

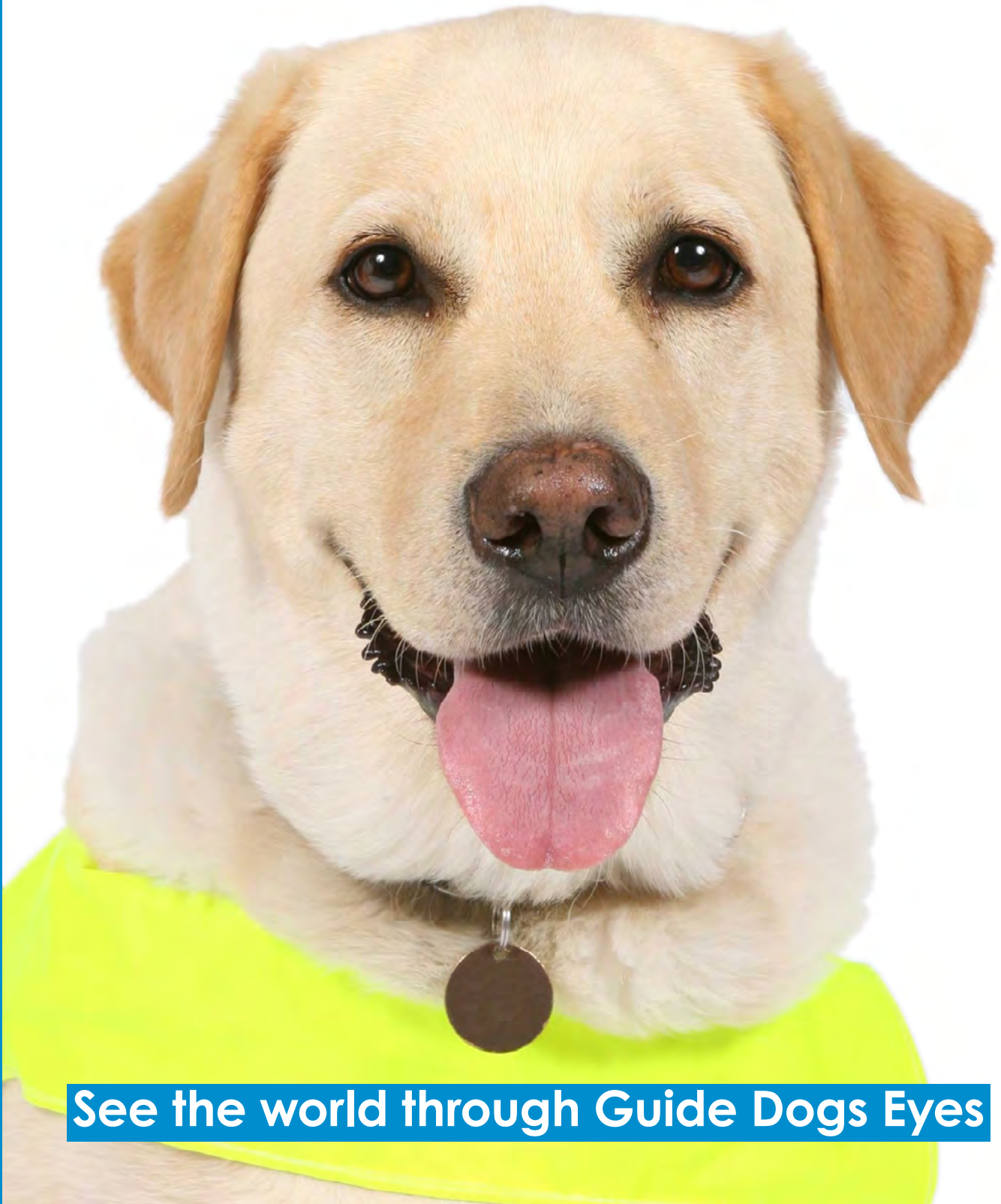
GUIDE
DOGS



Make Sense

Finding the way through sensory play

Dog Sense



See the world through Guide Dogs Eyes

Make Sense

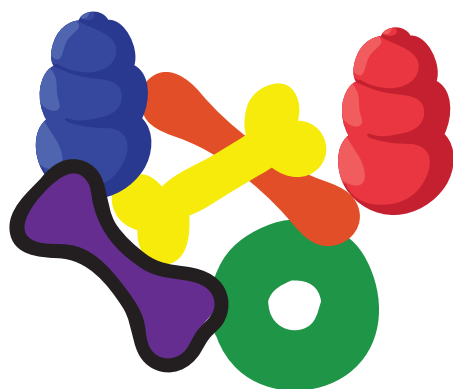
Finding the way through sensory play

Dog Sense

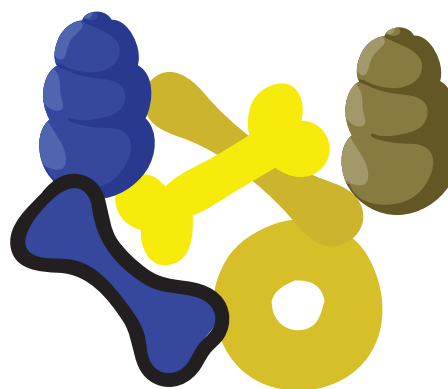
Introduction to Dog Sense

We all know about the amazing work that guide dogs are able to do. Have you ever wondered how our dog's senses compare to our own? Dogs share the same basic senses with us: they see, hear, touch, smell and taste. But the levels of their senses are very different.

What you see



What dogs sees



This is how we see the world

But dogs are very different

Dogs use their senses to process thoughts and gaining an understanding of the different senses in dogs and how they use them can help us to build a better bond and understanding allowing a healthier human-dog relationship. Learning how dogs perceive the world around them using their