

LEAD N

Magazine of Seeing Dogs

A working name of The Seeing Dogs Alliance

***Training Dogs to Guide Blind and
Partially Sighted People***

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Editor: Jane Anderson

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Editorial

By Jane Anderson

Dear Reader,

Hope you are enjoying the summer months. Hopefully, you are all managing to remain ‘cool’.

All our Trainers and Puppy Walkers are taking the necessary actions to ensure our dogs are safe and comfortable in the heat – very early/late evening walks and training, cool treats, cool mats and plenty of water!

Do enjoy reading about our latest partnership, our Training Seeing Dogs and our Seeing Dog Puppies.

Although it may seem Christmas is a long way off, do check our next edition of Lead On, when you will be able to see Christmas Cards for sale, to raise funds for The Seeing Dogs Alliance.

Enjoy your read.

**Jane Anderson
Editor**

New Partnerships

Sadie

By John Grave



Figure 1. Madleen and Sadie on Qualification Day

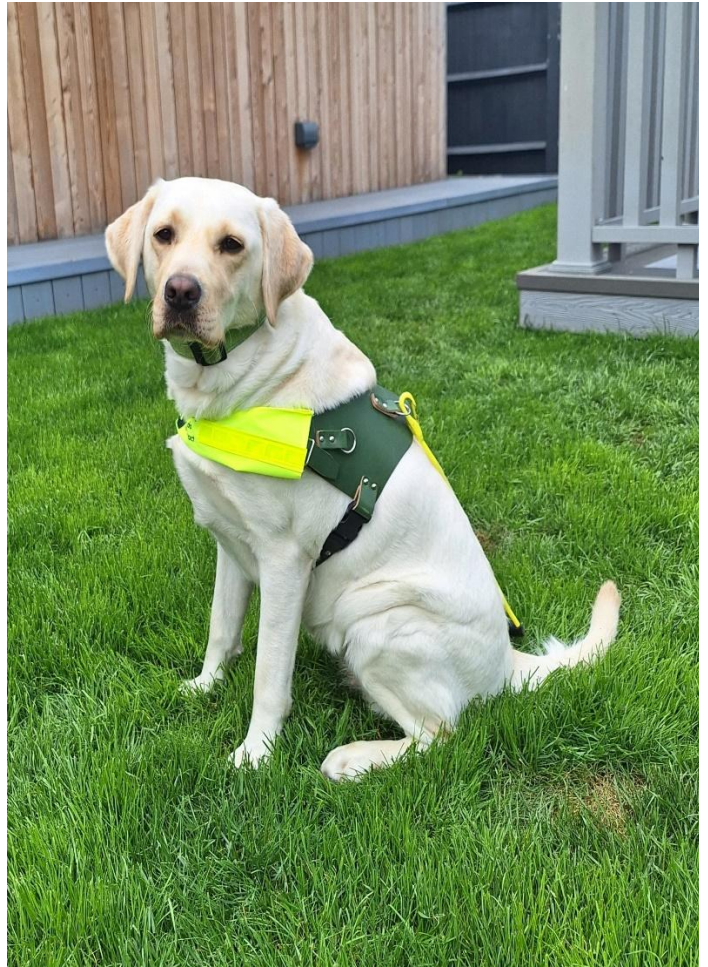


Figure 2. Sadie on Qualification Day

During the month of May the charity was pleased to announce the qualification of Madleen and Sadie.

Well done both of you on your hard work.

Well deserved.

Seeing Dog Puppies

SDA Puppy Glen

By John and Sue Ferguson

Our latest update follows Glen's development from six months to his first birthday — a period that has seen him grow from an enthusiastic puppy into a promising young dog. Throughout this time, Glen has continued attending puppy classes, steadily refining his core skills including obedience, lead walking (both on and off lead), recall, and general manners around people and other dogs. We are delighted to report that Glen successfully achieved his Kennel Club Good Citizen Silver Award, a great milestone in his training.



