# Paws for a moment Issue 2, 2021

Thank you for helping to care for and train more pups like Pixie.

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## You’re achieving extraordinary things

Thank you for the outpouring of support and kindness over the past year.

We had a record number of people being matched with Seeing Eye Dogs. This achievement was a direct result of the work of our volunteers and staff who continued their work throughout COVID-19, and of the generosity of supporters like YOU who helped us keep pace with an ever-increasing demand.

In other news, we are expecting many new arrivals this year.

We will be full to the brim with gorgeous puppies who one day may go on to become Seeing Eye Dogs, or join our breeding program to create future generations. I’m so excited about the future, and so grateful to you for helping to make this possible.

Ron Hooton  
Chief Executive Officer

## New arrivals: Meet the Zeds

Proud Mum Winna is just one of the mums who gave birth recently at the puppy centre.

She is thrilled to introduce you to her little bundles of joy: three males and four females named Zane, Zandra, Zeke, Zera, Zeva, Zenith and Zurich.

## Tiny, adorable and oh-so-smart

Give a huge hug and hello to our newest arrivals, all safe, sound and healthy and growing so fast thanks to your support.

Olaf, Oslo, Orchid  
DOB: 4/9/20 Breed: L  
Mum: Yetta Dad: Murray

Paddy, Pixie, Pony, Phantom,  
Pickles  
DOB: 11/9/20 Breed: GR  
Mum: Olive Dad: Caspar

Quill, Quiver, Queenie, Quinn,  
Quartz, Quip, Quarry  
DOB: 21/9/20 Breed: L × GR  
Mum: Yentl Dad: Grillson

Roger, Robbie, River, Ray, Rizzo,  
Ralph, Rosie, Roxy  
DOB: 3/10/20 Breed: L × GR  
Mum: Dodi Dad: Ozzy

Trooper, Tia, Twiggy, Trevor,  
Taco, Toshi, Tommy  
DOB: 13/10/20 Breed: L  
Mum: Carmel Dad: Anton

Utha, Umi, Union, Umali, Ursha,  
Uli, Umeko  
DOB: 20/10/20 Breed: L × GR  
Mum: Demi Dad: Kenny

Visa, Viola, Vivi  
DOB: 30/10/20 Breed: L  
Mum: Judy Dad: Ice

Zane, Zandra, Zeke, Zera, Zeva,  
Zenith, Zurich  
DOB: 16/12/20 Breed: L × GR  
Mum: Winna Dad: Ozzy

Arty, Abbie, Aztec, Angela, Amy,  
Ascot  
DOB: 12/1/21 Breed: L  
Mum: India Dad: Murray

Brit, Bibi, Bruno, Bali, Banjo,  
Berry, Bingo, Bowie, Barney  
DOB: 13/1/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Terri Dad: Grillson

Cally, Cuba, Chessy, Cyril,  
Connor  
DOB: 14/1/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Vashti Dad: Clancy

Dusty, Darwin, Doris, Delta,  
Dirk, Dilly, Daphne, Della,  
Douggie, Dixie, Dory  
DOB: 23/1/21 Breed: L × GR  
Mum: Ulani Dad: Yuma

L = Labrador, GR = Golden Retriever

## Camping, caravanning and fishing – it’s all paw-ssible!

With Ebony, I can explore new places with confidence

Damian, known to his mates as Damo, didn’t realise he was blind growing up. He did all the same things as his brother. It was only when he started school that the other kids asked questions. He went home and asked his parents, who told him he was born with low vision.

In fact, Damo was diagnosed as legally blind.

In the years since, Damo has been living his best life, thanks to his determined spirit and his Seeing Eye Dogs.

‘With Ebony, I have the confidence to go to places and to explore new areas,’ says Damo.

Damo loves cooking and travelling, and together they have travelled all around Australia. He also loves camping, caravanning and fishing with his family. Ebony loves camping just as much as Damo!

‘Each Christmas the family go to their favourite camping spot and Ebony knows our caravan and all the local shops, and she loves swimming in the water,’ says Damo.