unique set of senses will help us understand the differences between us and also how we can use these senses to train dogs to become guide dogs.

Puppies are born deaf and cannot hear until they are 21 days old.

Dogs do not only see in shades of black and white, but see in colours of various shades of blues and yellows as well.



Dogs can identify smells somewhere between 1,000 to 10,000 times better than humans!

Dogs have about 1,706 taste buds. Compared to humans with 9,000 taste buds.

Guide Dogs - Makes Sense

Senses - The difference between dogs & us

Sight

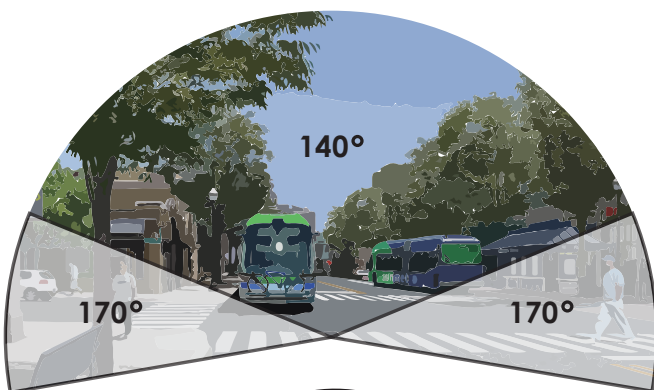
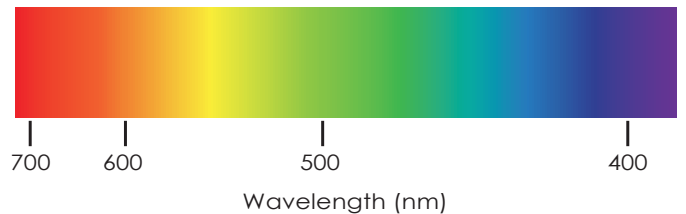
The dog's eye does not have the same things found in the human eye. Dogs do not only see in shades of black and white, but see in colours of various shades of blues and yellows as well. For example, a rainbow to a dog would be dark blue, light blue, light grey, light yellow, dark brownish yellow, and dark grey.

