

A close-up photograph of a light-colored dog, possibly a Labrador Retriever, looking directly at the camera. The dog has a white or cream-colored coat with some darker patches around its eyes and on its muzzle. Its ears are floppy and light-colored. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and brown leaves.

**GUIDE  
DOGS**



# Becoming a Life Changer.

- How to write or change your Will
- What a gift in your Will does
- Why we need your help

DVD and  
**FREE WILL  
ADVICE**  
inside



**"Thanks to a  
gift in a Will,  
Pippa changed  
my life."**

**Lynette and Pippa**

## **Lynette and Pippa.**

Lynette was diagnosed with Nystagmus, a serious eye condition, at birth. When she was 19 and at university, her sight suddenly deteriorated. As a result, she was forced to move back home. Depending on friends and family to help her get around, she lost all her confidence. "I was treating each day as if it were a chore", says Lynette. "I had no dreams or goals."

All that changed when she was matched with her guide dog Pippa. "Before I got her, I was struggling just to walk to the shops. Now I'm finishing my degree, doing a part-time job... and my friends can be my friends, not my carers. I'm so grateful to those I've never met who chose to help me."

Lynette now has her life back thanks to Pippa, and you could do the same for someone else with sight loss by leaving a gift to Guide Dogs in your Will.

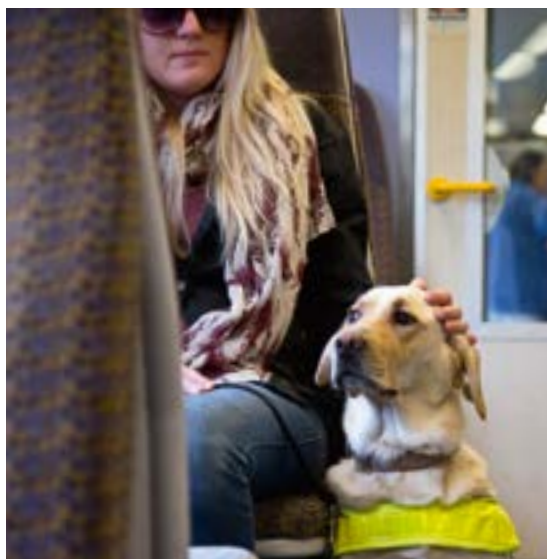
**Any questions?  
We're happy to answer them**



## **A gift of any size can change someone's life.**

As you read on, you'll see the inspiring work that a gift in your Will could support, and the life-changing impact these gifts have. People who are blind or partially sighted like Lynette can feel trapped in their own homes, often depending on friends or family as guides.

**Every hour, another person in the UK goes blind.** That's why Guide Dogs aims to continue increasing the number of guide dog partnerships we create, year on year. And why gifts in Wills are so vital in helping us achieve this ambitious target. They allow you to make a real difference to those living with sight loss, while still making sure your family and loved ones are taken care of first.



**Call our team on freephone 0800 953 0113  
or visit [www.guidedogs.org.uk/lifechangers](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/lifechangers)**



## **Training a guide dog. Where does your money go?**

Behind the scenes, a lot of time and expertise goes into turning an adorable puppy into a fully qualified guide dog – from our canine research and world-class breeding programme to an incredibly skilled matching process and intensive training. It takes three years to train a specialised Mobility Instructor too, so they have all the knowledge they need to work with every kind of guide dog partnership.

