



Seeing Eye Dogs  
Vision Australia

# Paws

For a moment

Issue 2 – 2022

Thank you  
for helping  
to care for and train  
more pups!



# Thank you

Hello and welcome. Here's the latest news on the big difference your kindness is making!

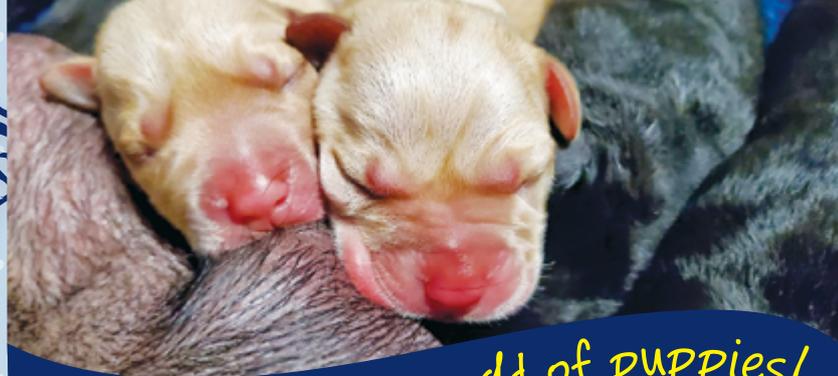
Thanks to compassionate supporters like YOU, we have fabulous stories to tell. Monika and Seeing Eye Dog Windsor have been exploring Western Australia's great tracks and trails, and Tony is now confident to get out and about in his community, winning gold medals with Seeing Eye Dog Drummer by his side!

We reveal our new puppy confidence course and celebrate the birth of our puppy litters, as well as the 35 Australians who are blind or have low vision meeting their *paw-fect* match.

Thank you for changing lives every day through your extraordinary support of Seeing Eye Dogs.



Ron Hooton  
Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the world of puppies!

Thanks to your support these puppies may one day go on to change the life of someone who is blind or has low vision.

These are all the puppies born between August 2021 and February 2022.

Giles, Griffin, Grady, Garth, Gandalf, Gus, Grover, Ginny, Gigi

DOB: 4/11/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Gaia Dad: Ajay

Vonnie, Vertie, Viktor, Vinson

DOB: 5/8/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Lucy Dad: Will

Hallie, Hugo, Horton, Honcho, Hebe, Heston, Hewie

DOB: 9/11/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Tina Dad: Yuma

Woodrow, Wombat, Wally, Wilbur, Willa, Walter, Wallace

DOB: 10/8/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Zia Dad: Enrico

Ivan, Inu, Izzy, Iris, Indigo

DOB: 9/11/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Omari Dad: Redmond

Yuri, Yashi, Yetta, Yindi, Yarrow, Yobi, Yuta, Yarra, Yenta

DOB: 20/8/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Fern Dad: Norris

Juma, Jack, Jonah, Jill, Janey, Julie, Jumbo, Jordan, Jeremy, Jackie, Jarvis

DOB: 24/11/21 Breed: GR  
Mum: Olive Dad: Deuce

Zuma, Zoltan, Zuko, Zizi, Zanche, Zeus, Zinny, Zylah, Zilla

DOB: 8/9/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Yoko Dad: Yoli

Karl, Kirby, Kola, Kimba, Kasey, Katie, Kitty

DOB: 12/12/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Orla Dad: Brent/Barlow

Allan, Andy, Alec, Atlas, Aslan, Annie, Alf, Atticus, Albie, Achilles, Astro

DOB: 10/9/21 Breed: GR  
Mum: Hattie Dad: Parker

Laya, Lachie, Luca, Lawson, Lychee, Lewis, Lexi, Lottie, Larry

DOB: 14/12/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Yentl Dad: Clancy-S

Benny, Bjorn

DOB: 15/9/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Amber Dad: Ice

Melvin, Minnie, Mambo, Mabel

DOB: 16/12/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Lindy Dad: Dennis

Danni, Denny, Dave, Dreyfus, Dustin, Daffy, Duchess, Dinah, Deja

DOB: 8/10/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Natasha Dad: Yuma

Poncho, Pierre, Pumpkin, Plato, Pepe, Phil

DOB: 23/1/22 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Ulani Dad: Kahuna

Ember, Enzo, Ella, Easton, Eric, Earl

DOB: 14/10/21 Breed: L  
Mum: Vashti Dad: Vincent

Quattro, Quill, Quinby

DOB: 8/2/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Zara Dad: Vincent

Fuchsia, Flint, Friday, Feather, Finch, Fleming, Ferdie

DOB: 19/10/21 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Wooley Dad: Grillson

Roxy, Rocky, Roma, Rita, Ripple, Rani, Rumer, Reenie, Rhonda

DOB: 13/2/22 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Demi Dad: Dennis

## 'Windsor's given me my eyes back'

Vision problems had been a constant in Monika's life – but after being diagnosed with Stargardt's disease at 40, her vision gradually progressed into legal blindness.

