

NEWS: FROM THE PUPPY'S MOUTH

Meet our new **Top Dog**



We are excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Vernon Tutton, who joined the Guide-Dogs family in October 2018.

Vernon has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Information Technology industry and has big plans for growing the Association.

We look forward to reaching new heights under Vernon's leadership and guidance.

"Our dream is to spread the word of our services to the millions of South Africans living with visual impairment. We would like to have the ability to assist every request for an Autism Support Dog and we want to ensure that every differently-abled person finds their partner in mobility when they contact us. The immense potential of our Association has no boundaries and I am beyond excited about what the future holds."

- Vernon Tutton



MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS

We would like to welcome the following students who have enrolled at our College of Orientation and Mobility. These students will undergo theoretical and practical training to obtain their National Diploma in Orientation and Mobility Practice. We wish them success in their studies and look forward to bearing witness to their growth and development into qualified Orientation & Mobility Practitioners!



Thabani Zuma



Thandokazi Dumaphi



Tsholofelo Modikoe



Xoliswa Shozi



Yonela Msoki



Lwandisa Davids



Puseletso Kopa



Bongiwwe Yekani



Mandla Mathebula

GOING GREEN CAMPAIGN APPEAL



Help us become environmentally friendly and request to receive your Friend in Harness magazine and communications electronically. Not only will this help us save costs, but it will also avoid the numerous returned and undelivered mail that we receive back.

We are also on a mission of updating our database. Please ensure that all your information is up to date.

You can contact us at info@guidedog.org.za or on 011 705 3512 to update your details or to request electronic copies of our communication going forwards.

We would love to hear from you! Please help us to continue our communications with you.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW PUPPY JACKETS!



We want our puppies in training to be comfortable in their training attire and have changed our

design to be more accommodating for our active pups. We've added a fastening clip for ease of putting on the jacket, less material covering the pups and a bright blue colour to stand out. We think that our pups look quite snazzy in their new gear!



COMPLIANCE TEST PASSED!



In October 2018 we welcomed Noach Braun, CEO, and Co-Founder of the Israel Guide Dog Centre for the Blind, Beit Oved, Israel. Noach is an assessor of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF). Each member organisation of the Federation is reassessed every five years to ensure that they are complying with the international standards. Our Association passed the assessment with flying colors!

Cheryl Robertson, Head of Training at our Cape Town branch, was recently appointed as an Assessor of the IGDF. Cheryl joins a group of technical experienced Guide Dog Mobility Instructors who act as representatives of the IGDF. Cheryl will assist in assessments of member organisations.

Gail Glover, Head of Guide Dog Training at our Johannesburg branch has been appointed to Chair of the Accreditation Committee of the IGDF after being a member since 2015.

We would like to congratulate both Cheryl and Gail on their achievements!



Noach Braun



Gail Glover



Cheryl Robertson

UPGRADES TO PUPPY BLOCK



Puppy Block will be undergoing some exciting changes and improvements in the coming months. Upgrades to Puppy Block will include the following:

Two whelping areas accommodating up to eight moms at a time, three socialisation rooms where the pups will receive socialisation exercises, a public viewing room where members of the public are able to see the older pups, a laundry room, two storage rooms and an outdoor enrichment area.

These upgrades will allow us to increase our capacity and improve the care provided to our pups. We have also instituted 24 hour around the clock care to ensure that moms and pups have constant care and companionship. We would like to thank our supporters and investors for their contribution to our Association. These improvements would not be possible without your support!

Our annual Car Raffle Competition is underway!

Stand a chance to win a brand new Suzuki Swift worth more than R180 000. To enter, visit our webshop at www.guidedog.org.za or complete the Car Raffle Sheet enclosed and return it to us.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



We pride ourselves in building a close relationship with our working dogs and their owners. We regularly visit and follow up with our clients to determine if there are any challenges they face. One of these challenges is that of access to public spaces. Our Constitution clearly states that no person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on the grounds of disability. Although this is entrenched in our law, it is not always practiced.

Additional legislation that echoes a similar message include The Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, No.54 of 1972 ("the Foodstuffs Act") and regulation R962(10)(i); The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, No.4 of 2000 ("the Equality Act") also known as PEPUDA with particular reference to Section 6, 9 and 29. International legislation pertaining to such cases include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), of which South Africa is a signatory.

We are fortunate to have the assistance of Deirdre Venter from Shepstone & Wylie

Attorneys as our legal representative when it comes to cases of discrimination against our clients. The Department of Home Affairs, Western Cape, was taken to court as a result of access denied to our client Amanda Bester and her Guide Dog, Reo. On 29 March 2019 Justice Saldanha handed down a landmark judgement, the first in South Africa dealing with the denial of access of a working Guide Dog. The Equality Court held that our client's choice to make use of a Guide Dog, "is a choice worthy of protection and cannot be removed by another person except for a justifiable cause".

The Department was ordered to take steps to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. These include placing visible signs at all entrances of the Department that indicate that Guide and Service Dogs are allowed and that ongoing training regarding the treatment and handling of disabled persons, was to be provided to employees and security guards contracted to the Department.

The Department was also ordered to report back on oath to the Court within 120 days of the steps it has taken and intends to take in future, in order to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. In addition to these

orders, the Court deemed it appropriate to order the Minister of Home Affairs and the Department to tender a written apology to Amanda for the manner in which she and Reo were treated on 17 August 2017.

Our Association has also embarked on a education and training mission to inform and assist companies and public servants on the rights of our clients and their dogs to have free access to public places.

If you would like more information or if you are interested in obtaining our training material, please contact Pieter van Niekerk on 011 705 3512 or on PieterV@guidedog.org.za



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Credit Card: We can process your investment telephonically! Contact us on 011 705 3512.