

## **What is Puppy Caring?**

The puppy caring program requires volunteers to care for a puppy in their home from the age of 8 weeks until they are approximately 12-18 months of age. Under the guidance of a SEDA puppy supervisor, puppies are taught basic obedience, house manners, socialised and trained to walk on lead in a relaxed manner with many of the commands they will use as a fully trained Seeing Eye Dog. Carers are visited regularly at home by their supervisor to provide guidance in training and caring for their puppy. Puppy caring is a very rewarding experience and our organisation couldn't run without them.

## **The Puppy Carer Program**

Our puppies are placed in homes at 8 weeks of age where they stay until they are approximately 12 months old, at which time they come into the Kennels to begin their formal training. During their time in the home they are taught basic obedience, to walk on the left hand side, and to eat and go to the toilet on command.

The puppies are introduced to large crowds, shopping centers and also taken on public transport. A pup's progress is monitored by the Puppy Development supervisor who regularly visits the pup and assists with any problems that may arise.

Our Puppy Carers are one of the most important parts of our organisation. It takes a lot of dedication and patience at times to raise a seeing eye puppy but it is also very rewarding to see the final outcome and the joy and independence they can give a blind person.

Puppy Carers know and understand that they are helping to give our clients the freedom of mobility and that they carry a large responsibility to prepare the pup for its intended role.

If you feel that you can help in this important role, please fill in the attached application form and send it to Seeing Eye Dogs Australia, 17 Barrett Street, Kensington Vic 3031

**Get to know some of our Puppy Carers....**



*Pictured Sue with Zora 9 months & Peter with Olinda 20 months*

Sue and Peter Battye have been Puppy Carers since December 2004. Peter came across an advertisement in the paper requesting volunteers to assist with caring for Seeing Eye Dog puppies for around a 12 month period. Both Sue and Peter adore dogs and as Sue had recently retired, Peter thought it might be a great way to fill in her time and give something back to the community whilst doing something she loved!

Sue first cared for Seeing Eye Dog 'Friday'. She said "it was amazing to see how easily Friday become a member of our house hold and fitted in with our pets". Friday was going well with her technical training, however started to show occasional suspicion, becoming distracted when out training. Sue said, "These dogs can't afford to be distracted when working as they would put their handler in danger". Friday was taken off the program and adopted by a lovely family from a 'waiting list' of people waiting to adopt withdrawn Seeing Eye Dogs.

In December 2005 Sue met Seeing Eye Dog Olinda, pictured here, where they worked together over the next 12 months on training. It's not all hard work though, these pups have quiet the social life going out for dinner or swimming at the beach. "We take our pups down to Phillip Island and take them fishing on our boat, they love it!" Olinda is now training at Seeing Eye Dog head quarters in Melbourne and both Sue and Peter along with her trainer are hopeful she will make it all the way.

Currently Sue is caring for Zora also pictured above, one of 9 pups in her litter. She still has a lot to learn but things seem to be going well! As if Sue doesn't have her hands full with one little pup, she is also currently a [temporary carer](#) for Seeing Eye Dog 'Wisper' too. Sue said simply "it's a great program" and she's right. Her dedication will see her pups matched with someone who is blind or vision impaired "and that feeling is indescribable", she says.