

# LIVING WITH A BLIND DOG

## IT IS OKAY TO FEEL OVERWHELMED

It can be difficult when your dog goes blind, but they rely heavily on their sense of smell and hearing so can adapt well to having no vision.

Every animal is individual in their coping mechanisms and how they adapt, but there are a number of different ways you can help them. Your dog can sense emotion, so it is important to remain positive and to treat your furry family member the same as before they lost their sight.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Keep your dog to a normal routine
- Use toys that engage your dogs hearing and sense of smell
- Avoid moving furniture as much as possible, your dog will remember the orientation of your house
  - Mark areas of importance with different floor textures
  - Make your dog a 'safe haven'
- Use essential oils to make furniture corners so they can use their nose
- Ensure no access to dangerous areas

## REASSURANCE

- Talk to your dog as you approach, so they know you are there
- Teach your dog commands such as 'stop' to help them navigate
- Offer positive reinforcement and reassurance to help your dog regain their confidence.
  - Having another dog can act as a 'guide dog'

## WALKING



Walk your dog on a harness, this is more secure.



Do not let them off in new or unfamiliar places.



There are special harnesses, bandanas and collars to alert others of your pet's disability.

## MAGGIE'S STORY

Our lead receptionist Jane shares her home with Maggie, a wonderful girl who lost both her eyes at a young age.

This hasn't stopped her from living her best life! Maggie enjoys playing with her siblings and long walks on the beach. Lots of strangers do not realise Maggie can't see! She uses her wonderful sense of smell and hearing to navigate the world around her,



*Optivet Referrals*

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## ANY QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us.

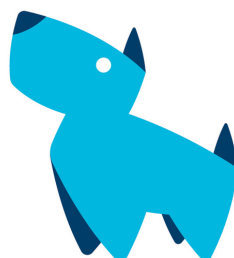
Call us on: 012433888091

Email us on: [advice@optivet.com](mailto:advice@optivet.com)

Visit our website: [www.optivet.com](http://www.optivet.com)

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

At Optivet, we understand how important your pet is to you, and how hard it can be when they lose their sight. If you would like emotional support during this difficult time, please reach out, our emotional support advisor Sam is here to help. Many of our staff have blind pets, and are happy to share their stories.



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