

Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association



Annual Report 2013



History

Guide Dogs are professionally trained dogs provided to visually impaired and blind persons who choose to benefit from the enhanced mobility, safety and companionship that a guide dog can provide. The people of Hong Kong have not been served with the service of a guide dog since 1875.

Hong Kong monthly digest of statistics for February 2009 indicated 122,600 visually impaired people in Hong Kong (approximately 1.8% of the population). Internationally, guide dog schools receive applications for training with guide dogs from approximately 1% of the visually impaired population. Estimated demand for guide dog service in Hong Kong is approximately 1200 persons.

In June 2011, Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association Limited was registered as a charitable organization in Hong Kong (Registration Number 91/11219).

Through financial support from the S.K. Yee Fund and in cooperation with the Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired, the Hong Kong Society for Blind and the International Guide Dog Federation, four blind persons from Hong Kong have received guide dogs from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, New York, USA and returned with their dogs to Hong Kong.



Our Mission

Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association supports the ideal of independent living in a barrier free society for all residents of Hong Kong by providing a cost free service for people with visual impairment, autism and other disabilities to enhance their independence and to improve their life through the provision of a professionally trained dog.

Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association will garner support from the government of Hong Kong to ensure that all necessary legislations protecting access for blind persons and their guide dogs are in place and enforced. Additionally, Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association will promote the awareness of guide dogs to the general public and public services.

4 Users 4 Guide Dogs Pilot Project

The first four guide dogs from an internationally accredited school were introduced into Hong Kong by the 4 Users 4 Guide Dogs Pilot Project. Funded by the S. K. Yee Foundation in March 2011, this project was organized by the Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired, the Hong Kong Society for the Blind and supported by Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association. Internationally renowned guide dog expert Mr. Ian Cox was invited to be the consultant for this project and he provided valuable advice and assistance. Our sincere gratitude goes to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, USA who provided the guide dogs and related services to the benefactors of this project.

Following successful completion of the 4 Users 4 Guide Dogs Pilot Project in 2013, Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association has received further financial support from the Lee Hysan Foundation and other fundraising events which has allowed the organization to hire a Director of Business Development and Training, Two Trainee Guide Dog Mobility Instructors and a Puppy Raising Supervisor. The first two puppies to be raised as guide dogs in Hong Kong arrived in December 2013 and these two puppies will be the first to receive their training in Hong Kong. The blind users will be trained in Hong Kong by mid 2015.



Professional Staff



Director of Business Development and Training Brian C. Francis

Mr. Francis has 40 years experience in the guide dog industry having previously worked with guide dog organizations in the UK, Canada and the USA. Brian is a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor and has also held positions as Director of Training and Director of Admissions and Graduate Services at previous schools.

Between 2010 and 2013, Brian was appointed as an Assessor for the International Guide Dog School Federation and as such, ensured that all member schools established and maintained the highest standards in their guide dog programs.



Puppy Raising Supervisor Miss Chan Wing Chee, Fish

Miss Chan was trained at an established guide dog school in Australia as a Puppy Raising Supervisor. Her responsibilities include the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteer Puppy Raisers who raise our puppies from 8 weeks of age to 14 months when they are ready to begin their formal guide dog training. During the puppy raising process, Miss Chan monitors the puppy's development and advises on the socialization and training phases appropriate for each puppy.

Professional Staff



Trainee Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Miss Wu Ching Yee, Cherrie

Miss Wu is a graduate of the University of Brighton, UK majoring in International Hospitality Management. She is currently undertaking the three year training program to become a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. For the first two years of this training Miss Wu will be located at the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK and then return to Hong Kong to complete the final year of her training. Once qualified, Miss Wu will train dogs through the guide dog program as well as select and train blind persons in the safe and effective use of the guide dog.



Trainee Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Mr. Poon Kwok Wai, Garrick

Mr. Poon is a graduate of the University of Berkeley, California majoring in Industrial Engineering and Operation Research. He is currently undertaking the three year training program to become a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. For the first two years of this training Mr. Poon will be located at the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK and then return to Hong Kong to complete the final year of his training. Once qualified, Mr. Poon will train dogs through the guide dog program as well as select and train blind persons in the safe and effective use of the guide dog.

Current Operations

Puppy Raising Program

A puppy-raising program consisting of 10 puppies by the end of 2014 is currently being established with requests for donated or purchased guide dog puppies from established guide dog breeding programs. A volunteer puppy raiser program has been established in 2013 to accommodate puppies entering the program. Puppy Raisers will be trained and supervised by the Puppy Raising Supervisor.

