

Listen Up!

Hearing Dogs



MARCH 2018

Madeline and Karla

It was through another Hearing Dog recipient in their home city of Invercargill that mother Vicky Collard first heard about Hearing Dogs NZ. Getting a dog for the family wasn't something she had considered before, but once she found out about hearing dogs and how they could potentially benefit Madeline, she started to seriously consider it.

Madeline is coming up 8 years old in April and she has had a profound hearing loss since birth. She also has other disabilities which makes having Karla all the more special. Madeline has bilateral cochlear implants which her parents fundraised \$34,000 for five years ago. "As a family, we have been learning sign language, but Madeline is very good at reading people and is quite a competent lip reader," says Vicky.

Karla is the family's first dog so it's been a steep learning curve for all of them over this past month. "We have four children and we are still in that settling in period with Karla at the moment ... the excitement levels are still a little high," admits Vicky, "but Karla is such a sweet-natured dog that I think we will all settle into a nice comfortable routine in no time."

Vicky says that Karla's content just to sit beside Madeline on the couch, or snuggle with her in bed. But she's also always happy to see everyone and loves being out with the other children and having a run around.

"Madeline dotes on Karla and is taking really good care of her. They have a lovely bond," says Vicky. "I'll often find Madeline sitting in her room having a conversation with Karla about what's happened at school that day, or having a grizzle to her if someone's upset her."

"Having Karla here has also been really great for Madeline's language. There is a lot of new chatter about dogs and what needs to be done, and that's an added bonus," says Vicky.

"Karla is a wee dog who simply loves Madeline, with no strings attached, no judgement and that's amazing for Madeline to have." We couldn't agree more, unconditional love is the best.



Delwyn's 5th Anniversary

It's our wonderful dog trainer Delwyn's 5th anniversary with us here at Hearing Dogs. We dragged her away from the pooches to ask her 5 important questions:

1. What's your favourite part about working at Hearing Dogs?

Seeing the dogs progress through their training. I love building their confidence and making the training fun for them. It is very rewarding seeing their skills develop to fulfill their role as highly skilled assistance dogs.

2. What's the best part about training dogs for deaf people?

Knowing the dog that you have trained is going to make a really positive impact on the life of someone with a disability; not only through alerting them to sounds in the home but by also being a loyal companion and friend.

3. In your opinion, what's the best way that hearing dogs help their owners?

For many hearing impaired/deaf people it is an isolating disability. Through sound awareness and companionship, a hearing dog provides increased safety, security, confidence and independence. They create opportunities for communication with others and can transform people's lives. There are many life-changing partnerships out there. That's why I love my job!

4. What are your top training tips for dog owners?

Have fun and play with your dog as it helps to build a great bond. Also be clear and consistent with your rules and training. Keep training sessions short and fun, and always end them on a positive note.

5. How rewarding is your job? It is so satisfying and rewarding working for a charity where so many people, businesses and organisations are willing to give their time and money to such a worthwhile cause. And as part of that, I have to say a big thank you to all the wonderful puppy socialisers we have who do an amazing job raising our puppies - they are such a big part of our success!



 It's the 20th Anniversary of Hearing Dogs NZ this year - more details coming soon!

Christel and Ava

Christel Mills has had her hearing dog Ava for only a month but says she settled in "right away", even though there were quite a few different sounds to get used to in her new environment. "She's very well trained and comes when I call her," Christel says. "And she's getting used to all the new sounds that she has to alert me to." Christel's hearing declined over the years until she became 75% deaf and had to wear hearing aids during the daytime. Christel uses Ava to tell her when the phone is ringing, when someone's at the front door and to alert her when her cooking timer has gone off.

Born in Germany, but arriving in New Zealand in 1959, Christel has had a long association with Hearing Dogs after meeting founder Johanna Brens in 1998. Christel bought her own dog Heidi in 1999 and after an initial puppy training course, sent Heidi up to New Plymouth to spend nine months being trained as a hearing dog. During Hearing Dogs' foundation years, Christel was heavily involved with Hearing Dogs fundraising – being a speaker and raising thousands of dollars for the trust, as well as sewing quilts for raffles and sewing the first batches of yellow Hearing Dogs jackets.

Heidi was Christel's constant companion for 17 years and Christel was left with a big gap in her life when she died in July 2017. However, Christel is delighted with her new dog and keeps Ava with her at all times. "I felt nervous at home by myself without my hearing dog," Christel explains. "Having a dog at home keeps me company too."



Compared to her energetic Jack Russell terrier Heidi, two-year-old Shih Tzu Ava is a "sweet, quiet, gentle dog who sleeps a lot" and has fitted into Christel's lifestyle perfectly. "She's a friendly dog who is happy to see visitors," Christel says. "She just loves other dogs and people." The pair go for twice daily 20 minute walks around Lower Hutt where Christel lives.

It certainly seems that Ava has filled the gap that Heidi left, and as Christel's church minister noted to her recently: "You've got your confidence back now you've got your dog." And that's just what we love to hear.

Tim and Billy Elliot

After a sad accident where his first hearing dog Richie got run over after only five months, Tim Pratt's got his smile back with the arrival of Billy Elliot, a one-year-old Shih Tzu Poodle cross, arriving just in time for Christmas 2017.



Billy has settled in perfectly with Tim and his wife Karen. "I love his nature and playing with toys with him and I love going places with him," says Tim. "We love him to bits and he's great company. I don't get lonely anymore when Karen isn't at home."

