



February 14, 2025



## Dear Diary,

Can you believe it? My pack just celebrated our very first birthday! One whole year of fun, learning, and wagging tails. Time really flies when life is full of adventures!

We've been so busy lately. Training has become our absolute favourite thing to do! Knowing someone who really needs us is out there waiting, motivates us to be the best we can be.

The biggest news? **We passed our 10-month assessment, and wow – it was a huge milestone!** It's designed to test if we're suitable for the next level of training and Seeing Eye Dog work. That means we are one step closer to becoming qualified Seeing Eye Dogs! Yay!

During the assessment, we faced all sorts of exciting challenges. We went on a series of walks through busy streets, to test our reactions when navigating around traffic, other dogs, and new sounds. We also tackled stairs, heights, and strange surfaces under our paws!

My sister Gimble was amazing – she listened so carefully to instructions. And Griffin? Our trainer said he "aced it"! As for me, I felt confident all the way through, especially when we tried on the working harness for the first time. The trainers were so encouraging and rewarded us every step of the way. I felt like a real Seeing Eye Dog!

Oh, and we also had a simulation vet check. **The vet examined our ears, eyes, noses, teeth, and paws to see how comfortable we were with being handled.**

My awesome puppy carer was by my side the whole time, and the vet was so kind and gentle that I felt safe. It's all part of getting us ready for health checks in the future – we need to stay in tip-top shape!

Let me tell you a bit more about my siblings.

My amazing sister Gimble lives a lovely quiet life with her puppy carer – just the two of them, so she gets lots of one-on-one time to polish the skills she has learned. I'm sure she will be a very talented Seeing Eye Dog.

Gimble enjoys going for walks with her carer.



Woof! I just celebrated my first birthday!





Griffin goes everywhere  
- even the gym!

Gimble is very playful though, so she's learning to be calm around new people and other animals. It's a skill we all have to learn. Lately, she's been practising her skills and obedience on walks to the dog park and grocery shopping. Go Gimble!

As for my brother, Griffin, he's quite the cultured pup! **He recently attended six concerts at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Beethoven Festival – yes, six!** Can you imagine? He told me he was curious about the sounds at first but soon settled down for a nap – though his puppy carer said he snored so loudly it was like he was part of the orchestra. Hehehe – how funny is that?

Griffin has also been exploring office life with his carer. When he is in his puppy training coat, he knows he must be on his best behaviour! The office workers know not to distract him by saying hello or patting him. His carer says he's a beautiful, intelligent boy who is larger than life. Aww, that's my brother!

As for me, I'm now feeling ready for the next big step: **In-For-Training (IFT). This is an exciting time where we'll face new challenges like guiding a blindfolded instructor on a supervised walk.** It's going to be a big leap forward, but I can't wait to learn more and grow into my role.

**I feel so grateful for all the wonderful people who support us.** We want to make them proud by working hard on our skills every day so that one day we might help people who are blind or have low vision.

I'll fill you in on our next exciting adventures soon – gotta dash!

Gulliver xox 



Gulliver and his siblings are here 



Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs  
ABN 67 108 391 831

✉ PO Box 176, Burwood NSW 1805  
📧 supporter@seeingeyedogs.org.au  
☎ 1800 422 007  
🌐 seeingeyedogs.org.au