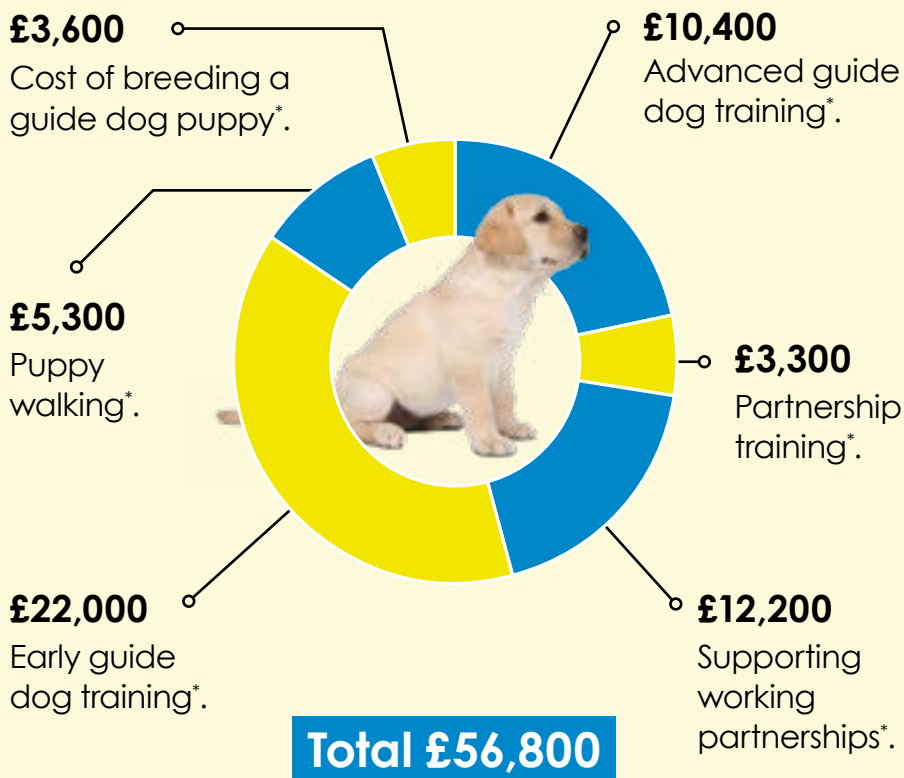
It doesn't end there either. We make a lifetime promise to provide every guide dog owner with a dog for as long as they need one, and this is only possible thanks to people like you.

**Any questions?  
We're happy to answer them**



## It costs around £56,000\* to breed, train and support each guide dog.

A guide dog owner could have up to eight dogs during their life. So our lifetime promise to every owner takes a huge amount of support, rigorous training and commitment.



\*Based on 2016 costs.

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## Every part of a guide dog's journey depends on support like yours.

Are guide dogs born or made? It's a bit of both. Everything starts at our National Breeding Centre in Warwickshire, where world-class research helps make sure the puppies being bred have the best possible health and personality traits to become incredible life-changers. With more than 1,200\* puppies born each year, that's a lot of mouths to feed, paws to train and promises to keep.

Visit the National Breeding Centre and see our puppies socialise, grow and learn.

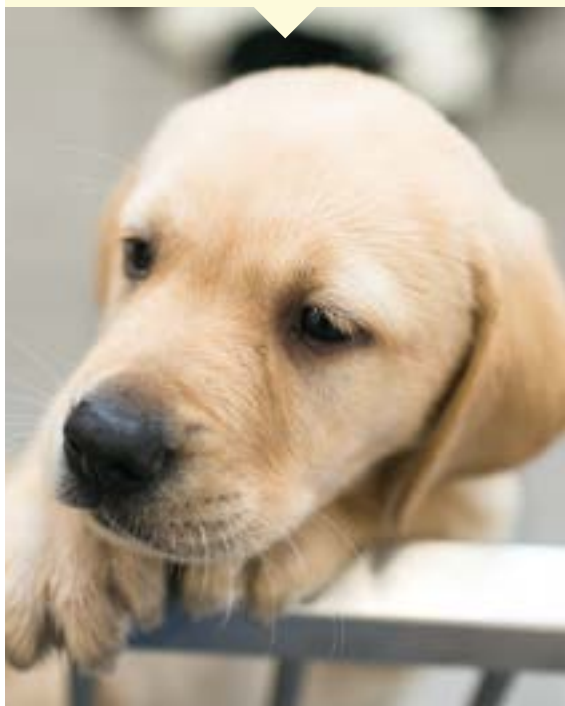
Email

**[NBCvisitors@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:NBCvisitors@guidedogs.org.uk)**  
or call **0345 143 0216**.

\*Based on 2016 figures.

## 1. Life begins at home.

After being carefully chosen, one of our 'guide dog mums' gives birth to her litter of pups in a volunteer's home or at our National Breeding Centre. Then at six weeks old, all the puppies will come into the centre for health checks, microchipping and lots of specialist playtime to assess their temperament.