‘I wouldn’t be confident to do a lot of what I do without Ebony. In particular, work and personal travel. Travelling in an unfamiliar environment can be difficult, and it’s so much easier with a Seeing Eye Dog.’

Ebony is Damo’s third Seeing Eye Dog, after his beautiful and smart labrador, Elmo, followed by Labrador Golden Retriever cross, Zupps, who retired in 2016.

Damo is an Access Technology Manager, and helps people who are blind or have low vision use technology to help with work, education, travel and leisure so they can live the life they choose.

## An act of immense generosity

Des, Sharon and Jennifer Whybird (pictured with one of the puppies) of the Curavis Fund, are passionate and generous  
supporters for over 20 years. They were recently inspired to help even more people  
– for years to come, through the Seeing Eye Dogs Traineeship Program.

The Curavis Fund were keen to support an initiative that helped decrease the wait times for a Seeing Eye Dog and to be an integral part of the traineeships development.

The three-year program trains new instructors, with five traineeships in progress. This allows us to train more dogs, which in turn means shorter waiting times for those who are in urgent need of a Seeing Eye Dog.

‘There is a huge demand for Seeing Eye Dogs, and the training process requires considerable resources,’ say Des, Sharon and Jennifer.

Thanks to our supporters, we’re able to employ some of the most talented and experienced people in their field, but in order to meet the growing demand, we must train the next generation of dog mobility instructors.

The Curavis Fund have helped make this possible through their immensely generous gift to help fund the Traineeship program.

Of this they said ‘We feel immense pride to know we have helped with such a worthwhile effort,’

## Gift in Wills Iris Circle event

Following the lifting of restrictions, it was so wonderful to be able to host Iris Circle ‘Thank you’ events once again. Through events in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, we were able to meet and thank our Iris Circle members for their support and generous decision to leave a lasting legacy in their Will to Seeing Eye Dogs.

Iris Circle members were able to connect with each other and hear stories from staff, clients and parents who shared their inspirational and personal journeys.

Attendees were also taken behind-the-scenes to the Seeing Eye Dogs training facility, via live video, to see the next generation of Seeing Eye Dog puppies being put through their paces.

The impact you make through giving a Gift in Will transforms lives.

If you have included a Gift in your Will, please let us know as we would like to say thank you.

If you would like more information on how to leave a gift in your Will, join the Iris Circle or attend future events, please contact the Gift in Wills team on 1800 422 007 or email [giw@seeingeyedogs.org.au](mailto:giw@seeingeyedogs.org.au)

## Look what I can do!

Hi, I’m Gilbert. I’m training to be a Seeing Eye Dog.

Between 12 to 20 months, pups like Gilbert are assessed on their suitability to become a Seeing Eye Dog. They need to learn many new skills.

Here’s just a glimpse of some of the skills Gilbert will need to master before he can graduate:

### 1. Centre of the footpath and kerb stop

Gilbert is learning to stay in the centre of the footpath and indicate any change in surface level such as a kerb, road crossing, steps, stairs and so on.

### 2. Targeting tram steps/ Onboarding public transport

On command, Gilbert has to find the entrance of the tram, train or bus and board in a calm manner.

### 3. Finding doors and seats

Gilbert needs to recognise and respond to commands such as finding doors and unoccupied seats as well as pedestrian crossing buttons, escalators, stairs and so on.

### 4. Avoid obstacles

Gilbert is learning how to avoid obstacles both on the ground and overhead to allow his handler enough room to continue on their way safely.

### 5. Stop and stand for steps

Gilbert needs to indicate stairs to his handler by stopping as close as practical to the stairs or step, or by placing his front paws on the up-step.

Gilbert will need to master these and many more highly specialised skills to ‘become the best of the best’ before he can graduate as a Seeing Eye Dog.

Thank you for helping to turn pups like Gilbert into life changing Seeing Eye Dogs.

## Big appaws for our new graduates – and for you!

These happy matches are thanks to you! Because of your kindness and generosity, these clever pups have now graduated as Seeing Eye Dogs and are ready to change their new handlers (aka mum and dad’s) life.