Humans can distinguish about 10 million different colours! Dogs on the other hand, cannot see nearly as many colours as humans. Dogs have a much better ability to notice motion though - that's one reason they can detect a cat up a tree at a much greater distance than you can!

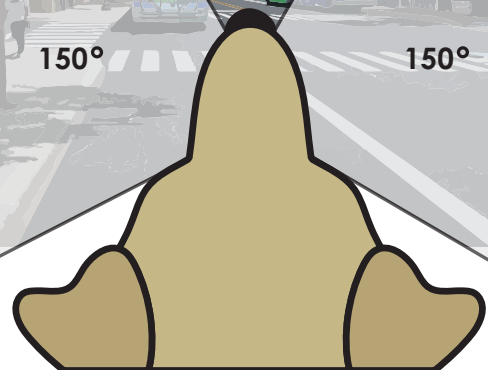
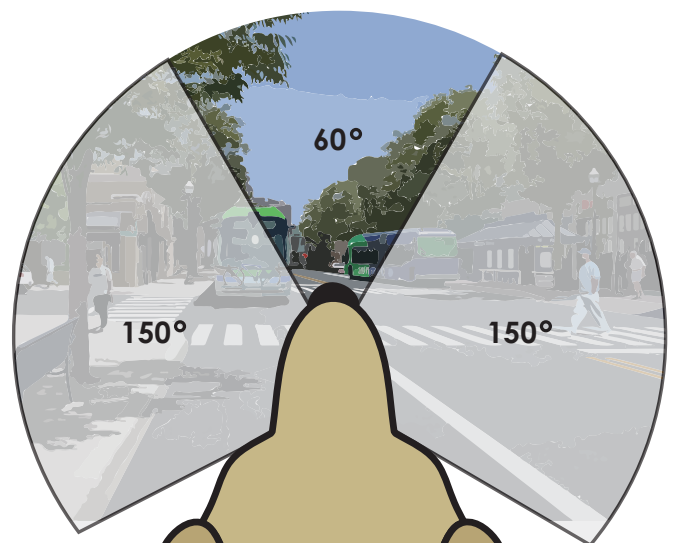
The Dog's View



The Human's View



You



Guide Dog

Smell

We can't even come close to our dog's ability to smell things. The sense of smell is very different between dogs and people.

It's been estimated that dogs can identify smells somewhere between 1,000 to 10,000 times better than humans!

Have you ever wondered why their noses are wet? It's because the mucus on a dog's nose actually helps it capture scent particles. Dogs use their wet noses to detect which direction a smell is coming from.



My dog has no nose!

Then how does he smell? Terrible!

Dogs can use each nostril separately to further increase their smelling abilities. Did you know our sense of taste is largely influenced by another sense; our sense of smell. In fact, our sense of taste is thought to be influenced by a whopping 80 percent by our sense of smell!

Dogs can sense smells that are 100 million times less concentrated than what we humans can smell. The sense of smell is the most highly evolved sense a dog has.



Hearing

Dogs have a great sense of hearing. In fact, it is their second best sense (next to their sense of smell). Puppies are born deaf and cannot hear until they are 21 days old.

By the time their sense of hearing has developed, they can already hear 4 times the distance of a human with normal hearing, that means you might hear something from a 100 yards away, your dog could hear from a quarter of a mile away!



Dogs have around 18 different muscles in their ears allowing them to move their ears in the direction of what they are hearing.

Sometimes a dog will tilt its head to get a better angle of the sound. Perky eared dogs (just like our German Shepherds) usually have better hearing than floppy eared dogs.

Plus they can move one ear at a time – and independently of the other to absorb even more information!

See if you can move your ears independently of each other?



Next time you hear your dog barking at the wind, he/she may be hearing something quite interesting!

Touch

Surprisingly dogs have a well-developed sense of touch under all that fur and of the five senses that dogs and humans possess, touch is the most similar.