**Any questions?**  
**We're happy to answer them**





## 2. Learning to walk.

From around six to eight weeks old, the puppies will live with one of our amazing volunteer puppy walkers. They will teach them basic social skills and take them to busy places like shopping centres and on public transport. It takes time but it's the only way to help them become familiar with the big wide world.

## 3. Starting school.

At about 14 months old, a puppy heads to Guide Dog Training School, where they spend 16 weeks learning basic guiding skills like stopping at kerbs and avoiding obstacles. Then they move onto advanced training with a specialist Guide Dog Mobility Instructor to learn more difficult skills such as traffic avoidance and any specific training a potential guide dog owner might need from them.

**“It’s been so rewarding. I’ve helped turn a little bundle of fluff into a confident dog ready to move on to the next stage.”**

Elizabeth,  
puppy walker.



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**"The day I heard I was  
matched with Tami was the  
most magical of my life."**

**Kimberley and Tami.**

## **4. Finding the perfect partner.**

A childhood condition meant Kimberley had been left with just 8% of her sight in one eye. At school, she became withdrawn. "Classroom bullies shattered my confidence," she explains, "I felt they had robbed me of my dream of studying for an art degree." The turning point came when Kimberley was matched with her guide dog, Tami. Since then, Tami's loyalty, skill and support have been instrumental in helping transform Kimberley into the self-assured and award-winning illustrator she is today. But behind the joy and emotion of success stories like this, there's a lot of work to ensure a perfect match. Towards the end of training, a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor starts considering the personality, lifestyle and age of the potential owner. Each guide dog partnership is supported with regular visits to make sure they get off to the best possible start.

**Any questions?  
We're happy to answer them**





## 5. Rehoming after retirement.

Most guide dogs retire at around ten years old, although it depends on the individual partnership. Many stay with their owner, family or friends, and some even stay with a puppy walker. But if that's not possible, we will rehome them with new owners, where they can enjoy a well-earned rest.

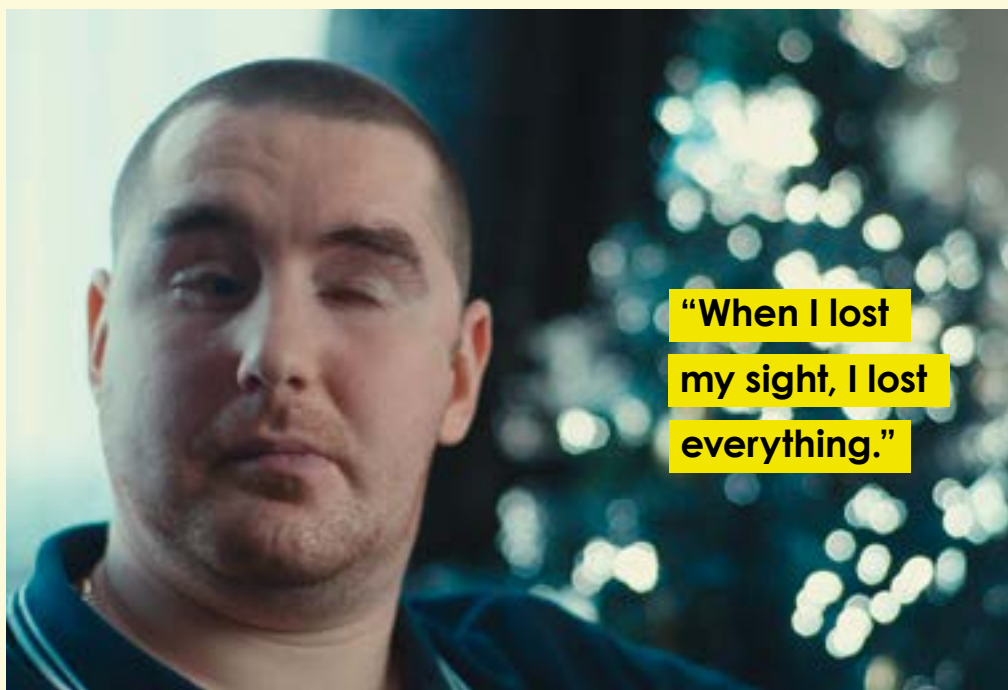


## 6. Opening up the world for a new generation.

Your legacy will support people of any age with sight loss, including children. 80% of a child's learning takes place using their vision. So we work with children, young people, and their families, to tackle the challenges of sight loss. We offer emotional support, advice on technology and education, mobility and life skills training, as well as large print books. The children we help gain confidence and independence, and we're here for them every step of the way.



