

GUIDE  
DOGS



## Module 2 Resource sheet

# The stages of training a guide dog



Cut out the activity cards on page 4 and 5 and mix them up, ask eight children to come forward to read aloud a card each. Encourage the group of eight to put themselves in order of a guide dog's timeline from birth to becoming a guide dog, with help from the whole group/ class.

**As you go through each card there are additional questions and answers in the teacher/ leader version to ask the whole group/ class.**

## Teacher/ Leader version with notes and questions

### Introduction to the session

**Guide Dogs have a worldwide reputation as a breeder of working dogs.**

This means that The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association make sure that all guide dog mums and dads are happy and healthy dogs. Read your cards aloud, then put yourselves in the correct order from the start of a guide dog's life until it becomes a guide dog.

**Card** – A litter of guide dog puppies are born. Each litter is named after a letter of the alphabet. The only letter not used is X.

Q Can you think of any names for dogs beginning with A?

A such as - Adam, Amy, Albert. Some of the puppies are extra special and are chosen to be sponsor pups or are named by a member of the public who has raised money to name the pup.

**Card** – At 6 weeks old they are each given a health check and vaccinations then each one goes to live with a volunteer Puppy Walker. They learn about the world, sights, smells and sounds, such as busy roads and going on buses and trains.

Q Why do you think they need to learn about roads, buses and trains?

A These are all places they will go when guiding their owner who might not be able to see. They will need to be calm and not scared when going on them.

**Card** – They go to puppy class and are taught to walk ahead on the lead and learn commands like sit, stay, down and come.

**Card** – They are now dogs and say goodbye to their volunteer puppy walker and go to training school. At school they wear a brown training harness.

Q How old do you think they are when they go to school?

A They are about a year old.

**Card** – At school they learn to walk in a straight line unless there's an obstacle. To stop at kerbs and wait for the command to cross or turn left or right.

Q Why do you think they learn to stop at a kerbs until told?

A So that their owner can tell them when they want to cross or which way they want to turn (it's the person who decides which way to go, not the dog).

**Card** – Next the dogs are matched with the correct owner. Walking speed, height, the person's eyesight and person's day to day life are all checked to get the right match.

Q What does a guide dog do?

A Helps its owner who may have little or no sight to go on journeys by guiding them around obstacles and other people (they make sure the person doesn't bump into anything)

**Card** – Once matched the owner and guide dog train together for 4 weeks. Training on the routes their person needs to know to get to places, such as the shops, work and home.

Q What should you do if you see a person with a guide dog?

A Try to ignore the dog as if you talk to it, touch it or make noises you may distract it from what it is doing which could be dangerous.

**Card** – If the training is successful, the owner hands over 50p and the guide dog is awarded with a white harness and their lifetime partnership begins.

Q Why do people pay 50p

A Anyone who needs one should be able to afford a guide dog the 50p covers the legal transfer of the dog to the owner.

**It actually costs over 55 thousand pounds for each guide dog over the course of its life but this is covered by funds mainly raised by public donations.**

## Resource Cards

### The stages of training a guide dog

A litter of guide dog puppies are born. Each litter is named after a letter of the alphabet.



At 6 weeks old they are each given a health check and vaccinations then each one goes to live with a volunteer Puppy Walker. They learn about the world, sights, smells and sounds, such as busy roads and going on buses and trains.



They go to puppy class and are taught to walk ahead on the lead and words like sit, stay, down and come.



They are now dogs and say goodbye to their volunteer puppy walker and go to training school. At school they wear a brown training harness.



At school they learn to walk in a straight line unless there's an obstacle. To stop at kerbs and wait for the command to cross or turn left or right.



Next the dogs are matched with the correct owner. Walking speed, height, the person's eyesight and person's day to day life are all checked to get the right match.



Once matched the owner and guide dog train together for 4 weeks. Training on the routes their person needs to know, to get to places such as the shops, work and home.

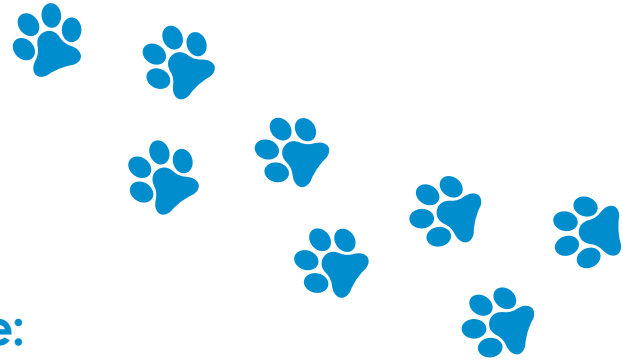


If the training is successful, the owner hands over 50p and the guide dog is awarded with a white harness and their lifetime partnership begins.



**Resource Sheet**

**Application to become a guide dog**



**Choose the type of dog breed you are:**

**I am a**

**Your Name**

**Describe the qualities that mean you would make a good guide dog:**

## Our Breeds

We train different breeds to become guide dogs,  
In 2016, our guide dog stock comprised:

