

January 28, 2009

Puppy with promise

Poppy, the guide dog puppy, has endeared herself to the Hainke household.

The gorgeous Lab, “adopted” by the Glenunga family just three months ago, is part of the Guide Dogs SA.NT Guide Dog Development Program.

Poppy goes almost everywhere that the family goes, including the children’s swimming lessons, to the local shopping centre and enjoys quiet naps in coffee shops and restaurants.

Anne Hainke says her two young daughters just adore Poppy.

“Raising a puppy for Guide Dogs has helped our kids develop community spirit and they have a lot of fun with her as well,” says Mrs Hainke.

“Poppy is an exceptional puppy and is just so well behaved. It’s going to be hard to give her up.”

The Hainke family are one of a number of families who volunteer as puppy raisers for Guide Dogs SA.NT.

The organisation’s Puppy Raising Coordinator Katie Hunter says that they have four new puppies currently needing homes.

“It’s not easy to find people who are able to commit to this volunteer role. Puppy raising is indeed a lot of fun, but the role is a demanding one requiring considerable commitment and dedication.

“We’re looking for people who have the time to dedicate to socialising and training a puppy,” says Miss Hunter.

“The role of a puppy raiser is to introduce the puppy to sights, sounds and smells and to provide a loving and secure home environment.”

Puppy raisers need a fenced backyard and any children should be of school age or above.

Miss Hunter says that becoming a puppy raiser was an ideal way for people to enjoy the benefits of having a dog for a year.

“They’ll have the joy of raising a guide dog puppy, who will potentially help someone in the future who is blind or vision impaired.”

Guide Dogs Association of SA and NT Inc | Full member of the International Guide Dog Federation

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To register your interest in becoming a puppy raiser call Guide Dogs SA.NT on 1800 738 855.