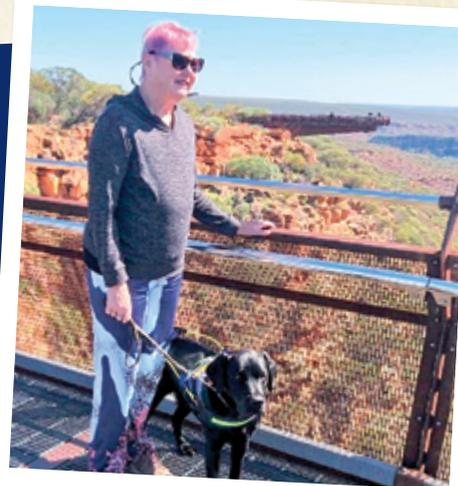
'It's still a grieving process,' Monika said. 'Some days are easier than others, but you get on with it.'

Monika's devoted husband, Hector, is one in a million. He was so distressed to hear his beloved wife was to become legally blind that he wanted to give her one of his own eyes. Told this was not possible, this incredible couple wanted to do the next best thing.

'We wanted to sponsor a little puppy and call him Hector, to be someone else's eyes but we couldn't afford this.'

But through the wonderful support of generous people like you, that dream has become a reality with Seeing Eye Dog Hector recently graduating and being matched with Lynn. Monika knows just how life-changing this is.

Before getting her first Seeing Eye Dog, Monika didn't walk out the front gate by herself for two years. Her Seeing Eye Dogs changed everything.



Monika at Kalbarri National Park with her Seeing Eye Dog Windsor.

Monika was recently matched with her second Seeing Eye Dog Windsor. The road isn't always smooth on their travels together, but they both love the challenge!

A recent trip to Kalbarri National Park gave Windsor a chance to demonstrate all the training and guiding skills he had learnt to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

'Windsor is incredible, he just did his job. It was amazing.'

'We also love to just go into town, wander around, and have coffee. My husband does his thing, and Windsor and I do ours. I love him to bits. I would be lost without him.'

Seeing Eye Dogs work with their handlers for around eight years before retirement. Monika and Windsor have bonded so strongly in just over a year, and they're looking forward to many more wonderful years of adventure together.

### Did you know amongst our super special puppies we have an equally special cat?

Bronx belongs to veterinarian Dr Nicola Cotton and lives at the Seeing Eye Dogs Headquarters.

Relaxation is high on the activity list for Bronx. He can be regularly found in a number of comfy locations – couches, bean bag, desks and chairs. He loves to hang out with the pups and dogs in training and is so relaxed he likes to bask in the sun as they walk by on their training routes!



### Meet Bronx!

# Stronger together; improving puppy training outcomes

Bruce and Ngaire Callaghan are generous and proud supporters who previously sponsored the training of one of our Seeing Eye Dogs.

When Bruce and Ngaire heard about an exciting new project to help puppies on their journey to become Seeing Eye Dogs, as devoted 'parents' to two Labradors Chloe and Molly, they were excited to help.

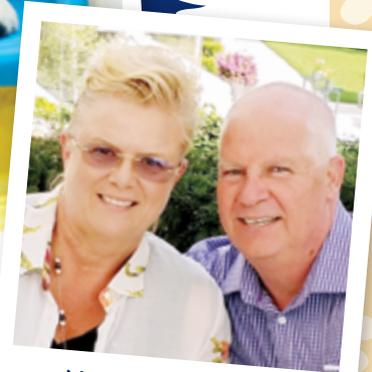
***'We know the value first-hand of the importance of companionship, trust and resilience.'*** - Ngaire Callaghan

The puppy confidence course was the result of an assessment by our very own Jane Bradley, Seeing Eye Dogs puppy development manager, and world-renowned geneticist Jane Russenberger, of Guiding Eyes for the Blind in the US.