SEEING EYE DOG Annika MATCHED WITH Anne

SEEING EYE DOG Windsor MATCHED WITH Monika

SEEING EYE DOG Zola MATCHED WITH Michael

SEEING EYE DOG Zoli MATCHED WITH Matt

SEEING EYE DOG Lightie MATCHED WITH Marion

SEEING EYE DOG Wattle MATCHED WITH Andrea

SEEING EYE DOG Isha MATCHED WITH Esther

SEEING EYE DOG Vito MATCHED WITH Joan

SEEING EYE DOG Hector-M MATCHED WITH Lynn

SEEING EYE DOG Buffy MATCHED WITH Lisa

SEEING EYE DOG Kirree MATCHED WITH Thanh

SEEING EYE DOG Felix MATCHED WITH Leeann

SEEING EYE DOG Parker-H MATCHED WITH Catherine

SEEING EYE DOG Sparky MATCHED WITH Warwick

SEEING EYE DOG Otis MATCHED WITH Fernanda

SEEING EYE DOG Sherlock MATCHED WITH Sharon

SEEING EYE DOG Questa MATCHED WITH Francois

SEEING EYE DOG Pippin MATCHED WITH Margaret

SEEING EYE DOG Pluto MATCHED WITH Annalyse

SEEING EYE DOG Spike MATCHED WITH Alan

SEEING EYE DOG Yoli MATCHED WITH Beronelle

SEEING EYE DOG Ulrick MATCHED WITH Narrelle

SEEING EYE DOG Henry MATCHED WITH Steve

## Esther and Isha – matched 2020

It can be a very lonely place being blind and having a Seeing Eye Dog fills the gap.

I call Isha my little pocket rocket.

Isha loves her soft toys. She is so funny she makes a grunting sound when she wants your attention. She almost sounds like a tennis player.

I’m crazy about her and also AFL. Isha and I now go to games together and she even has a special allocated seat at the Gabba. She gives me a lot of love and provides me with independence.

## Libby and Buffy – matched 2020

My previous Seeing Eye Dog, Quinn retired three years ago and lived with us until he passed in April (he was 15).

It was really hard. I stopped going out, I stopped being active.

Now with Buffy, I’m active, I’m confident and I have a sense of freedom back again.

Buffy is very sweet and cheeky. At home she loves picking up my son’s socks as he doesn’t always put them in the laundry. We call her Buffy ‘the obstacle slayer’. Buffy has lightened my life and given me back my confidence.

## Build a better bowl

Mix up the menu for healthier, happier pets

As humans we love variety and a mix of tastes and textures for each meal – why would we treat our beloved pets any differently? The way to a dog’s heart is through their tummy, so here are our steps to building your dog a better bowl, keeping their meals nutrient rich and exciting.

### 1. Start with a great base

Dry food is nutrient rich and should be used as a base for all your dog’s meals. The sweet spot for most dogs is 70% dry mixed in with 30% additions.

### 2. Add your protein

This is where you can start to get creative. Accompany dry food with your choice of fresh, frozen, wet or raw food. Or you could do a mix of all three!

### 3. Select your topper

Complete your masterpiece with a delicious and nutritious topper to add more texture and flavour for a complete meal your dog will love.

### 4. Enhance with a treat

Just like us, dogs love a treat to make a meal extra special. To celebrate special occasions, or just because he’s been a good boy, you can also add a treat in your dog’s bowl.

### 5. Stop there!

Your dog’s meal will now be extremely satisfying, so please don’t add part of your own food. Many loving dog owners don’t realise that a long list of human foods make dogs sick.

## Six tips from Royal Canin to keep your puppy healthy

In the first months of life, your puppy goes through an amazing transformation. Here are some tips from Royal Canin’s veterinarians to keep your puppy healthy:

1. Learn to read your puppy’s body language so you can spot if they might be unwell.
2. If you feel something isn’t quite right, or your puppy doesn’t seem their usual self, speak to your vet.
3. Make sure your puppy gets the right nutrition from a specialised, well-balanced puppy diet.
4. Give your puppy plenty of opportunities to sleep and rest quietly during the day, as well as at night.
5. Dogs enjoy company, so spend time with your puppy and remember to interact and play with them.
6. Always follow your vet’s recommended vaccination and worming schedule.