With dogs, touch is the first sense they develop and it remains a powerfully important sense throughout the dog's life.

Did you know?

Over 6000 puppies have been born at our National Breeding Centre

Mothers begin touching new-born puppies almost immediately after birth by licking and nuzzling. Puppies instinctively nuzzle towards their mother, pawing to stimulate milk flow, much like that of a new born baby.



Taste

Last but not least... Taste! A dog's sense of taste is its least developed sense and, just as with humans, taste is closely linked to the sense of smell.

The main difference with taste between people and dogs is that people won't eat something that smells bad, we tend to try something before deciding whether or not we like it, while dogs are the opposite – the smellier the better!

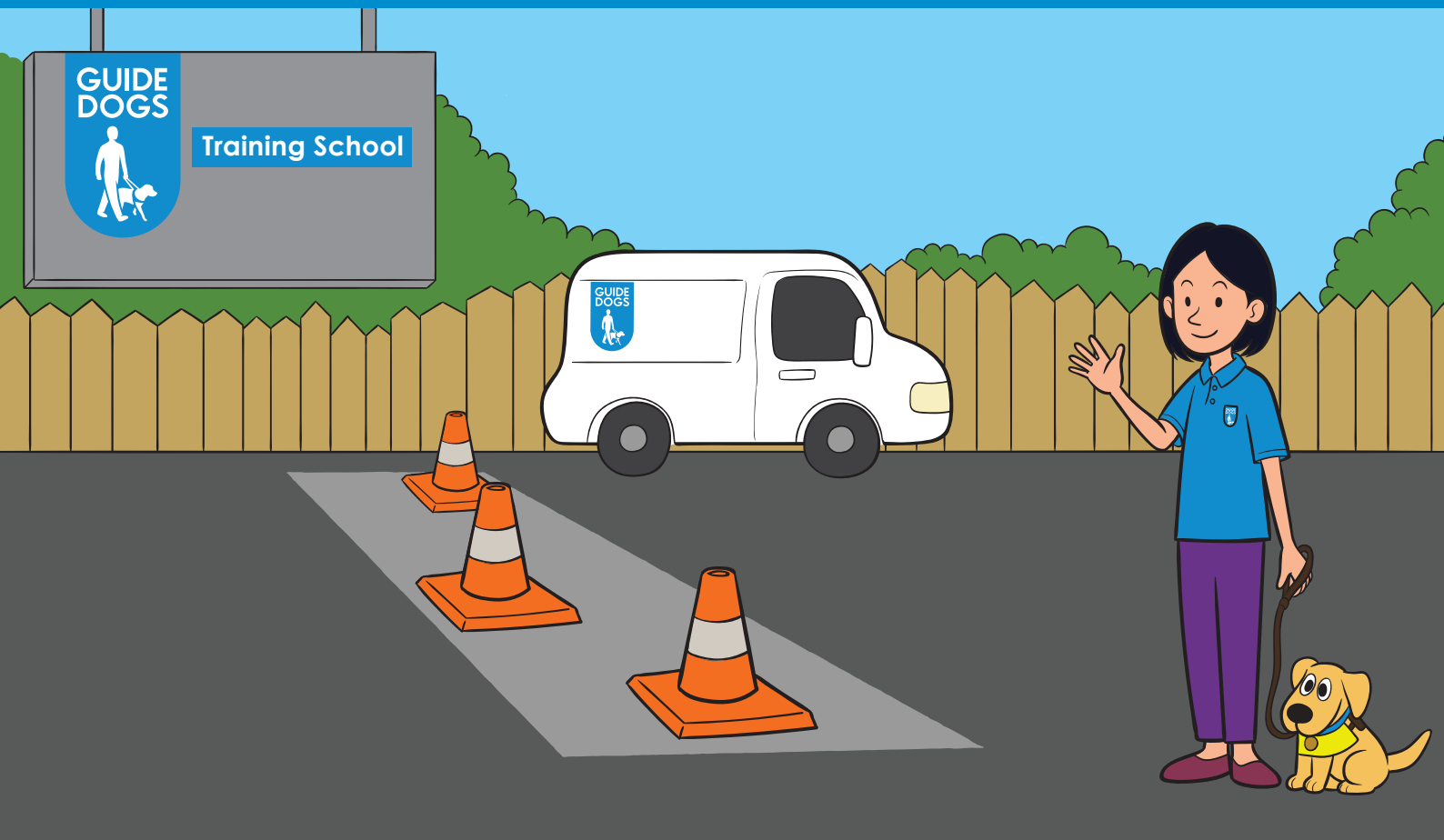
While we won't eat something that doesn't look appealing, let alone doesn't smell good, dogs are more concerned with how it smells rather than how it tastes. They frequently gobble down food before they have time to chew it, let alone taste it.