After reviewing the needs of the national Seeing Eye Dog puppy centre, they identified the benefits of exposing puppies to additional daily activity.



*Yobi gives the new course his paw of approval.*



*Ngaire and Bruce Callaghan*

After extensive research and consultation, the puppy confidence course was designed for pups to navigate through and to manoeuvre around obstacles quickly and accurately, introduce them to new stimuli such as walking on varying levels, tunnels, materials and unfamiliar textures.

The course will also help build their confidence and resilience, and better prepare them for their next stage of training.

The course was a team effort, designed by puppy development trainer Lina and senior puppy trainer Kim, and built by Seeing Eye Dogs on-site maintenance manager Ivan.



*Examples of obstacles in the new 'puppy confidence course'.*



# No fear, just confidence, thanks to Drummer and YOU!



Seeing Eye Dog, Drummer has helped Tony overcome fear and apprehension and he says the experience has been 'life-changing'.

In 2009, Tony, 58, was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic eye condition that causes cells in the retina to degenerate. Tony then lost a further 50 per cent of his remaining vision and as a result, lost his job.

*'I was afraid of waking up in the morning with no sight at all, but Drummer has changed everything!' - Tony*

Tony was using a long white cane but decided the next step he needed was to get a Seeing Eye Dog. Matched with Drummer this year, Tony is now making the most of his regained confidence and independence.

'I used to bump into things or people, but Drummer commands attention. I've noticed people are a bit more considerate of our space now. It was frustrating to keep explaining myself if I bumped into someone, even when I used my white cane.'

After taking up lawn bowls just over eight months ago, Tony has already represented Queensland in blind bowls and won a gold medal!

'At my club I have beaten sighted people, it shocked some people as I am blind. I certainly had a good chuckle about that!'



*Tony at the beach with his best mate, Seeing Eye Dog Drummer.*

# Congratulations new Graduates!

Our new teams are so grateful for your compassion and kindness!

In six months, 35 people who are blind or have low vision have made a paw-fect match with their Seeing Eye Dog and new best mate. Thank you for helping to bring confidence, independence and joy to so many lives.

Here are some of the recent perfect matches you helped create.

SEEING EYE DOG *Alfred* MATCHED WITH *Beverley*

SEEING EYE DOG *Angel* MATCHED WITH *Haya*

SEEING EYE DOG *Astra* MATCHED WITH *Olivia*

SEEING EYE DOG *Baron* MATCHED WITH *Samuel*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cleo* MATCHED WITH *Bernard*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cookie* MATCHED WITH *Dale*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cosmo* MATCHED WITH *Brett*

SEEING EYE DOG *Drummer* MATCHED WITH *Tony*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gamble* MATCHED WITH *Robert*

SEEING EYE DOG *Garrett* MATCHED WITH *Valda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Harvey* MATCHED WITH *Alana*

SEEING EYE DOG *Honour* MATCHED WITH *Christyne*

SEEING EYE DOG *Illy* MATCHED WITH *Maria*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kahuna* MATCHED WITH *David*

SEEING EYE DOG *Levi* MATCHED WITH *David*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mavis* MATCHED WITH *Leslie*

SEEING EYE DOG *Maya* MATCHED WITH *Denise*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mellow* MATCHED WITH *Tony*

SEEING EYE DOG *Patty* MATCHED WITH *Wynona*

SEEING EYE DOG *Penny* MATCHED WITH *Isabella*

SEEING EYE DOG *Queenie* MATCHED WITH *Karen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Sam* MATCHED WITH *John*

SEEING EYE DOG *Sari* MATCHED WITH *Ayesha*

SEEING EYE DOG *Scooter* MATCHED WITH *Vaughan*

SEEING EYE DOG *Silkie* MATCHED WITH *Natini*

SEEING EYE DOG *Spicer* MATCHED WITH *Sharyn*

SEEING EYE DOG *Tawnie* MATCHED WITH *Caren*

SEEING EYE DOG *Tippi* MATCHED WITH *Hailey*

SEEING EYE DOG *Tony* MATCHED WITH *Steven*

SEEING EYE DOG *Uma* MATCHED WITH *Michelle*

SEEING EYE DOG *Urban* MATCHED WITH *Jenny*

SEEING EYE DOG *Verdi* MATCHED WITH *Krista*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yaffa* MATCHED WITH *Rhiannon*

SEEING EYE DOG *Zorro* MATCHED WITH *Tony*

SEEING EYE DOG *Zuri* MATCHED WITH *Phillip*



Denise and Seeing  
Eye Dog Maya



Rhiannon and Seeing  
Eye Dog Yaffa

The Petbarn Foundation has partnered with Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs since 2014 and has since raised close to \$5 million to help fund 102 Seeing Eye Dogs.



