

In aid of



Donate an hour

Get ready for
your 60-minutes
of fundraising!

Your donate an hour fundraising



Thank you for signing up to donate an hour of your time to us.

We have fundraising collections and events taking place year-round in shops, highstreets, businesses, and community spaces across the UK. They are organised by our incredible network of volunteer-led fundraising groups.

Your role will be to join them and support their fundraising for one hour and help raise vital donations from the public.

Next steps

- Your details will be passed to the local Guide Dogs fundraising group in your area.
- Your local fundraising group will be in touch to welcome you and confirm the time, date and location of your collection or event.
- You will receive a reminder in the build-up to your collection or event via email. If at any stage, you can no longer attend, please get in touch.

On the day

- Wear warm, comfortable clothing. Most of our instore collections take place near the doorway, which can become very cold, especially if the weather outside is bad. If you are collecting outside, please check the weather beforehand and dress accordingly.
- Make your way to the agreed meeting place five minutes before your collection time and make yourself known to one of our volunteers, who should be easily identified.





Your hour of fundraising!

- Welcome and introductions to the other fundraising volunteers.
- You will be provided with your own collection device and Guide Dogs tabard which will allow you to be easily identified by the public as one of our volunteers.
- You will be shown where to stand and given some top tips for fundraising.
- At the end of your hour slot, please hand back your collection device and tabard.
- If you have any queries during the collection, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the fundraising group.
- Most importantly have fun and raise lots of money!

After your collection or event

You will receive a follow-up phone call from us to find out how your experience fundraising for Guide Dogs was. Our team can also provide details on future volunteering or fundraising opportunities.

Unable to attend?

We all appreciate that sometimes things happen so please let your fundraising contact know as soon as you can if you are no longer able to attend the event.



Every pound you raise will make a difference



£3 could pay for a microchip for one of our guide dog puppies.



£8 could support a working guide dog partnership for a day.



£29 could pay for an hour of specialist training for a guide dog.



£100 could buy a training school kit, essential to help every pup on their journey to becoming a qualified guide dog.

“

The friendships we've made from volunteering are fantastic. So, if you're sitting at home, or looking for something to do come and be part of the family.

”

Tommy, Volunteer Fundraiser



Tips on talking about Guide Dogs

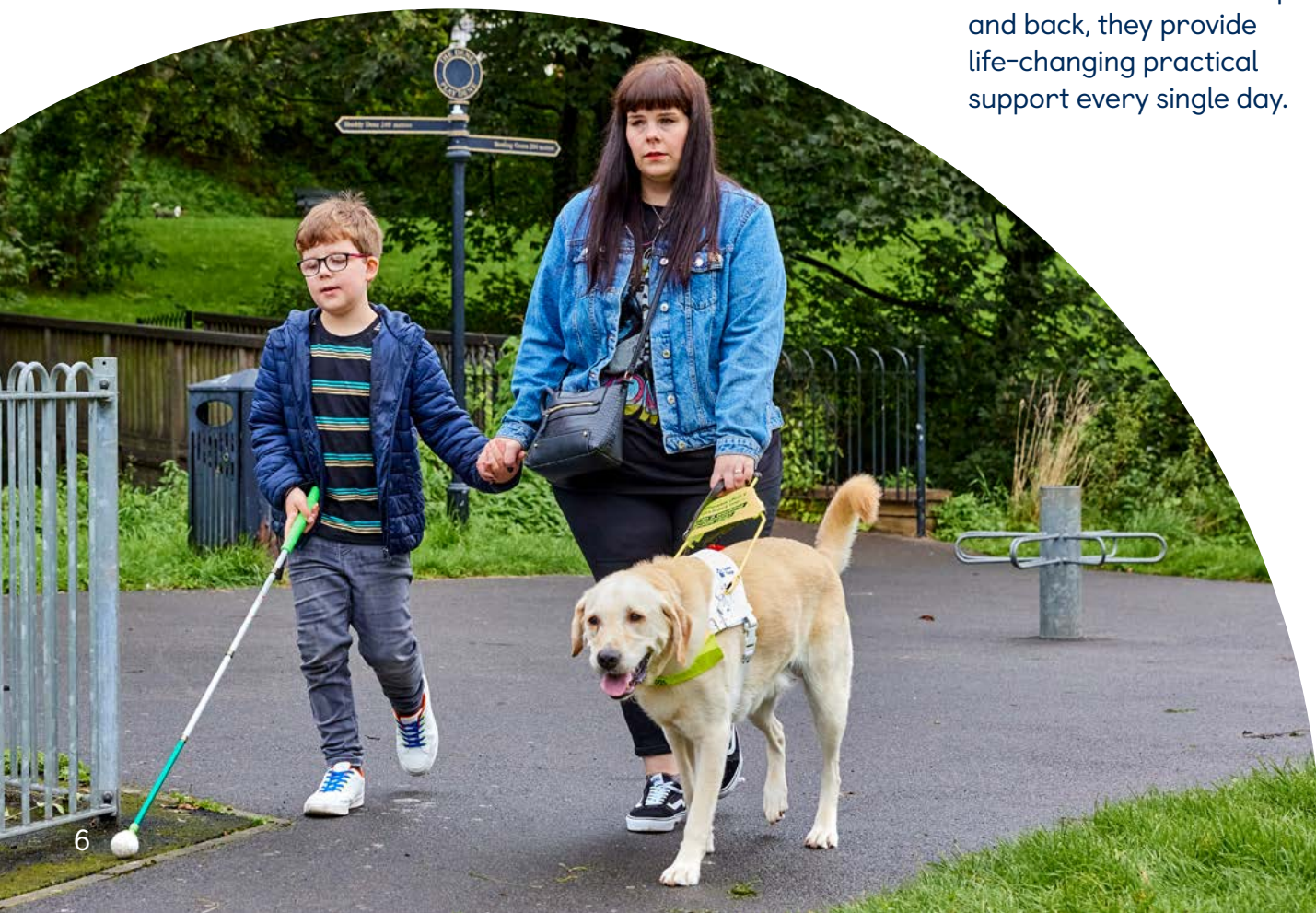


The public have lots of questions about our amazing dogs and we appreciate that you may not have all the answers.

