



# GENERAL OVERVIEW

- There are approximately 1.3 million people (this number is expected to grow to 2.1 million by 2050) in the U.S. who are considered legally blind who can become more independent by receiving mobility training.
- Leader Dogs for the Blind provides services to people who are blind or low vision that increase their travel independence and empower them to lead a more productive and fulfilling life.
- Leader Dog was incorporated in 1939 and its first class consisted of four people.
- In 2025, Leader Dog will run 10 guide dog classes with an average of 12 clients in each class.
- Typically, clients train on-campus for up to 21 days for our Guide Dog program and 7 days for Orientation & Mobility (O&M). We also offer in-home and flexible training for both programs, including options for those who are both deaf and blind or Spanish-speaking. *Leader Dog was the first guide dog organization to develop a dedicated program to train people who are deaf and blind to work with a guide dog.*
- Leader Dogs spend the first year of their lives with volunteer puppy raisers, who are responsible for teaching them basic obedience, social skills and house manners, as well as exposing them to life experiences. Dogs return to campus between 12–16 months of age for at least four months of formal training with a qualified guide dog mobility instructor (GDMI) prior to being matched with a client.
- Approximately 100 client/guide dog teams and 200 O&M clients graduate annually. In June 2025, Leader Dog had 1,036 active client/guide dog teams throughout the US (703) and other countries (333).
- Leader Dog does not receive federal or state funding, and receives no payments from insurance companies. Leader Dog relies on voluntary contributions to fulfill its mission. All services provided by Leader Dog are completely free to our clients, including room and board, and travel.
- Leader Dog operates 43 vehicles to transport instructors, dogs and client/guide dog teams to training locations—consuming more than 11,000 gallons of gas per year.
- Utilities (gas, electricity, water) to maintain the campus run approximately \$371,500 annually.
- The Leader Dog food service department prepares an average of 50–55 meals per day, using 800 pounds of chicken 660 dozen eggs, 225 pounds of bacon and 1,612 cups of orange juice annually.
- The 101,000 square foot canine development center can house up to 350 dogs and puppies at one time.
- Currently, the dogs and puppies housed in the canine center require 61,000 pounds of dog food annually.
- Approximately 400 puppies are born each year that will be raised to become potential Leader Dogs.
- Leader Dog has placed dogs in 50 states, 10 provinces and 39 countries and have served (as of June 2025) 15,957 guide dog clients, 1,631 O&M clients and 302 summer campers overall.
- A Leader Dog generally works for an average of eight years, or 3,000 days.