- 🐾 Puppies have been specially bred for their important role as Guide Dogs.
- 🐾 Guide Dog puppies spend the first year of their lives out in the community with a Puppy Raiser.
- 🐾 The Puppy Raiser Program is designed to nurture these pups, so they become:
 - 🐾 Well socialized
 - 🐾 Confident
 - 🐾 Not readily distracted (By food, smells, cats, children, etc)



Puppy Raiser Kelyee with Anna



Puppy Raiser Jason with Adam



Guide Dog Puppy: Anna & Adam

Current Operations

Follow-up On Graduate Teams

The current 4 guide dogs users from the Pilot Scheme will receive aftercare services from the Director of Business Development and Training.

A Guide Dog Health Support Fund has been established in 2013 through the donation received from the Sedan Chair Race for Guide Dog Users in Hong Kong to assist with veterinary treatment and medications as well as emergency medical expenses.

Hill's Pet Food has been generously sponsoring Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association by providing food for all puppies, dogs in training and active guide dogs in our program since inception.

Trada Ip with Rally



Andy Chan with Nera



KP Tsang with Deanna



Inti Fu with Nana



Public Education

In 2013, HKGDA conducted 75 public education programs schools and other organizations as part of our educational, promotional and community awareness campaign to promote guide dog development in Hong Kong.

School seminars included –

1月3日	海洋公園 - 導盲犬講座
1月5日	循道衛理楊震社會服務處 沙田綜合青少年服務中心
1月17日	香港天文台 - 導盲犬講座
1月23日	Taste of Asia Company Limited - 導盲犬講座
1月24日	鴻星集團 - 導盲犬講座
2月5日	IVB(Chai Wan) - 導盲犬講座
3月1日	英基國際幼稚園 - ESP International Kindergarten - 導盲犬講座
3月18日	保良局鄧碧雲紀念幼稚園
3月22日	港大同學會小學
3月24日	Run Vision
4月10日	「4人4狗」導盲犬使用者先導計劃 - 香港大學 - 導盲犬講座
4月13日	義工聚會
4月23日	寶龍灣崇真幼兒學校
4月26日	香港大學 - Love Lead The Way - 導盲犬講座
4月29日	香港大學 - Life Planet - 導盲犬講座
5月3日	港灣學校
5月4日	香港大學「共融眼晴看世界——由你我開始」計劃講座 - 導盲犬講座
5月8-9日	Hysan - 導盲犬講座
5月28-29日	領匯 - 導盲犬講座
5月31日	平等機會委員會 - 導盲犬講座
7月 - 12月	勞工及福利局贊助 - 「愛心引路」戲劇比賽
7月2日	聖雅各福群會(寶翠園)幼稚園 - 導盲犬講座
7月3日	仁愛堂田家炳小學
7月7日	仁愛堂賽馬會田家炳綜合青少年服務中心
7月9日	Crocs - 導盲犬講座
7月26日	教協有為書店
8月2日	香港品質保證局 (HKQAA) - 導盲犬講座
8月5日	太陽國際金融集團義工隊
8月12日	東華三院屯門綜合服務中心
8月16日	恒隆集團 - 導盲犬講座
8月17日	義工聚會 - 導盲犬講座
8月18日	賽馬會天平綜合青少年服務中心, 香港青少年服務
9月6日	Country House Property Management Limited
9月9日	循道衛理楊震社會服務處 營業中心 講座
9月 - 2014年4月	香港導盲犬協會 - 領匯巡迴展覽 (每月3次於各區領匯商場)
10月4日	柴灣浸信會學前教育中心呂明才幼稚園
10月7日	吉野家 - 導盲犬講座
10月11日	香港中文大學校友會聯會陳麗夏中學
10月12日	路德會賽馬會華明綜合服務中心
10月18日	香港城市大學分享會
10月19日	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service For Young People-WTS
11月7日	Rotary Club Presentation
11月17日	循道衛理楊震社會服務處 何文田青少年綜合發展中心
11月21日	德雅中學
11月22日	PolyU SPEED - Professional Communication Exhibition
11月27日	幼兒園講座 天水圍天恒御恆貴樓
11月30日	小童軍/ 香港基督教青年會西九龍維信發展學習中心
12月05日	基督教懷智服務處 元朗地區支援中心
12月10日	EOC Seminar
12月16日	St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School Seminar
12月18日	香港專業進修學校 心理學文憑或心理學高級文憑學生Seminar



導盲犬講座 - 服務中心
Guide Dogs Talk - Service Center



導盲犬講座 - 幼稚園
Guide Dogs Talk - Kindergarten



導盲犬講座
Guide Dogs Talk

Public Education

Appeared in 21 Media interviews, shows and presentations.

