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This is a story about special dogs that help blind people see.



## Seeing Eye Partners

What would it be like if you couldn't see? Would you bump into things? People who are blind cannot see. Some people who are blind may have guide dogs.

Guide dogs are often called Seeing Eye dogs. These dogs help to lead people who can't see when they walk. Years ago, there was a dog trainer named Dorothy Eustis. She trained dogs to help blind soldiers. A blind man named Morris Frank read about her. He wrote Dorothy a letter asking for her help. Soon Morris got his own dog. It made him very happy. He wanted other blind people to have dogs, too. He and Dorothy started their own school for dogs called The Seeing Eye.

Not every dog can be a guide dog. Guide dogs must be calm. They must be the right size.

They must have the right kind of energy to work with people. The Seeing Eye raises German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, and golden retrievers. Every year, more than 500 puppies are born at The Seeing Eye.

The Seeing Eye dogs get a lot of love and training. When they are 8 weeks old, they go to live with families. The families raise them until they are 18 months old. The families teach the puppies how to behave in public. They teach them to stay off furniture. They teach them not to jump up on people.

After they are trained, the dogs go back to The Seeing Eye. A trainer there teaches the dogs commands such as *sit*, *come*, *right*, and *left*. The trainer teaches them to stop at curbs. The dogs learn to go around objects such as poles and benches. Finally, a dog is matched with a blind partner. The partner lives at The Seeing Eye for a month with the dog. They practice walking together on busy streets. They practice walking in shopping malls. The person learns how to take care of the dog. Finally, the dog and its partner go home.

Guide dogs work with their partners for up to 10 years. Then The Seeing Eye finds homes for the dogs to live out their lives as family pets.



# Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. What is another name for a guide dog?

- (A) Seeing Eye dog      (C) Trained dog  
(B) Partner dog      (D) Special dog

**Factual**

Paragraph 2 says, "Guide dogs are often called Seeing Eye dogs." So choice A is correct.

2. Why did Dorothy Eustis and Morris Frank start The Seeing Eye?

- (A) They wanted to make money.  
(B) They wanted to help blind people.  
(C) They wanted to travel to Germany.  
(D) They loved dogs.

**Inference**

Morris was happy with his guide dog. He wanted other blind people to have dogs, too. Choice B is correct.

3. Why do guide dogs live with families for 18 months?

- (A) The dogs are lonely.
- (B) The families pay for their food.
- (C) The families teach the dogs how to behave.
- (D) The Seeing Eye does not have enough room for the dogs.

Factual

Paragraph 4 says that the families teach the puppies how to behave. Choice C is correct.

4. Why does The Seeing Eye use German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, and golden retrievers?

- (A) These dogs have the right size and energy.
- (B) These dogs don't cost as much as other dogs.
- (C) They are very big dogs.
- (D) They are very happy dogs.

Inference

Guide dogs must be calm to work with people. They must be the right size and have the right energy. The school raises German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, and golden retrievers. So these dogs must be the right size and energy. Choice A is correct.

5. Why is it a good idea to have families teach guide dogs?

- (A) It saves money for The Seeing Eye.
- (B) The dogs learn to get along in real homes with real people.
- (C) The families understand dogs better than The Seeing Eye.
- (D) The dogs won't get lonely living with a family.

**Critical Reasoning**

The dogs will be helping people who cannot see and living in their homes. Families can help the dogs learn to live with people in their homes. Choice B is correct.

6. Why do you think the guide dog and its partner must live at The Seeing Eye for a month?

- (A) The Seeing Eye is a nice place to stay.
- (B) The guide dog is more comfortable at The Seeing Eye.
- (C) The dog's blind partner would be uncomfortable anywhere else.
- (D) It gives them time to learn to work as a team.

**Critical Reasoning**

The dog and partner will be living and working together. They must get to know each other and how to work as a team. Choice D is correct.



# Summing Up



Guide dogs go through many different steps in their lives. Show the steps in the boxes below. The first step is filled in for you.



Born at The Seeing Eye





# Write About It

Guide dogs help their partners in many ways. They are very special animals. Make an award for guide dogs. List at least three good things the dogs do. Part of the award is written for you.



Guide dogs are great helpers because they

- keep people safe when they walk outside

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