We have pulled together some of their most asked questions, but don't worry if you don't know the answer. Please direct any questions you are unsure on to one of the fundraising volunteers, who will be happy to help.

“What does a guide dog do?”

Our dogs give people with sight loss the confidence to get out and about safely. Whether it's getting to work, to a regular exercise class or down to the shops and back, they provide life-changing practical support every single day.





“What breeds of dog do you use?”

We generally have two main breeds, Labradors and golden retrievers, which we cross to gain the best characteristics of each breed. These make up almost 80 per cent of our dogs. We also have German shepherds, curly coated retrievers and labradoodles.

“Is it okay to speak to the dogs?”

As the dogs are not working, you are allowed to speak to them, but please check first with their owner. Please remember not to approach a working guide dog whilst they are in harness as this could distract them from guiding and put their owner in potential danger.

“Can I give the dogs a treat?”

Although it is kind, our dogs are only allowed very specific treats from their owner.

“How can I get involved?”

You can find out information about ways to support Guide Dogs via our website: [guidedogs.org.uk](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk)



How your fundraising helps





Taylor was two years old before she was diagnosed with her eyesight condition, a rods and cones dystrophy called Leber congenital amaurosis, which meant that she was missing 90% of the rods and cones in her eyes.

"I always describe it as having a team of workers and only having ten as opposed to 100. So that kind of means that certain messages get through and certain messages don't like my depth perception. That's why I have a cane or a dog, because I can't tell how deep steps are or how far away things are so everything looks completely 2D, everything's totally flat."

When Taylor was paired with golden retriever Labrador cross Jilly, she said "I went on my matching walk with the beautiful Jilly, I felt my world change. I walked faster, stood taller and couldn't stop smiling at her."

“

Our partnership fills me with such hope and excitement because we are already a dream team.

”

Taylor, guide dog owner

From pups to partnerships

A huge amount of commitment, love and time goes into creating a guide dog.

From adorable, cuddly newborn pup, to finally being matched with someone with sight loss – each puppy's journey is unique and inspiring.



0 – 8 weeks

Pregnancy and birth

The journey starts in Leamington Spa with our breeding dog volunteers who provide a loving home to one of our guide dog mums and support her as she gives birth to her litter of very important puppies. During this critical phase, they're immersed in early socialisation, becoming accustomed to various people, sounds, smells, textures, and home environments, both indoors and in the garden.

8 weeks

Puppy raising

Our pups transition to the care of our volunteer puppy raisers across the UK. Here, they're carefully introduced to the world around them, experiencing all the different sights, sounds, smells, and situations that will help them become confident young adults. They learn vital practical skills, master essential cues, and most importantly, build positive relationships with the people in their lives.

14 months

Formal training

Training begins at one of our regional centres where we use positive reinforcement to give our dogs the skills, experience, and confidence for their future. They are cared for by our volunteer fosterers who drop them off at Guide Dogs school each day and provide lots of playtime and downtime in the evenings and weekends.





24 months

Creating new partnerships

We carefully match the right dog to the right person, including factors such as the environments the dog will work in and the lifestyle of the person they are being matched with. Once a suitable match is created, they will begin 5 weeks of class training together and learn everything needed to be a successful partnership.

Life as a guide dog

Our dogs transform the lives of people with sight loss, giving them the confidence to get out and about safely every single day. In return, we treat our dogs as respected partners – making sure they have a great quality of life, enjoying their work, and having time off to just be a dog. We continue to support for the whole lifetime of their partnership and are always on hand for help and advice.

Retirement

We start preparing for retirement when a dog is around eight years old, but they may not retire for a few more years and the timing is on a case-by-case basis.

These important conversations factor in the dog's health and wellbeing but also how the guide dog owner will continue with their mobility when the partnership ends, whether they plan to apply for a new dog, or work on other mobility skills like using a long cane.

Many dogs remain with their owner and their family as a pet, but this isn't always possible, and we will then find the right home where they can enjoy their retirement.



We're with you all the way

Our team of expert fundraisers across the UK are on hand to make your fundraising a success.

We can help with:

- Fundraising advice and support.
- Any questions you may have about Guide Dogs.
- Advice about future fundraising opportunities and more ways you can help.

You will have been given the details of who to meet on the day, if you are unable to attend please let your fundraising contact know directly.

Get in touch

For more information, help and support, please contact us:

fundraiseforus@guidedogs.org.uk

0345 143 0192



Our range of dog services will be broader.



Our expert team will provide more face-to-face services.

We will achieve this by:

Smarter working



Smart technology will make Guide Dogs more efficient and will help us bring vital services to more people.

People and places



We are creating inspiring and accessible places to work and visit for the people who use our services, our staff, volunteers and supporters.

More than double the people supported

Today

200,000

people supported