1月7日	RTHK TV Channel
1月15日	成報 - 導盲犬訪問
1月17日	RTHK Made in Hong Kong
1月29日	新聞發佈會
3月2日	RTHK 尋常事認真做
3月17日	RTHK 非常人物生活雜誌
4月15日	RTHK 口水多過浪花
4月18日	商業電台 有誰共鳴
5月27日	大公報 - 導盲犬訪問
6月24日	RTHK 家有愛寵
6月26日	2犬網台訪問
7月17日	大眾出版社訪問
7月25日	東方日報 - 導盲犬訪問
8月3日	TVB 寵愛Wakaka
8月7日	明報 - 導盲犬訪問
8月10日	RTHK對人對話張洛華 - 導盲犬訪問
8月14日	NowTV - 觀星台
10月2日	新聞發佈會 - 新成員 - 發展及培訓總監、見習導盲犬督導員和寄養家庭督導員
11月1日	經濟日報 - 導盲犬訪問
11月23日	TVB 激優一族
12月28日	新聞發佈會 - 第一批澳洲導盲幼犬到港，在本地訓練
Edition 23	Internation Guide Dog Federation - Visionary Magazine



Oct 2013
記者招待會
Press Conference



TVB J2 - Big Boys Club



TVB Jade - 9-EMIP



NowTV 102 - 觀星台



TVB - 激優一族



TVB - 寵愛Wakaka

Public Education

Participated in 15 promotional seminars/events.

2月1-3日	香港寵物節
3月30日	HKJC Penfold Paw Paw Hoof Hoof Carnival
4月24日	銅鑼灣街頭導盲犬日宣傳
5月26日	沙田愛伴隨動物嘉年華
6月8日	領匯與導盲犬合作開幕禮
7月26-28日	第九屆寵物展
9月14日	雙華銀婚粵韻獻愛心 香港導盲犬協會慈善籌款夜
9月19、23、24日	匯豐義工博覽
10月26-27日	傷健共融日
10月27日	抬轎比賽暨慈善嘉年華
11月3日	「4人4狗」導盲犬使用者先導計劃 交接儀式
11月9日	香港扶輪社慈善步行籌款 Let Love Be Your Guide
11月20日	香港導盲犬協會慈善高爾夫球邀請賽
12月7-8日	康樂園聖誕嘉年華
12月14-16日	第十屆國際寵物用品展



傷健共融日 2013
Rehab Power Day



16 - 21 September 2013
匯豐義工博覽
HSBC Volunteer Expo



The 9th Pet Show - Stage Time



Hong Lok Yuen Xmas Carnival - Stage Time



The 10th Pet Accessory Expo - Stage Time

Public Education

We had visited over 150 schools and community centers since 2011. The demand for public education is apparent. The exposure of guide dogs services to Hong Kongs' public helps in promoting disability awareness. Our goal is to enhance public awareness in Animal and Disability welfare.

September 2013 - April 2014

領匯巡迴展覽

The Link Exhibition Road Show



Fund Raising

Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association has been the recipient of a generous donation from Lee Hysan Foundation of HK\$4,270,620 over a four year period (January 2013 – February 2017) to kick start the establishment of a sustainable, self-sufficient high quality guide dogs service for visually impaired individuals in Hong Kong.

Rotary Clubs of Hong Kong have provided generous support leading to sponsorship of the first two puppies entering our program in 2013. Rotary Club of Hong Kong sponsored and organized a Walkathon in aid of HKGDA in 2013 that resulted in HK\$90,000 raised. This Club intended to make the walkathon an annual event to provide continued financial support to HKGDA.

A 'Sponsor and Name a Puppy' program has resulted in sponsorship for the first two puppies delivered to our program in 2013 – Adam and Anna.

A Golf Tournament was held in Hong Kong that raised HK\$200,000 for our program

A celebrity opera event raised HK\$638,888.

Through sales and donations at three pet shows attended, HKGDA raised HK\$120,000.

Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association has launched a donation box fund raising campaign through the support of Café de Coral restaurants and other retail shops and restaurants, which were well received by the public.