Dogs have about 1,706 taste buds. Compared to humans with 9,000 taste buds,

that leaves them with a palate six times inferior to ours. Their taste buds are set on the tip of your pooch's tongue, and they can taste bitter, sweet, sour and salty flavours just like us.





Hi, my name is Caroline and it is my job to teach training dog Hero how to be a Guide Dog. At our training school, there are lots of new sights and sounds for him to get used to. I need to teach him to use his sense of hearing to listen to me, and give him lots of praise for responding to commands such as "Sit". Hero can already see objects in the environment, but I use the obstacle course to teach him he must go around them – not over or through as most pet dogs would. Hero will go in the training van to travel to new places, but we always turn the engine off when he gets in, as the smell of the exhaust fumes can be quite off putting for a nose as sensitive as Hero's!

Write up about how Hero sees this environment. What does he see hear and smell?



This morning Hero and I are walking into town. It is bin day which means that although I don't really notice, the air is smelly and Hero finds it harder to concentrate on me. Hero is also learning that although there are some happy, laughing children at the bus stop, he must concentrate and can't stop and say hello when he is working. We move round an obstacle, and as he feels my leg brush his side, he knows he must leave a little more room next time.

He can also feel the pavement under his paws, and where the ground dips down to the kerb at the side of the road. He stops to tell me there is a hazard – Hero is amazing and is learning so well!

Write up about how Hero sees this environment. What does he see hear and smell?

