



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL GUIDE DOG CENTER

- **The Israel Guide Dog Center** is the only **internationally accredited** guide dog training center **in Israel** helping those living with blindness, PTSD, autism, or other conditions. We have placed nearly 1,300 dogs to date.
- Our main mission is to improve the quality of life of Israelis who are blind by providing them with **safe mobility, independence, and self-confidence** through the faithful assistance of Guide Dogs specially trained in Hebrew for the challenging conditions in Israel.
- **We breed, raise and train our dogs** – using the most advanced techniques – and instruct our clients in working with and caring for their dogs. We provide aftercare for the life of the partnership.
- We provide trained **PTSD Service Dogs** for veterans suffering service-related trauma – helping to restore their peace of mind and ability to function. The IDF has recently asked us to increase the number of PTSD Service Dogs as the need is great.
- We provide **Emotional Support Dogs** to children on the autism spectrum or others with special needs. In Hebrew we call them “Kelev Chaver” which translates to “Buddy Dogs.”
- **Each of our trainers walk an average of 10 kilometers or 6.5 miles per day.** This is an average of 14,000 steps a day which equals 3,700,000 steps per year!
- **We use the “Clicker Method” to train our dogs** using positive reinforcement. Each trainer will use the clicker about 1,500 times a day when training a class of six dogs.
- The **dogs will learn and respond to 40 commands and behaviors.** Among the most important, stopping at any change in elevation, responding to directional commands (left, right, straight), returning when called, refusing food from strangers, ignoring distractions such as cats or other dogs, bypassing obstacles, and refusing a command that would put the team in danger.
- **We use 230 bags of food per year to feed our dogs and puppies.** A special thank you to Purina Pro-Plan for generously donating all the food for our dogs for over 30 years!
- The dogs are raised and trained in Israel, so they are accustomed to the **challenging conditions**— including security barriers, cars that park on the sidewalk, unusual traffic patterns, aggressive drivers, and warning sirens.



- We consistently receive the **highest ratings from both GuideStar and Charity Navigator** for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. We have earned Platinum Status with GuideStar and 4-Stars from Charity Navigator for eight consecutive years!
- We have been awarded **The Midot Seal of Effectiveness**—Israel’s highest award to nonprofits—in recognition of the excellence of our financial management and our program in improving our clients’ lives.
- We recently testified at the Israeli Parliament, and were instrumental in **getting new legislation passed** that protects the rights of people assisted by trained service dogs.
- **Helping the most vulnerable:** Our program serves the most vulnerable populations. Many clients are economically disadvantaged when they first enter our program, 10% were single mothers, and 39% were over the age of 60. Many live alone.
- **Empowering Independence:** The extraordinary independence and mobility our clients gain with a guide dog or service dog empowers them to pursue educational and career opportunities, enjoy social and recreational activities, marriage, and children – in short, life.
- **Nearly all our dogs go to people in need** as either Guide Dogs, PTSD Service Dogs or Emotional Support Dogs—and all are given good, loving homes. Our guide dogs over age 10 even get to enjoy a well-earned retirement—often with the volunteers who raised them or other dog-loving families.
- **CanVelo**, a subsidiary of Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind, pairs Israelis with vision loss with sighted volunteers in **tandem biking events** throughout Israel and other parts of the world. Join us for a ride during your next trip to Israel. We also have a Dragon Boat Team that competes internationally.
- We provide a **Mitzvah Education Program**—an in-school program for children here in the U.S., teaching them about Israel, the needs of the visually impaired, humane treatment of animals, and the importance of helping others. We have wonderful projects for Bar/Bat Mitzvah students.

"Getting a guide dog is like releasing a prisoner from his handcuffs!" ~ Uri Basha

ISRAEL GUIDE DOG CENTER FOR THE BLIND

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