14 September 2013
雙星劇場籌款晚會 - 香港導盲犬協會慈善籌款夜
Chinese Opera - HKGDA Charity Night



20 November 2013
Golf Tournament



7-9 Feb 2014
The 9th Pet Show



HKGDA Donation Box

Volunteer Development & Training Program

Our volunteers provide many areas of assistance and expertise that are of major assistance to our mission. We provide volunteers with educational seminars that educate them in areas such as public speaking, providing a blind person with mobility assistance and guide dog etiquette. In turn, our volunteers provide a wide range of services which include (list not exhaustive)

Puppy Raisers – Raise and develop puppies from 8 weeks to 14 months of age

Foster families – Take puppies or dogs into their homes for temporary periods of stay as required



We also received support from many professionals in terms of:

IT support

Legal advice

Translation service

Transport provision for dogs and events

Design and production

Public relations and corporate communications



We currently have over 200 active volunteers assisting in our program. In 2013, our volunteers have delivered over 5,000 hours of service to HKGDA and the community.



Client Relations

In order to provide potential guide dog applicants with information that will allow them to choose if living and working with a guide dog is an option for them, we offer several options.

Maintaining a close working relationship with agencies for the visually impaired in Hong Kong allows us to offer 'Guide Dog Lifestyle Workshops' to their clients. These workshops provide information about the requirements for admission into the guide dog program, the benefits of working with a guide dog, the long term commitment required to be successful with guide dog and the services offered by HKGDA. We have completed three of these workshops to date and have received offers from the agencies to provide continued education to their clients.

The HKGDA website provides information for potential applicants related to the admission process, the guide dog lifestyle and direct communication with our professional staff.

All guide dog applicants receive a personal visit in their home by a qualified guide dog instructor to provide information about the program and to assess the suitability of each individual to be successful with a guide dog. During these home visits, applicants experience a walk utilizing a guide dog harness so they may more accurately decide if working with a guide dog will enhance their current standard of mobility.



A visually impaired tried a guide dog harness with Brian Francis, we called "Juno Walk".



International Guide Dog Federation

The IGDF is an international organization that has over 80 member schools from around the world. The IGDF sets minimum standards for all aspects of a guide dog program and to become full members, schools must demonstrate they abide by these very high standards. HKGDA became an applicant member of the IGDF in 2013 and will become a full member after training a minimum of 10 guide dog teams in Hong Kong. Part of our mission is to provide the highest possible standards in all we do.



Acknowledgement

HKGDA is a young organization that has only been formed in 2011. Our work is made possible through the generous support and assistance from many companies and individuals. They have given us the much needed funds and very importantly their professional expertise and precious time in helping the Organization to achieve its mission. We wish to give whole-hearted thanks to all the people whom we are not able to name individually for the enormous contributions they have made to enable our success. We are also very grateful to the following companies and individuals who have given so generously of their resources in helping with the development of guide dog services in Hong Kong.

Aberdeen Marina Club
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Concord Hotel
Café de Coral
Cheung Kong Group
City University of Hong Kong
City Bus & NWFB
Crocs
Conrad Hong Kong Hotel
Delifrance (HK) Limited
Disney Hong Kong
Discovery Bay Management
Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired
Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)
Food Republic Group
Henderson Land Development
Hill's
Hong Kong Blind Union
Hong Kong Golf Club
Hong Kong Jockey Club
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong Trade Development Council
Hong Kong Society for the Blind
Hung Lung Group
Italian Tomato
IVE (Lee Wai Lee)
Japanese Club
Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course
KMB
Lee Hysan Foundation
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Miramar Group
Noah's Ark Theme Park
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe
Ocean Park
Regal Hotel Group
Retina Hong Kong
Rotary Club of Hong Kong
Rotary Club of Shouson
Sedan Chair Charity Fund
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd
Sino Group
Super Star Group
Star Ferry Company Limited
Taste of Asia
The Link REIT
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
The University of Hong Kong
The Wharf (Holdings) Limited
Yoshinoya Hong Kong

Our Ambassadors:

Ms. Amy Kwok (郭麗明小姐)
Ms. Elena Kong Mei-yee (江美儀小姐)
Mr. Felix Wong Yat-wah (黃日華先生)
Mrs. Carina Wong (黃梁潔華女士)
Ms. Andrin Wong (黃芷晴小姐)
Mr. Steven Ma Chun-wai (馬浚偉先生)



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Chartered Accountant

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Fong Tin Tai, Ben
Founding Member

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Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired

Li Ka Sum, Amy
Founding Member

Business Executive

Chau Man Ki, Mabel

Former CEO of Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

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Facebook: HKGDA
HKGDAPUPPYCLUB

Registered Charity no. 91/11219

Our policy

All our services are delivered free-of-charge to clients.





無障礙社會 由平等開始
A Barrier Free World
Starts with Equality for All