

## Guide Dogs and CMB Engineering

We would like to say an enormous thank you to CMB Engineering for sponsoring the lifetime of one of our guide dogs, we are extremely grateful. This document explains a little bit about our charity and outlines how we will work with CMB to give you the best understanding of how your gift has changed someone's life.



*“Where would I be without a guide dog in my life? Stuck at home, no social life, relying on my dad to do everything for me.”*

Christian Hyde, Gwent

## **Background to Guide Dogs**

### **Guide Dogs ambition, purpose and values**

Guide Dogs ambition is a future where every person with sight loss has the confidence and support to live their lives to the full.

Our purpose is to provide life-changing services for the independence of people living with sight loss and their friends and family.

Our values are to be open, passionate and innovative.

CMB is helping Guide Dogs fulfil its ambition, values and purpose.



*“After having my children, I found it hard to juggle my family, career and the extra stresses of being visually impaired. I lost a lot of confidence, independence and self-esteem. My guide dog has allowed me to become a lot more confident and independent.”*

- **Sian Healey, Cardiff**

## **Current Situation**

In Wales we estimate that there are close to 14,300 people living with severe sight loss\*. Many of these people rarely leave their homes alone. The aim of Guide Dogs is to help people like these feel part of life. We provide support to help them move around safely and confidently, to get out of their homes and live their lives the way they choose.

The situation is worsening due to a rise in an elderly population. In Wales, we estimate that the number of people living with severe sight loss will rise to close to 19,000 in 2030, an increase of 33%\*.

Guide Dogs Cymru has 65 people with sight loss on the waiting list for guide dogs (3 in Cardiff) and 247 visually impaired people are currently supported by guide dogs (30 in Cardiff). In 2018, 40 new guide dog partnerships were created in Wales. Demand for our services is ever growing, over the past seven years our waiting list for guide dogs has grown by more than 25%.

As well as guide dogs we provide other life changing services such as sighted guiding, we work with children and young people and we campaign for equal mobility and genuine independence for blind and partially sighted people.

We are entirely reliant on volunteering to run our service. Our ratio of staff to volunteers in Wales is currently 1: 16. Volunteering roles range from looking after our dogs, to sighted guiding, engagement, driving and fundraising. Please get involved if you wish.

\*source: Oculus

**Thank you to CMB for changing someone's life – this is how we will show you how you have made a difference.**

We understand that CMB wishes to sponsor a guide dog for life so that you get the best understanding of how your gift has changed someone's life. As a charity working with very vulnerable people, the wellbeing of our service users is always at the forefront of our mind. This is how we can give you an insight into our work, without being too reliant, intrusive or put too much pressure on one service user.

**Following the lifetime of a guide dog**

**Name your puppy**

To start with CMB will name its very own guide dog puppy. We ask for a little boy's name or a little girl's name (or unisex) so that we can minimise your waiting time (usually around three to four months to allow nature to take its course, but this can differ a bit). The name is subject to approval as a guide dog owner must be happy calling it out in the street (no Doggy-McDogface's please!). Christine has a list of approved names that she can share, but don't worry if the one you want isn't on that list, we will check for you.



Sparky, named by Marks & Spencer in Newport Road, Cardiff

While you are waiting for your puppy to be born and enjoy its very early life, we will arrange a visit to CMB by one of our guide dog owners and/or puppy walkers. They will be able to explain about our life changing work and you will meet your first guide dog.



First-time guide dog owner Angharad from Neath with Tudor, a golden retriever



We can also arrange a tour of our National Breeding Centre near Leamington Spa for your staff (transport not provided).



At our National Breeding Centre

### Learn about and meet your puppy

When your puppy is 6-8 week's old we will arrange a birth certificate and photograph of him or her to be sent to you. This also contains details of your puppy's Mum, Dad and siblings.



Charlie named by Bangor University

Your puppy will then go to live with one of our puppy walking volunteers until he or she is around 14 months old. The puppy walker does basic training and socialises your dog.

During this time CMB will meet its puppy. The timing depends on the temperament of your dog, but it is usually when the puppy is 25 weeks old.

We will also send you three brief pup-dates detailing the puppy's progress and a more detailed 4 month and 8 month report card from their puppy walker.

You will then be sent a framed photograph of your puppy after they've entered training school

## Learn about your dog's training

Once your puppy has entered training school we will send you two training updates. One detailing the dog's early progress and one qualification report



Golden retriever Storm enjoys a cuddle with his trainer, Rachel

We will arrange a tour of your puppy's training school for you and you will be given the chance to meet your pup once more at their training school.

Once qualified you will receive a framed photograph of the dog in their white working harness.

## After training

Your puppy will then be matched with the right owner. This depends on various factors such as the dog's temperament and size, as this needs to be matched with a person's walking speed height and lifestyle. It is possible that the owner may live outside of Wales because if the dog is an ideal match for someone elsewhere in the UK, we will move it to the right home. If the owner is able and willing, we will arrange for you to meet but we cannot guarantee this as we cannot put any pressure on the owner. If the owner is unwilling we will send you at least 2 report cards on progress over the first 2 years.



Jane from Cardiff takes the train to work with her guide dog Ruby, a collie cross

## What is our puppy doesn't make it as a guide dog?

Hopefully your puppy will easily make it as a guide dog, however when working with animals nothing can be guaranteed. If at any stage it looks as if your puppy will need to be withdrawn we will come and talk with you and you will have the option to move your sponsorship over to a new dog (with the same name if that is your choice).

## Conclusion

The demand for our services is forever growing, ideally there should not be a waiting list, and your donation will help to combat this situation.

We rely almost entirely on donations from the public to keep our life-changing services running, less than 1% of our income comes from government funding.

Thank you CMB for helping young parents like Tanya Mckenzie-Shearan, from Bridgend:



*“I was six and a thorn went into my left eye. I had surgery every day for a week. I was taught to use a long cane but got teased, so I used to hide it up my sleeve. I still won't use one to this day because it brings back bad memories.*”

*“Having a guide dog means I can live an independent life. Tetley absolutely loves public transport, so we take the train and the bus to Cardiff.*”

*“I feel more confident, and my family no longer have to worry that I will walk into something and hurt myself.”*