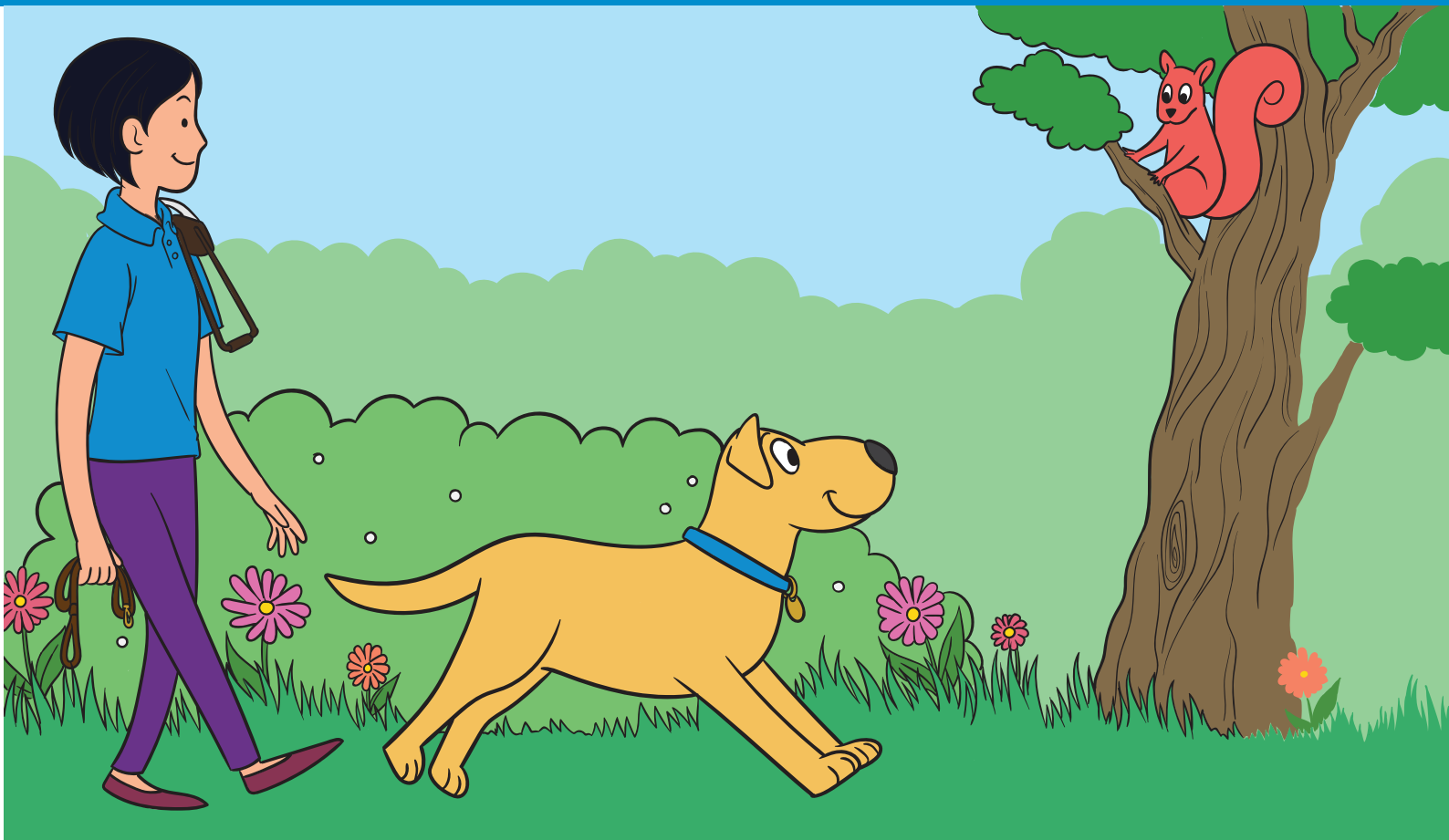


It has started to rain so we pop in to a coffee shop to give Hero a little rest. The rain makes the smells smellier, and the noises nosier, as the cars splash through the puddles and people rush around. We use this time to work on his 'social' behaviour.

Of course, there are crumbs on the floor, but Hero knows the doggy treats I have in my pocket are much nicer and he stays close to my side as we find a spare seat. When Hero lies down under the table I tell him "good boy" and stroke his head gently.

Being calm and quiet is so important so that Hero can go everywhere with his Guide Dog Owner when he is trained.

Write up about how Hero sees this environment. What does he see hear and smell?



On the way home we stop off at the park. Hero is let off his lead – “go free Hero” I say cheerily. He feels the grass under his paws and runs in circles with joy. He is having a great time sniffing through the long grass to see where the other dogs might have been. Even though it is play time, Hero must stay close to me. I blow a whistle to tell him it's time to come back to me, and he places his soft head on my hand to let me know he is safe. There are squirrels in the park. Hero listens to the squirrels talking about what they will be having for tea – I can't hear them but Hero does, and decides his biscuits are much more yummy! There are people playing ball games too. I am teaching Hero it is much more fun to play with me instead. I look at my watch and see it's time to go home, where Hero will sleep and dream about all the things he has seen, smelled, heard and felt today...

Write up about how Hero sees this environment. What does he see hear and smell?

GUIDE
DOGS



Make Sense

Finding the way through sensory play

Dog Sense



visit

www.guidedogs.org.uk/schools

for free, interactive teaching resources

Guide Dogs is a working name of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Registered Office: Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3YG. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979). 9524 11/12