



Media Release

27 April 2011

EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY

Guide Dogs SA.NT is today recognising the tireless efforts and dedication of our working Guide Dogs in the community.

“Not many people realise the extent of their journey to become a working Guide Dog – and it’s a tough job – no pay, no holidays, no long lunches,” Chief Executive Officer Kate Thiele said.

“International Guide Dog Day is a day to honour the vital role that Guide Dogs play in helping people who are blind or vision impaired.

“These dogs are amazing – not only offering a powerful form of independent mobility, but also a level of companionship that is incomparable.

“Every day we hear testimonials from clients about the value that a Guide Dog brings to their lives – improving quality of life on a number of levels.”

Guide Dogs undertake an intensive 18-month training program that essentially begins from day one – and concentrates on teaching these dogs to work against their natural instincts.

They are trained to abandon the instinct of tracking, weaving and following scents, and instead walk in a straight line; to guide rather than lead; to negotiate steps and stairs; locate specific destinations; and the list goes on.

“These dogs deserve to take their rightful place centre stage today as we acknowledge and raise awareness of their place in the community,” Ms Thiele said.

About Guide Dogs SA.NT

Guide Dogs SA.NT uses our expertise with dogs and in sensory service provision to enhance the quality of life of individuals living with a disability and their families.

For more information about Guide Dogs SA.NT visit <http://www.guidedogs.org.au/>

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