

Reference materials you may find helpful:

Books:

1) Living with Blind Dogs - Carolyn Levin

2) Blind Devotion: Cathy Symons Blindtails website: <http://www.blindtails.com/>

- Allow your pet to navigate around the house on their own. Resist the urge to pick them up and move them as they are trying to memorize the environment – pets have excellent memories. Pets will find their food and water bowls consistently if you leave them in the same place. Along the same lines, try to avoid changing the furniture frequently.

- Bells can be placed on the collars of other pets so that the visually impaired pet is aware of their presence.

- If a doggie door is present, try placing a textured mat on either side of the door (astroturf, rubber, etc). That way your pet will know that when they are on the mat they are in front of the doggie door. This will also help them get back inside from the yard.

- Encourage your pet to play. If they love to play with tennis balls, buy a ball that makes lots of noise or has a strong scent.

- Sometimes other pets in the household will serve as companions to the visually impaired pet effectively becoming guide dogs

- Avoid stressing your pet by instructing family members to talk to your pet before approaching so as not to surprise them

- Consider fitting your pet for a harness. This will make them feel more secure on walks and gives more points of contact for you to direct them. Certainly, it helps if you take your pet on the same route each day.

- Continue to monitor the eyes for redness, squinting, discharge, or cloudiness. Injuries to the eye or conditions such as uveitis and glaucoma can develop. These conditions are painful and require treatment by a veterinarian.

- Most importantly, continue to show your pet lots of love and support.