



YOU can make a difference!

Please tick a box to be sent further information.

- Sponsoring the Super Puppies:** By Making a monthly donation you can help train and develop the puppies. You will receive regular puppy progress updates
- Dogtober,** Assistance Dogs annual fundraising and awareness month where everyone takes part in fun doggie-themed events and activities
- Workplace giving:** Why not donate a small part of your salary and have it matched by work?
- Volunteer** at Assistance Dog events whilst being surrounded by puppies!
- Bequests:** You can enrich someone's life by leaving a legacy that would benefit their life forever.
- Puppy Raising and Sitting:** Do you love dogs and want one, but can't commit. Raise a puppy in your home for 18 months, or puppy sit when our raisers go on holiday.
- Fundraising Events:** You, your friends or community group can provide support by running fundraising events in your local area
- Business Sponsorship:** There are lots of sponsorship opportunities, including sponsoring your own puppy!

Name _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email address _____

I would like to make a donation today of: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like to sponsor a Super Puppy: \$20 \$35 \$60 Other \$ _____

Visa Mastercard Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

All donations above \$2 are tax deductible
Please make cheques payable to Assistance Dogs Australia Ltd, and send to
PO Box 455 Engadine NSW 2233. Fax (02) 95483766 Registered Charity Number CFN 15453
Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible



"How proud I am to be the patron of this wonderful organisation"

Her Excellency The Governor
General of Australia
Ms Quentin Bryce AC
and proud Patron of
Assistance Dogs Australia



Our Ambassadors



Dr Chris Brown, Dr Jo Righetti, Elise Rechichi OAM, Louise Sauvage OAM, Tim McCallum, Dr Katrina Warren, Nuala Haffner, Tamsyn Lewis, Tanya Clarke



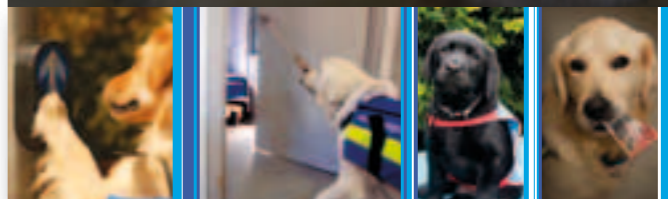
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Assistance Dogs Australia was the first assistance dogs organisation in the Southern Hemisphere to be accredited by Assistance Dogs International

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Assistance Dogs Australia[®]



Giving freedom and independence to people with physical disabilities



What does Assistance Dogs Australia do?

Founded in 1996, Assistance Dogs Australia is a small but national charity that trains Labradors and Golden Retrievers to help people with physical disabilities.

"I never realised how important my independence was until I lost it after my accident. Assistance Dogs Australia has given it back through a beautiful Labrador named Roxy," singer and Assistance Dogs Australia ambassador, Tim McCallum said.

In 1999, Tim was chosen as one of 18 performers to attend Australia's leading performing arts university, the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts. But just days before he started his course a swimming accident at the beach left him a quadriplegic.

Since his accident, Tim's resilience and spirit have touched the hearts of many. He returned to the stage to continue a performing career. His biggest fan is Roxy.

"Roxy is a complete wonder dog. 50% of what she does is the physical tasks she's been trained to help me with. The other 50% is the companionship. Roxy is my best friend and I know that I could not achieve the things I want to in life without her help and companionship."

Assistance Dogs Australia provides a FREE service to Australians in need, helping everyone with physical disabilities: those who were born with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida, those who acquire debilitating illnesses later in life like multiple sclerosis and those who have been injured in tragic accidents and will never walk again. Disability is something that can happen to any one of us, at any time.

What does an Assistance Dog do?

Assistance Dogs are trained for two years to perform specific tasks to help their recipient

- Open and close doors, drawers, wardrobes and the fridge
- Retrieve dropped items
- Press the button at the traffic lights
- Take the washing out of the machine
- Remove items of clothing
- Assist with chores like shopping
- Alert bark or get the phone if their owner is in danger

They also

- Assist with the development and improvement of fine and gross motor skills
- Give someone greater and freedom and independence
- Reduce the need for a carer
- Improve self-esteem and confidence
- Provide love and companionship
- Are great icebreakers and help recipients become more involved in the community stopping isolation

Assistance Dogs provide emotional support as well as a physical service to their "team mate". They bring independence, freedom, confidence, happiness and hope.



Assistance Dogs bring hope and happiness into someone's life once again.

It costs over \$26,000 and takes two years to train each puppy



Why we need support

Every dog trained costs over \$26,000; this covers for all training, food, vet bills, living costs at the national training school, up to 10 days placement and a lifetime of follow-up care.

Assistance Dogs are given away free of charge to all recipients. As long as a person needs an assistance dog, we will be there to help them.

Assistance Dogs Australia provides three kinds of dogs to assist people with physical disabilities:

SERVICE DOGS – Placed with adults with physical disabilities, these dogs are the most highly trained of all to help someone inside and outside the house. All service dogs have full public access rights so can accompany their team mate everywhere.

COMPANION DOGS – Mainly provided to children or those who only need help around the home.

FACILITY DOGS – Trained to be companions to everyone at centres such as nursing homes and children's hospices.

We currently have over 50 people on our waiting list, with an average wait of two years - we urgently need to reduce this list.

Assistance Dogs Australia:

- Places dogs with people in need free of charge
- Offers a lifetime of support
- Relies on the generosity of the public/community
- Ensures that these wonderful dogs are trained to the highest standard to offer the most help they can
- Is accredited by Assistance Dog International

Making a difference

By getting involved with Assistance Dogs Australia you could help to improve the life of fellow Australians. Something as simple as a small donation every month or taking part in our annual fundraising month Dogtober would have a real impact on this small charity which is in dire need of funds.

Why not:

- Sponsor a Super Puppy
- Get your work, school or club involved and have a Dogs' breakfast
- Host a doggie-themed event
- Volunteer
- Donate through work

Please see the back page for more information on how you can get involved.

Real Life Story



Nathan and Ruby

She helps him get dressed, she takes him to school, she opens and closes doors, but probably the most wonderful thing that Ruby, Nathan Ford's Companion Dog, provides him with is independence.

"Before Ruby came along, Nathan had little independence," Gavin, Nathan's dad said. "If he wanted to play in his room, little things like opening doors and picking up toys would have to be done for him. One of us would have had to be with him all the time. But then Ruby arrived."

Ruby follows Nathan everywhere and helps him to pick up dropped objects, she takes off his socks, she can switch the lights on and off and she even opens the door so Nathan can play fetch with her in the backyard.

"Ruby has made Nathan a lot more outdoorsy because he can go out in the backyard by himself. She also takes him to and from school everyday and all the kids come up and greet them. They love her." Gavin said.

If the family hear Ruby bark it means Nathan needs something that she can't do, but that doesn't happen very often. She has also alerted Nathan's family when Nathan has been in trouble.

"We feel safe knowing Ruby is with Nathan all the time and that she's so devoted to him," Gavin said.

Ruby is always there for Nathan making him smile with just a wag of her tail and her unconditional love and support are the best things she provides.

"She's my best friend," said Nathan. "She helps me and makes my family and me laugh."

To find out more about Assistance Dogs Australia and how you can help visit www.assistedogs.org.au