Figure 3. Glen sitting on the lawn, smiling at the camera

A key part of Glen's development has been his exposure to the wider world. He has travelled confidently on buses, trains, and the London Underground, always behaving calmly and showing increasing assurance in busy environments. Regular visits to shopping centres, cafés, restaurants, libraries, and public events have helped him build strong socialisation skills

Highlights from this period include:

- A visit to the Rochester Sweeps Festival, experiencing Morris dancing, music, and lively crowds.
- Attending a busy village fete in Hempstead, Kent, with plenty of children and activity.
- A trip to central London, including a visit to Horizon 22 at Bishopsgate, where Glen travelled up to the 58th floor and impressed visitors with his composure and obedience.

Glen has become something of a favourite wherever he goes, often attracting admiring comments for his calm behaviour and “sit/stay” in busy locations.

Now one year old (20th May 2026), Glen is preparing for the next stage of his journey and will shortly move on to formal training in early June.

Glen’s Character and Progress -

Glen is an affectionate and intelligent young Labrador with a lively personality. While he remains slightly mischievous at times and can become bored if not engaged, he is highly capable when working and clearly enjoys having a purpose.

He has been one of the more challenging puppies we’ve worked with, but we are now seeing encouraging signs of maturity. His strong recall, improving lead work, and eagerness to learn suggest he has great potential for the future. With continued guidance and structured training, we are hopeful that Glen will go on to achieve his goal of becoming a guide dog. Best of luck, Glen — we’re all rooting for you.

With Love

Bella

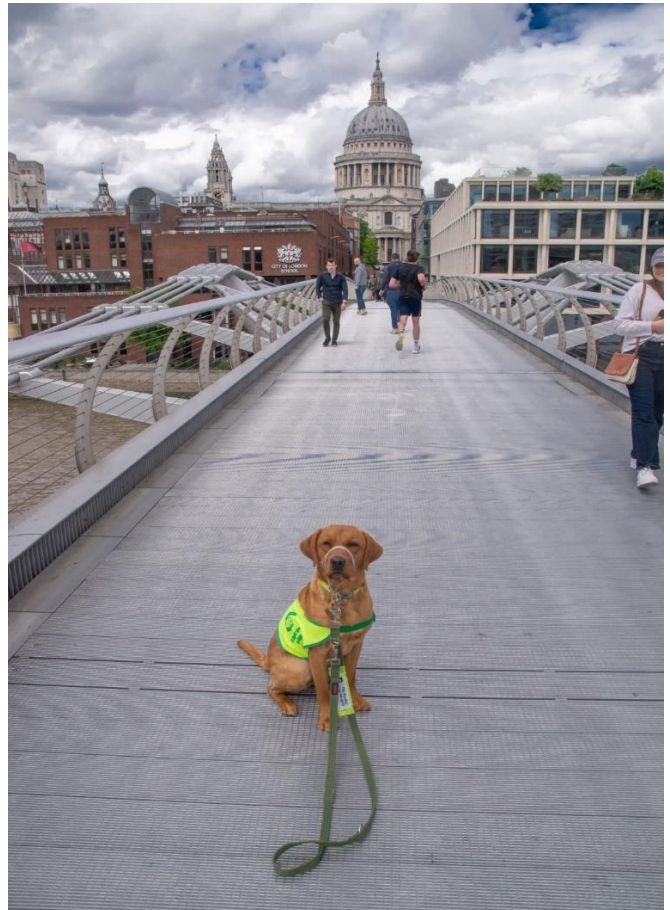


Figure 4. Glen on the Millenium Bridge in London.

By Jane Anderson

By the time you are reading this article, Bella will have celebrated her first birthday (28th May) and been transferred to her Trainer for Seeing Dog Training.

Bella has continued to solidify all that she has learnt with her puppy walkers. She has continued to be confident but calm.

Amongst other things, she accompanied us to Wisley Flower Show. We received several comments of praise on her behaviour.

Whilst we are going to miss her dearly, we wish her every success with the next phase of her Seeing Dog journey.

