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Lions Foundation  
of Canada  
is the founder and  
primary supporter of  
Dog Guides Canada.

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To Whom It May Concern:

Our client is finally returning home with their Dog Guide, as a new Dog Guide Team. It has been a long and demanding stay at the training facility, as working with a Dog Guide takes patience, responsibility and a great deal of hard work.

All of our graduates have a full understanding of what is expected of them when returning home. It is with your co-operation and help that we see to it that they succeed in working with their dog.

The adjustment of the dog to a new home environment is not always automatic. The relationship between handler and Dog Guide is starting to develop, however it takes time for things to develop and to settle in. We look at a good year before a team really comes together as a good working unit. So again, please be patient as they learn to work together and listen to the handler as she has been trained to properly work with the Dog Guide.

One of the things that you must be aware of is the bond the two must develop. This is the key factor to a successful team – the close relationship between dog and handler. Others getting too close and attached to the dog may cause a disturbance in their relationship. That is why the dog’s handler must carry through the daily routine; feeding, relief, grooming and walking.

The importance of developing a good bond also means that you must listen to the instructions of the handler when it comes to your contact with the dog. These dogs are not pets. We have carefully instructed the handler on how to build the bond with their dog, and other people playing and petting the dog excessively can interfere with this bond developing. Overly excessive contact from you can be detrimental to the development of the team, and can ultimately lead to the dog being returned to Dog Guides Canada. In certain weather conditions and other circumstances, the handler may require additional help, however please wait for them to ask for this help.

Thank you so much for your help. In closing, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me  
Sincerely,

*Megan Stewart*

Megan Stewart  
Client Services Coordinator

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides’ mission is to assist Canadians with a medical or physical disability by providing them Dog Guides at no cost.