

June 23, 2009

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## TOP DOGS TO ARRIVE IN STYLE

A precious cargo will touch down in a private corporate jet in Adelaide from Melbourne next Monday morning (June 29).

The newest members of the Guide Dogs SA.NT family will be arriving in a style normally associated with the rich and famous, all thanks to the ongoing generosity of Pilatus and JetCity, who organised the flights free of charge.

The young puppies, York, Yale, Yandi and Yoda, accompanied by their mother Zandi, were born at Guide Dogs Victoria's birthing facility just eight weeks ago.

And mother Zandi will take a well-earned break after producing another "first class" litter. At just two and a half years old, Guide Dogs SA.NT's first brood bitch has now produced 12 puppies in two litters.

Her first litter has breezed through their early puppy training and are expected to enter official guide dog training in August.

Should Zandi produce another litter of guide dog puppies, it is expected that she will give birth in Adelaide. The organisation's redeveloped headquarters, expected to open in December, will include a long-awaited birthing/whelping facility, in addition to the Guide Dogs Discovery Centre, an interactive education centre aimed at students.

Marcus Gehrig, of Guide Dogs SA.NT, says the new puppies will begin early development and socialisation with volunteer puppy raisers before they begin more advanced training in about a year's time.

"We are always looking for volunteers to 'adopt' puppies like these. It's a demanding, but rewarding role."

Our volunteers dedicate a year of their time and energy to raise these puppies who will hopefully grow up to become a guide dog partner for someone who is blind or vision impaired.

Timing is everything and these little guys have actually arrived in Adelaide just in time for a month-long Top Dog fundraising promotion by Guide Dogs SA.NT.

**Schedule for June 29:** Depart Adelaide at 9.30am CST (Adelaide Time). Arrive Essendon Airport (Jetcity, Hangar 103, Lionel Street), Melbourne 11.00am EST (Melbourne Time). Puppies arrive and board between 11.15 and 11.45am.

Depart Essendon Airport, Melbourne 12.15pm EST (Melbourne Time). Arrive Adelaide Airport (17 James Schofield Drive) at 12.45pm CST (Adelaide Time). All times are approximate.

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