To support the Petbarn Foundation go into any Petbarn, City Farmers store or online and purchase a green hedgehog for \$5 [www.petbarn.com.au](http://www.petbarn.com.au)



Here's how the Petbarn Foundation Campaign has helped in the past 12 months, as part of the broader Seeing Eye Dogs community



**Petbarn Foundation**

- Supported 202 clients and working dogs across Australia
- 710 volunteers provided support to train and care for pups and dogs
- Provided online and hybrid programs to train and support volunteers, staff and clients
- 220 puppies were cared for and raised with the help of dedicated volunteers
- Supported the birth of 31 litters
- Provided care for over 50 dogs in the breeding program



Greencross Vets

The Greencross Vets support Seeing Eye Dogs by providing free consultations, as well as 15% off all fee items, excluding product and over the counter items.

Find your closest Greencross Vets at [www.greencrossvets.com.au](http://www.greencrossvets.com.au)

## Did you know up to 50% of cats and dogs are overweight?

Here are five top tips from Royal Canin to help manage your pet's weight:

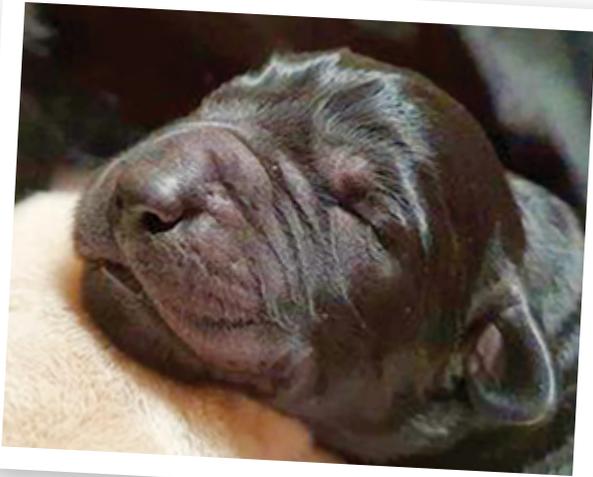
- 1 **Measuring your pet's food** can have a huge impact on your pet's waistline. Look at the feeding guide on your dog food packet, and remember to feed to their ideal weight, rather than the weight they are right now.
- 2 In severe cases of obesity, your veterinarian may recommend **changing your pet's diet** to a specific product designed for weight loss. Royal Canin offers tailored diets to support your pet's weight.
- 3 **Daily exercise is key.** For a dog this can be short walks every day, swimming or playing with the family.
- 4 **Rewarding with things other than treats.** Substituting treats and food with toys, balls and activities can be a great way to ensure your pet isn't overeating as a result of their good behaviour.
- 5 **Chat with your vet** to help formulate a weight-loss program that is suitable to your pet's health needs, age and breed.



  
**ROYAL CANIN®**

Visit us at: [royalcanin.com/au](http://royalcanin.com/au)  
Facebook: @RoyalCanin.anz/ Instagram: @royalcaninanz

## Will you sponsor a super puppy?



**This little puppy may be small, but he has a BIG future.**

Through the kindness and generosity of people like you, 'dogged' determination and highly specialised training, he could become an incredible Seeing Eye Dog, and help change the life of someone who is blind or has low vision.

**Little pups like this need people like you!**

Will you please join us as a puppy sponsor and help support the caring and training of more life-changing pups?

**Sign up today by calling 1800 42 20 07.**



## Puppies go for gold!

It's on again! For the third year running, Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs has partnered with the Petbarn Foundation and Royal Canin for the Seeing Eye Dogs Puppy Games.

Watch our *paw* fectly clever puppies tackle a series of skill testing challenges, with every move captured on camera!

All funds raised through the Puppy Games will go towards the Petbarn Foundation Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal, which aims to reach \$1 million by the end of July.



Tune in to our live stream on 21 July at 1pm AEST to help us get there!

Visit [www.thepuppygames.com.au](http://www.thepuppygames.com.au)