Tim was born three months' premature, weighing a tiny 2lb 3oz, and is severely to profoundly deaf. Tim has been trying for several years to raise enough money for a cochlear implant, but currently has hearing aids and lip reads, as well as using a bit of sign language.

Billy's had a busy first few months. They've taken him to watch the Phoenix play soccer at the stadium, and he even went out to a New Year's Eve party where there was a band playing. Tim says that Billy loves the beach but he doesn't like the waves so will only go in the water if it's calm. Their favourite thing to do together is going walking with him at Aotea Lagoon in Porirua City, and also going to the Porirua Club.

They have a great working relationship. "He's good with his sound work. And he stops me if a car is coming around the corner and he won't move me until the car goes. He wakes me up in the morning. I feel safe with Billy, he's made my life easier," says Tim.

"Billy has made my world. I love him to bits, he's my doggie son and my best friend."

It sounds like Tim and Billy will have many years of happiness and companionship ahead.

Triton Market Stall

On Sunday 26th November last year, the four Christchurch branches of Triton Hearing held a wonderful craft stall at the Riccarton Markets, with all proceeds going to Hearing Dogs NZ. Triton Hearing are keen supporters of our trust and we are very grateful to them for all the effort they put into making their crafts in the months preceding the market. They sold crocheted flower brooches, knitted hats and dish clothes, wooden brooches and fridge magnets, small gift baskets, bracelets and cards. They also sold Hearing Dogs merchandise, plus baking and preserves! Their efforts to raise money for us, as well as increase awareness of Hearing Dogs NZ is very much appreciated, and we were thrilled to receive a cheque for \$511 earlier this year. Thanks again, Triton Hearing Christchurch!



Dogs in Training

Meet our trainees and learn about their special personalities

BO

Bo's a real character; a very confident Bichon Frise who is going to make his new family's life much fuller when he joins them as a Family Friend dog.



SHADOW

Shadow's a very handsome, clever Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who is enjoying his time with us and is going to make an awesome hearing dog.



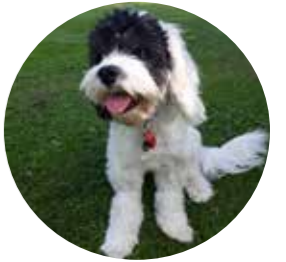
GEM

Gem's a Bichon Frise x Shih Tzu with loads of energy! She must have the X factor as people just adore her - and she knows it! A real madam who also doesn't mind a bit of rough and tumble with the boys.



COOPER

Cooper's a Cavoodle and is the newest recruit at the Training Centre. He is a very well-mannered, gentle dog who just loves his cuddles.



ASHBY

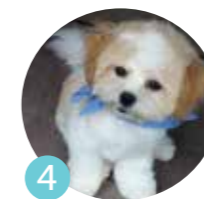
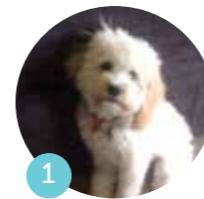
Ashby's a wee Bichon Frise x Cavoodle who is so sweet, very smart and loves his sound work training. He is a master at playing fetch with his favourite toy which is the yellow rubber sausage dog!



SOCIALITES

Here are our four new adorable puppies that are being socialised until they are old enough to be trained.

- 1 **Elsa**, a Cavoodle cross Toy Poodle
- 2 **Dee**, a Bichon Frise cross Shih Tzu
- 3 **Archie**, a Maltese cross Shih Tzu
- 4 **Rocket**, a Toy Poodle cross Shih Tzu



NEWS IN BRIEF

Thanks, Post Haste!

We would like to say a special Thank You to Post Haste who have been providing sponsorship to us for nine years, and have been extremely helpful in our recent Head Office transfer from New Plymouth to Auckland.

Generous Bequest

We would like to acknowledge the extremely generous bequest from Pamela Joan Benjamin of \$100,345. Pamela was a lover of dogs and contributed to both Hearing Dogs and Guide Dogs as part of her legacy.

Stamp Collecting

Thank you so much to those of you who have been collecting used stamps over the years to send to us. Unfortunately that type of fundraising is no longer feasible for us, so we do not need used stamps sent to us anymore.

Trip to Hearing Dogs Australia

Hearing Dogs CEO Nicole Segar and Training Centre Manager Clare McLaughlin are visiting the Australian Hearing Dog team from 21st–23rd March. They are excited to have the opportunity to work with them, and look forward to coming back and adding some new ideas to our future initiatives.

Thank You!



Can you help?

Yes, I would like to sponsor a puppy
Please send an application pack to:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Yes, I would like to make a donation:

Amount: \$

Yes, I would like to purchase a Kiwi and Roo Book - \$16 each

Quantity: Amount: \$

Total amount (a contribution towards postage is appreciated) \$

Direct Debit:
HD Bank Account # 12 3026 0086096 00

Cheque enclosed
(Please make cheques payable to Hearing Dogs NZ)

Or please debit my credit card
 Visa Mastercard

Card No.

Name: Expiry: /

Signature: Tick for receipt:

Donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.
Receipts will be sent upon request.



Thank you!

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We receive no government funding and rely on the generosity of the public, sponsors and volunteers like you.

Sponsors



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Community Trusts and Supporters



Estate of Gordon Lindsey Isaacs

Vernon Hall Trust Fund | Kingdom Foundation
LW Nelson Charitable Trust | BA Lewis Charitable Trust

Yes, I would like to purchase Kiwi and Roo books.

A perfect gift for young kiwi kids, these books by Bruce Newcomb are a great addition to any bookshelf!

Only \$16 each