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**“When I lost  
my sight, I lost  
everything.”**

## **Daryl's story.**

Daryl is currently on the waiting list for a guide dog. He's there because an unprovoked assault, while enjoying an evening out in his home town, left him blind. As Daryl explains, “My attacker was jailed, but I lost friends; I lost my job; I lost all my confidence. I felt totally isolated and alone, rarely leaving my flat.” Since getting in touch with Guide Dogs, Daryl can approach things more positively. Getting a guide dog would help him rebuild his life, giving him the confidence to leave the house on his own – and it will be thanks to gifts in Wills that we can confidently continue to provide this support.

**Any questions?**  
**We're happy to answer them**



## My Guide.

Drawing on Guide Dogs' experience as experts in sight loss, My Guide is a service which trains and supports volunteers to guide people in their community. That way, even without a dog, their independence is maintained and their confidence restored.

**"I cannot speak highly enough of the My Guide service and feel so lucky that it was available to me – this was the beginning of getting my confidence and self-esteem back."**

Liz, My Guide service user



**180,000 people with sight loss rarely leave home alone.**

Daryl suffered a sudden, life-changing sight loss. Other people are born visually impaired or lose their sight gradually. But whatever the reason, there are more and more people in this country who turn to Guide Dogs for help. And as long as they do, we'll continue to need supporters like you.

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**“During childhood, Mum’s German shepherd Rex was her best friend. This was her way of saying thank you.”**

## **Yvonne and Christine’s life-changing story.**



Christine Pye’s mother, Yvonne, always taught her that it’s important to give back and show gratitude throughout for everything life gives us. And Yvonne had always loved her dogs. So when she passed away, it came as no surprise to Christine that she had left a gift to Guide Dogs in her Will.

“Mum wanted to make a difference to people’s lives by helping the charity train more guide dogs,” says Christine. “It was a lovely thing for her to do.”

The first thing a new guide dog puppy receives is its name. Three puppies were named thanks to Yvonne’s wonderful support. One of these was Rex, a German shepherd named after Yvonne’s own childhood dog. “Rex meant the world to my mum,” says Christine. “I felt as though we had achieved something really special in her memory.”

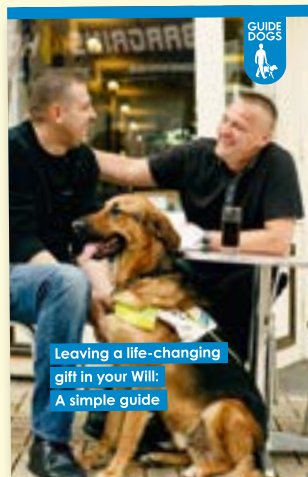
Inspired by her Mum’s generosity, Christine is also leaving a gift in her Will. “I love animals and I’m so happy to think that at some point in the future my money will go towards some lovely dogs who will go on to become someone’s eyes.”

**Any questions?**  
**We’re happy to answer them**



## How do you leave a gift in your Will?

You will find a simple guide placed within this pack giving you more details about leaving a gift in your Will. It's full of practical advice and answers to supporters' frequently asked questions. You can also learn how the Free Wills Network can help you change or amend your Will without it costing you anything in legal fees.



## Name a puppy, change a life.

Some people choose to use a gift in their Will to name a puppy after they've gone. That way their friends and loved ones can follow its progress as it is transformed into a guide dog. This is a truly remarkable gift, so to find out more about naming a puppy, please call us on

**0800 953 0113** or email  
**[giftsinwills@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@guidedogs.org.uk)**

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Watch the DVD  
and see how a  
guide dog  
partnership  
could be your  
lasting legacy.



Writing or updating your Will is **FREE**  
with the Free Wills Network.

Guide Dogs is part of the National Free Will Writing Network. This gives you the opportunity to have a simple Will written or updated for free by a solicitor in your local area.

You can find out more by calling us on freephone **0800 953 0113** or by visiting **[www.guidedogs.org.uk/freewills](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/freewills)**

