



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL GUIDE DOG CENTER FOR THE BLIND



- We are the **only accredited center in the Middle East** offering vital guide dog services—at no charge—to Israel's blind population.
- We provide **Service Companion Dogs** to blind and autistic children, as well as to adults with other disabilities, including IDF soldiers with PTSD.
- **GuideStar and Charity Navigator** have both given us their highest possible rating – for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.
- We have been awarded **The Midot Seal of Effectiveness**—the Israeli version of GuideStar—in recognition of the excellence of our financial management and our program in improving our clients' lives. This award—made after years of in-depth evaluation of our entire organization—is only given to a few select nonprofits in Israel.
- **Israel's Blindness Crisis:** There are some 27,000 visually impaired people in Israel. In addition to losing their sight from various eye disorders, Israel's blind includes soldiers, as well as innocent civilians who often suffer injuries through barbaric acts of terror.
- Virtually all our clients are **IDF veterans**, many blinded while serving their country.
- **Helping the most vulnerable:** Of our clients who first come to us for a guide dog, 72% are economically disadvantaged and 39% live alone.
- **Our growing numbers of clients—and waiting list:** Due to the lengthy process of breeding, raising, and training a guide dog, blind Israelis often have to wait for a year or more to gain the independence, mobility, and confidence that a guide dog provides.
- We need to **double production over the next 10 years** just to keep pace with current demand—making it crucial for us to expand our capacity.
- **Nearly all our dogs go to people in need** as either Guide Dogs or Service Companions—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.
- On average, we provide **35 Guide Dogs and 21 Service Companions for a total of 56 dogs each year** that assist people in need.

- The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind offers **state-of-the-art training programs**. We are one of the few guide dog schools in the world to specialize in the “Clicker Method.”
- Using the Clicker Method **cuts average training time** from 20 to 16 weeks and improves productivity by increasing the percentage of puppies that qualify as guide dogs.
- We expect to break ground later this year on a **New Puppy Development Campus**, adjacent to our current site. It will include a new state-of-the-art dog-training course, additional kennels, and a new birthing center. Naming opportunities are still available.



- 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.
- *CanVelo*, a subsidiary of IGDCB, pairs blind Israelis with sighted volunteers in **tandem biking events** throughout Israel and in 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.
- Our clients have marched in the annual New York City **Celebrate Israel Parade** and run in the **New York City Marathon**, reflecting our goal to engage visually impaired clients in sports and social activities.
- Our blind clients, escorted by their guide dogs and companions, have led the march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on several occasions during **The International March of the Living**.



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