

Dear Trustees,

Thank you and update for the Audley Foundation

We very much appreciate the generous support of the Audley Foundation Trust which is making a real difference to the lives of vision impaired people. We are delighted to offer this short report showing the impact of your generous gift this year.

Thanks to support like yours, in 2024 we have already matched and partnered 216 guide dog partnerships. That means we are currently supporting 3,287 active guide dog partnerships to be as mobile and independent as possible, people like Anica and her guide dog Lassie:



“With my cane I was so slow getting around and I had near misses with cars and many falls and injuries. I was anxious and my family were worried about my safety.”

“It wasn’t just getting around that was affecting me, I was stressed and anxious. Having Lassie has given me my independence back and the chance to chase my dreams.”

Anica has now been partnered with Lassie with for eight years. During that time, she has achieved her dream of becoming a full Professor at the age of 38, an incredible feat for anyone under 40. She and her partner have also expanded their family and adopted two very active young boys.

“Lassie gave us confidence to go ahead and adopt. She helped the boys to settle into our family. She helps me do school runs and get them to camps, scouts and all the other things they do.

I had doubts about my future in my 20s, but having Lassie has given me my life back and that’s the greatest gift you can give.”

We continue to do all we can to reduce the waiting list for a guide dog and enable more people like Anica to discover life with a guide dog. Our Academy is now well established, and Guide Dog Trainer and Guide Dog Mobility Specialist graduates are joining their colleagues in local teams across the country, increasing the number of front-line staff available to match and train new partnerships.

Whilst we train more ideal canine matches, we implement a training programme so that those waiting can be as mobile and as independent as possible without a dog. Our Vision Rehabilitation Specialists look at what outcomes they hope for, such as safe, confident, and independent mobility on the route to their local amenities using a long cane. To help achieve this, we teach orientation skills, route preparation and cane training. We will be there for these people whenever they need support.



While the Vision Rehabilitation Specialists are helping people waiting, our breeding team and puppy raisers are busy raising and training puppies to become future life changers. Raising a guide dog puppy is equally challenging and rewarding. There's a lot to know, and to get right. Puppy raisers do a wonderful job to teach their pups an amazing 10 different behaviours which give the puppies the foundation skills they need to start their guide dog training.

Pups pictured above are exploring a sensory snuffle mat.

Last year we placed 1,323 puppies in puppy raising and this year we expect to increase this and place upwards of 125 puppies a month in puppy raising homes.

Thank you to the Audley Foundation. Even though we are now making good progress to return our guide dog service back to where we were pre-pandemic, we have much more to do. With high demand for our services and an increase in our fixed costs, we are very grateful for your support which helps to ensure that anyone with sight loss can live actively, independently, and well.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meghan Oakley".

Meghan Oakley
Trusts Fundraiser,
Meghan.Oakley@guidedogs.org.uk