Royal Canin is proud to feed all Seeing Eye Dogs a complete and nutritionally balanced diet, thanks to your support!

Visit us at: [royalcanin.com/au](https://www.royalcanin.com/au)

Facebook: [@RoyalCanin.anz/](https://thehub.visionaustralia.org/)

Instagram: [@royalcaninanz](https://www.instagram.com/royalcaninanz/?hl=en)

## The Puppy Games proudly supported by Petbarn Foundation

Don’t miss the Seeing Eye Dogs Puppy Games, proudly supported by the Petbarn Foundation and Royal Canin

Date: Thursday July 22, 1pm

Learn more at: [www.thepuppygames.com.au](http://www.thepuppygames.com.au)

For more ways to make a difference, call 1800 42 20 07 or visit   
[sed.org.au/how-you-can-help](http://sed.org.au/how-you-can-help)

## WIN! Turn a $2.50 ticket into a Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross (incl. on-road costs) or $30,000 in cash

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

Lottery Hotline: 1800 670

<https://luckypuppylottery.org.au>

## Response Mechanism:

Yes! Please accept my life-changing gift of:

[\_] $30 can help pay for the specialised equipment needed for graduate dogs.

[\_] $50 can help towards the cost of specialised training sessions with a Seeing Eye Dog and their new handler.

[\_] $65 can help towards the cost of veterinarian supplies and equipment.

[\_] $100 can help pay for a year’s supply of vaccinations to keep puppies safe.

**My payment method. Donations of $2 or more are tax-deductible.**

**Please find enclosed my:**

[\_] Cheque  
[\_] Money order (*payable to Seeing Eye Dogs*)

**OR**

**Please debit my:**

[\_] MasterCard  
[\_] Visa  
[\_] Diners  
[\_] American Express

Card number: \_ \_ \_ \_/\_ \_ \_ \_ /\_ \_ \_ \_ /\_ \_ \_ \_

Expiry: \_ \_ / \_ \_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Here’s my email so you can update me on the impact of my gift.**

**Please update your details below if they are incorrect. Thank you.**

## Easy ways to donate

Visit: [**sed.org.au/donate**](https://www.visionaustralia.org/donate?src=seda&type=1)

Call: **1800 42 20 07**

Fax: **1300 84 73 29**

Post: **Reply Paid 90505 SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147**

## Thank you for your kind gift.

Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact our supporters. In return they help us reach more generous Australians to support our cause. If you do not wish to receive communications from other organisations, please cross this box [\_].

ACN 108 391 831

ABN 67 108 391 831

## Please read our privacy statement overleaf.

Your gift keeps on giving.

You might recognise Leah and her Seeing Eye Dog Harlow from previous correspondence. Harlow is helping Leah to live her best life.

Harlow has been invaluable in helping me learn new routes and settle into the new area – when we made the big move from Newcastle to Sydney. She has an incredible memory and already tries to prompt me to go into stores that we've only visited once.

I also married my wonderful husband. Harlow was a guest at the wedding and while she didn't walk me down the aisle, she looked extra gorgeous in a flower wreath.

Carrots are one of Harlow's absolute favourite things. This love is so well-known among our family and friends that someone was able to sweet-talk the kitchen staff at the reception into rustling up a carrot for Harlow so we could all enjoy dessert together.

After just over two years together, she continues to surprise me with her cleverness, her excitement at learning and finding destinations, and her ability to sneak in naps within minutes of settling on the train, car or cafe.

I cannot thank the wonderful supporters enough for helping to support the care of and training of Seeing Eye Dogs like Harlow.

Thank you so much – Leah & Harlow x

**Your gift today will help more people like Leah live the life they choose.**

## PRIVACY STATEMENT:

Seeing Eye Dogs 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 it may mean that we are limited in how we interact with you.

Our Privacy Policy is available at 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.

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. 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.