. You get to train it to walk nicely on a lead, be well behaved at home and around distractions, learn obedience commands and become socialised in everyday situations such as cafes and public transport.

As a puppy carer you'll get full support for training and care through regular home visits from a Puppy Development Trainer, group training and socialisation days.

Become a temporary training dog carer

Pups that are between 12 and 15 months old move into Vision Australia's Seeing Eye Dog facility in Melbourne where each spends six months learning the skills they need to become a Seeing Eye Dog for someone who is blind or has low vision.

Training dog carers are vital at this time. Being one of these carers involves looking after a dog in training in your home at night and on weekends.

Breeder carers

A small number of the best pups join our breeding program each year. Becoming a breeder carer gives you the chance to care for a breeding dog in your own home and make sure your dog maintains the training it received as a puppy. You will also get training and support from a Puppy Development Trainer as needed. Your breeding dog will return to the facility for mating or if they are in season and when they give birth.

Obligations

Becoming a puppy carer has a number of requirements. You must:

- Live in Melbourne or the regional areas listed on our website
- Ensure an adult is the nominated handler and takes responsibility for training your puppy
- Be able to dedicate time to your pup and make sure it isn't left alone for more than three hours a day
- Have a home and yard that is 'puppy safe' and secure
- Be available for visits from a Puppy Development Trainer Monday to Friday during business hours
- Provide adequate socialisation and consistent training for your puppy

For full time temporary carers:

- Be able to pick up the dog from Kensington, Melbourne Victoria after 3pm weekdays and drop off before 8am weekdays
- Be able to care for the dog at home on weekends

For weekend temporary carers:

- Be able to pick up the dog from Kensington, Melbourne Victoria after 3pm on Friday and return on Sunday evening or Monday morning, generally before 8am

For respite temporary carers:

- Be able to care for the dog for periods of at least 1 week at a time
- Not leave the dog alone at home for more than approximately 3 hours
- Be prepared to provide exercise and socialisation for the dog

Support you get from us

- Food
- Equipment
- Veterinary services
- Training material

**Become a puppy
carer and make
a difference**

Find out more

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Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs is part of Vision Australia, the leading national provider of vision loss support.

Vision Australia has 28 metro and regional centres around Australia.

Vision Australia acknowledges the support of state and commonwealth governments. For full acknowledgments see www.visionaustralia.org/gvtfunding



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