Good luck, sweetheart. Much love. x



Figure 5. Bella sitting at a Cafe

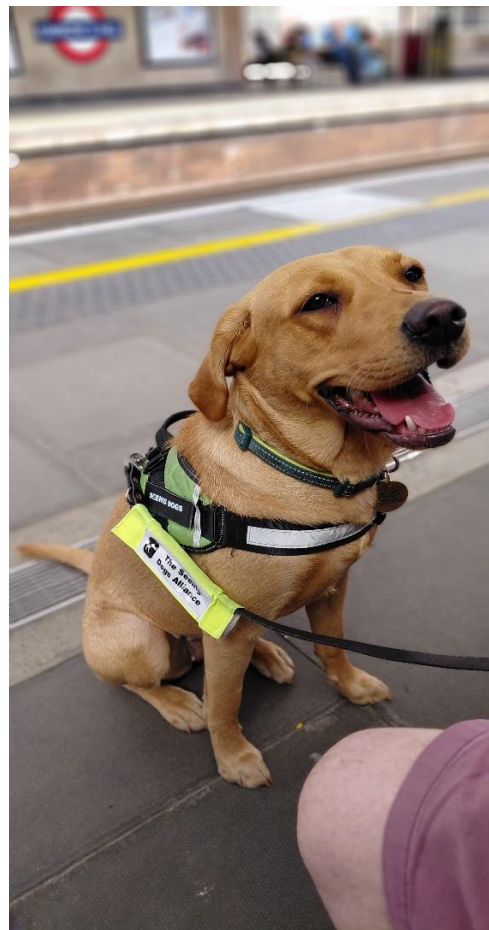


Figure 6. Bella waiting for the train.

Paddy

By Ian +Kristine Bjarnum-Green



Figure 7. Paddy in the garden.



Figure 8. Paddy with a toy

**Paddy is progressing well and is such a loveable clown!
He has recently been on holiday to Cornwall, which he really enjoyed.
He is good on public transport. Nothing phases him when out and about.
Currently, we are working on slowing him down on steps, as he is a little over enthusiastic at times!
His recall is really good and he has enjoyed a couple of free runs with his brother, Jensen.**



Figure 9. Paddy and Jensen



Figure 10. Paddy and Jensen

Jensen

By Leasyl Kavanagh



Figure 11. Jensen running in a field.

Jensen is a pleasure to live with. He has excellent social behaviour and recall and he is not phased with busy town conditions.

He can be a little sensitive at times but this is improving as he matures.

He travels well on all forms of transport and walks well for his age, with very few distractions.

At home, he loves playing with his toys and having cuddles!

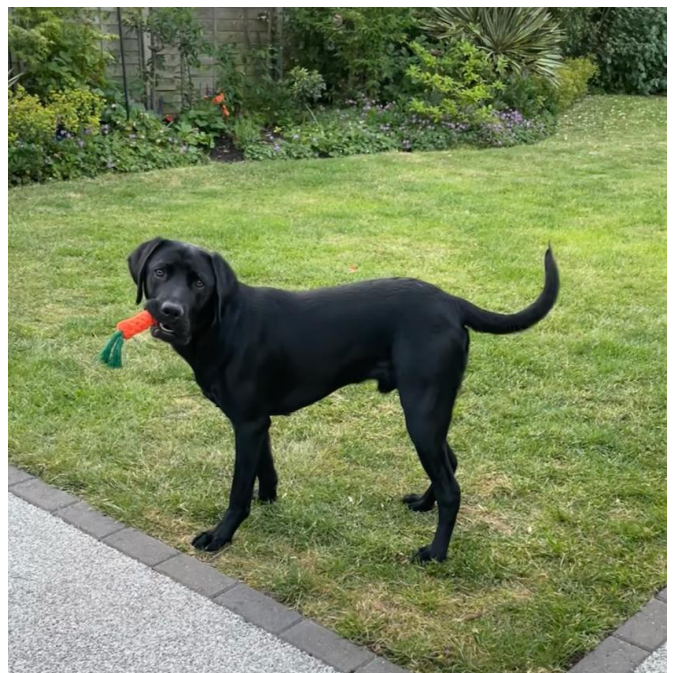


Figure 12. Jensen in the garden

Dora

By Emma Mann



Figure 13 . Dora lying down



Figure 14. Dora resting in the kitchen

Dora is 9 months old and doing incredibly well. She is a calm and confident pup who takes everything in her stride.

Dora's training is going really well and we are visiting lots of different environments, from the loud hustle and bustle of town and restaurants, to the quiet still of our local church and library.

Dora's favourite games are tug with her housemate Beau and sniffing games.

She is very loving and enjoys cuddles.

