



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia



*It's me, Lyric! I am so excited
to be writing to you.*

Dear Friend,

Can you believe we're already four months old now? And wow have the last few months been busy! I can't wait to share all my news with you. My sisters and I have been on so many wonderful adventures.

Before I do that, I just want to say thank you! Because of you, my pack and I are growing, learning, and taking our first steps toward becoming Seeing Eye Dogs. We wouldn't be here without your kindness, and we're so grateful!

Let's get started! We recently tackled our 16-week "walk-and-talk" assessment. Our puppy development trainer assessed us to see how we're progressing. We did really well, but we're still curious puppies, so sometimes distractions, like interesting smells and birds, are tricky!

Latte, Libby and I are all working on the basic commands like "sit", "down", "stay", "drop" and "touch". And we've had no trouble mastering "on your bed"... Yaaaawwnnnn! All this training makes us sleepy! We are trained to toilet on command too – how good is that? Go Team Lyric!!

My sister Libby LOVES people! When she's not wearing her puppy training coat, she can't help but wiggle with excitement when she meets someone new. If she's extra happy, she flops over for a belly rub! Funny Libby!

Libby has been getting lots of practice staying calm in new places, like cafés and even her carer's workplace. These are all important skills for a Seeing Eye Dog, one day she might help someone navigate a busy office or shopping centre.

She even had her first beach trip! She was so excited by the sand and waves but then settled down for a nap – learning how to balance excitement with focus is all part of the job.

Libby's favourite time though is when everyone in the household arrives home at the end of the day, and she can get all the cuddles she wants.

I have news on my sister Latte too. Latte is a social pup, helping her carer with the school drop-offs and pick-ups and even goes to ballet classes and soccer games. She loves story time with the kids, lying on her back next to the bed, listening.



**Libby has been practicing
staying calm in new places.**

Please continue overleaf...



Latte is doing a great job learning her cues.

Every day Latte practices her skills whether she is visiting supermarkets or Bunnings! Currently she is working on stairs and remaining calm in the supermarket aisles – wow!

She also had a visit to a childcare centre, where the children learned how to gently pat her and why they shouldn't touch or distract a working Seeing Eye Dog. Well done Latte!

I've been having plenty of adventures too. My weeks are action packed.

My carer has recently been introducing me to new places, like the train station. We are taking it slow as I wasn't sure about the train whistle at first. The whistle was very loud as the train whooshed by the platform, and it made me jump the first time! But now I'm more confident, which is important because one day I might be matched with someone who needs to go on the train every day!

Wednesdays are always exciting because I visit a retirement village. The residents and staff there love having me visit, and I've learned to be gentle and calm if they want to pat me (when I'm not wearing my training coat). I also spend a lot of time in cafés – maybe I should be a puppy barista? Hehe!

I even went on a little holiday recently – woof lucky me! I stayed near the beach for a whole week. It was the perfect chance to practise settling into a new environment and get used to walking on sand (which felt a bit strange under my paws at first!). There were so many exciting new sights and smells to explore – what an adventure!

At home, I've made best friends with my doggy housemates. At first, they weren't so sure about sharing their space with a little pup like me, but now we all snuggle up together on a big blanket for our evening pats and cuddles.

I know I have so much to learn, but I dream of the day I'll wear my harness and guide someone who is blind or has low vision anywhere they want to go. Thanks to you, I'm one paw step closer to that adventure. I'll keep working hard and making you proud!

Tail wags and puppy hugs,

Lyric xox 



Laksa is focused on her training.



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