



October 30, 2018 – Welwyn mobility team

Welcome from Head of Mobility Services Dr Andrew Dodgson

This year, we've created 28 new guide dog partnerships, nearly 50 My Guide partnerships and continued to support around 200 guide dog partnerships across the 3 counties.

Our audience and reach has grown on Facebook and on other social media channels and 10 MPs have taken on our blindfold walk challenge meaning that more people are finding out about our life changing work.

2019 will be another great year as we seek to reach more people who live with sight loss. Please do follow us on Facebook and Twitter @guidedogsAL2 for all the latest news.

Important information

Dog Care and Welfare Advisor Emily Raw:

Fireworks can be great fun but they can be extremely scary for dogs, the sudden bangs and crashes can bring out an innate fear.

As caring dog owners, the following advice may help to reduce stress on our fluffy loved ones.

- Provide your dog with a safe 'hideaway' away from any windows that they can run to if they are scared, you can make a covered den using sheets and a table.
- Ensure your environment is safe and that your dog can't escape – ensure they have their collar and ID disk on.
- Act as you would normally, do not attempt to over stimulate or give extra attention unless they ask for it. These changes can cause more stress.
- Provide enrichment to help keep them occupied.
- Put the radio and or TV on and close the curtains.

- Feed and spend them earlier you reduce the risk of any accidents!
- Adjust your routine to ensure you are not working your dog late when fireworks are going off.
- Don't take your dog to firework displays even if seemingly confident to do so.
- Don't leave your dog alone when fireworks are expected.
- Even when fireworks have finished, your dog still may be fearful of going outside, go slow, keep things positive and do not force them outside as this will make things worse.

News

Welcome back Lisa

Our Volunteering Consultant Lisa Cooke has returned from maternity leave and is excited to catch up with everyone. If you would like to get in touch with Lisa about volunteering, contact lisa.cooke@guidedogs.org.uk

Volunteer Christmas Party

We would like to invite our wonderful volunteers to join us for a Christmas get-together at our mobility team office Unit 3 Stroud Wood Business Centre, Park Street, St Albans, Herts, AL2 2NJ on Wednesday 5th December from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Please don your wackiest Christmas jumper and come along for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie and let us thank you for all your hard work and support.

Please RSVP by Monday 19th November. Call 01189 838713 or email: welwyn@guidedogs.org.uk

Service Updates

My Guide Manager Helen Rowe

It's been a fantastic year for My Guide in our team. We have 45 active partnerships, enabling people to get out of the house with a sighted guide

and achieve mobility goals. I've been catching up with many service users who have told me about the wide range of activities they've been enjoying including accessing local cinema and theatres, practicing routes such as bus and station routes, visiting National trust venues, seeking assistance with free running their Guide dogs, trips to garden centres, social shopping for presents and clothes. One partnership went Strawberry picking in the summer! We've had a significant increase in new volunteers from all backgrounds and we're interested in recruiting more. All our volunteers are united in their support of people who are blind and visually impaired and we're grateful to all our volunteers on a weekly basis.

To find out more about My Guide, email helen.rowe@guidedogs.org.uk

Contacts

Please note that the content of this email can also be heard via a recorded message on the following phone number 01 18 337 3820.

The Welwyn Mobility Team can be contacted on 0345 143 0228 or by emailing Welwyn@guidedogs.org.uk.

Guide Dogs operates an emergency out-of-hours number for urgent dog care issues on 0345 143 0217.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from Guide Dogs, email: unsubscribe@guidedogs.org.uk.