Dawn

By Krystyna Marshall

**Hello to all of you in Seeing Dog world!
I'm back to tell you about my progress during the last few months.**

Of course, I'm much older and wiser than the last time I wrote and have been out and about a bit now, trying to make sense of the world. It's a crazy place though and lots to work out. I've tried out different methods of transport like buses and of course cars, which I really don't like. Buses are better and very sociable. People like talking about me on a bus so I must bring some joy to their journey, as they are always sending smiles my way.



Figure 15. Dawn sits next to a metal soldier and his Labrador

I've even tried out the up and down transport that you might know better as a 'lift' and that's another good place to meet people!



Figure 16. Dawn standing on the grass.

I have now joined a choir, but I am yet to work out if I like that. Once again, it's another place full of friendly people and I'm happy to lie about, but I'm not sure about the piano and singing, as it disturbs my sleep.

I've been trainspotting and looking forward to having a go on one soon and will report back in the next update.

Love to all.

**Dawn
XXX**

FUND RAISING AND DONATIONS

REGULAR DONATIONS & SINGLE DONATIONS

What difference does a £5 donation make?

- **£5 will pay for a puppy's food, vet care, toys and treats for a day.**
- **£10 will pay for a collar and bells a Seeing Dog has to wear when it is out and about. The bells mean the dog's partner knows where the dog is!**
- **£15 will pay for a grooming kit, keeping our Seeing Dogs smart and presentable. It is essential to groom our dogs to keep them healthy and looking the part.**

There are several ways you can make a donation to the Seeing Dogs Alliance.

- **TEXT - SEEING DOGS to 70085 and donate up to £20 per text. You will also have the option to Gift Aid your donation.**
- **ONLINE <https://www.justgiving.com/seeingdogs> You can also donate a single amount and if desired set up a REGULAR donation.
You will also be given the option to Gift Aid your donation**
- **www.seeingdogs.org.uk You can also donate online via our website
Gift Aid can also be an option.**
- **BANK TRANSFER You can donate a single amount or set up a regular amount by direct bank transfer. Please use your name as the reference.**

Our bank details are sort code 40 52 40 account number 00010645.

If you wish to Gift Aid please forward the form on our Website to-

The Treasurer

18 Court Lodge Road,

Gillingham

Kent ME7 2QU.

- **POST**

A cheque, Postal Order or Charity Voucher can be forwarded to the above address.

- **DONATE ANONYMOUSLY**

You can send a cheque direct to Caf Bank, 25 Kings Hill Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ.

However, we like to acknowledge donations, so we would Rather we know who you are.

- **LEGACIES** – leave a gift in your Will

With your support, a gift left in your will can provide independence and mobility to those who don't yet have it.

With such a kind gift we can continue to provide and train . these amazing dogs and support those who need it most.

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

Another way of raising funds for The Seeing Dogs Alliance is through 'Give as you Live'.

'Give as you live' allows anyone to raise funds for their favourite charity when they shop online, at no extra cost to yourself. 'Give as you live' is partnered with 6,000 stores, as well as dozens of providers across insurance, energy and broadband. As a 'thank you' for shopping with these stores, a certain % of your spend is given to the charity of your choice. Each retailer will specify their % 'thank you'.

There is NO EXTRA cost to yourself. All you have to do is register with 'Give as you live' www.giveasyoulive.com and specify your charity (The Seeing Dogs Alliance).

The thing to remember is that to get the % thank you, you MUST access the website of the store you wish to buy from, THROUGH the 'Give as you live' website www.giveasyoulive.com .

New stores are joining 'Give as you live' daily. PLEASE join up if you can.

Pets at Home

The Seeing Dogs Alliance can now be nominated as your named Charity to receive your reward points from your Pets at Home Card.

Every 500 rewards a person earns on their 'Pets Card', will give the 'Charity' one Life Line point i.e. £1. Vouchers for the Life Line points will be issued 4 times a year, to The Seeing Dogs for them to use.



Figure 17. Pets at Home Logo

Promoting The Seeing Dogs Alliance

The Seeing Dogs Alliance has a website – www.seeingdogs.org.uk Facebook and an Instagram account.

Please share, follow and like all three social media outlets to spread the word. We are expanding our presence across social media, to support our drive for direct to consumer giving.

People need to know we're here, who we are, what we do, and why they should care about us.

Would you like us to feature YOUR stories and news?

If so, please email your photos and personal stories, by 1st September 2026, to: info@seeingdogs.org.uk