



FAQ'S

Will they guide?

No is the simple answer.

They are not trained or qualified in guiding tasks. They will walk beside the handler using a lead or short handle but the client's orientation and mobility will be their responsibility.

Are the dogs allowed in public places?

Yes, a Vision Loss Assistance Dog is officially recognised as a disability assistance dog and will have full public access rights when with the client and wearing its coat (e.g. shops and restaurants).

What will be required from a client accepted for a Vision Loss Assistance Dog?

Apart from the usual legal requirements of food, shelter, warmth and water, our dogs need to feel as they are a member in the **family unit**.

They have been selected to offer companionship and assistance, and in turn, this is what they require as well – **living inside the house as a family member is essential**.

Physical and mental exercise and stimulation are also important factors in dog ownership and we require our dogs to be exercised for a minimum of 30 minutes each day.

What will be the cost to Blind Low Vision NZ clients?

A Vision Loss Assistance Dog and associated services we provide will be offered free of charge to successful clients. All day-to-day costs of maintaining a dog will be the responsibility of the client.

Do Blind Low Vision NZ still own the dog?

Yes, we retain ownership of the Vision Loss Assistance Dog until the dog is retired from service.

How will a Vision Loss Assistance Dog help clients who are blind, deafblind or have low vision?

These dogs are NOT trained to guide, but we will individualise each training programme to meet specific needs. There are no set tasks that all dogs will perform. These dogs are there to offer support, companionship and confidence to their partners. Stability with walking, stair negotiation, location of targets, retrieve objects will be services that can be offered.





Vision Loss Assistance Dogs

Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs has implemented a new level of service for their clients. This service will re-purpose dogs that do not become a qualified guide dog, but have the skills to help BLVNZ clients in other areas.

This service will enable clients that do not require a fully trained guide dog to apply for a dog in an assistance role. These dogs will not be used for guiding work, but will help clients in a variety of other roles **giving confidence, helping with balance, visibility when out in public, assisting with mobility or tasks** to enable a wider range of clients to become more independent.

Any client of Blind Low Vision NZ can apply and be assessed for a Vision Loss Assistance Dog.

Applications are also open for children that are registered with Blind Low Vision NZ. Children under Blind Low Vision NZ definitions are under 16 years of age. Children must use their dog with the support of a legal guardian.



If you believe you would benefit from a Vision Loss Assistance Dog or if you know someone you think would be interested, the team at Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs would love to hear from you.

We are happy to provide more information and advice on how to proceed with an application and to discuss if a Vision Loss Assistance Dog is the right option for you.

Contact us

Email: vlad@blindlowvision.org.nz

Phone: Fiona Notton 0274 977 801

Follow us

 www.facebook.com/GuideDogsNZ/

 www.instagram.com/guidedogsnz/

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK STUTZ



Blind
Low Vision NZ
Guide Dogs

Vision Loss Assistance Dogs

