

A. Read the title of the text and look at the pictures. What is a 'guide dog?' Read the text and check your answers.

Guide dogs

People love dogs. They find them playful and a good way to release stress. But for some people, dogs are more than just a pet. They depend on their dogs to help them with their everyday activities. These kinds of dogs are called 'guide dogs'.



Guide dogs are specially trained to help blind people or people who cannot see well. The most common breeds which are used as guide dogs are Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds and Labradors. They are very intelligent, they can learn many skills and they are able to stay calm in stressful situations, so they become perfect guide dogs.



Guide dogs learn how to move around things, walk in traffic and cross streets at the correct times. In the USA, guide dogs can go into almost any public building and are even allowed in places where pets are prohibited.



Guide dog training is long and difficult and it begins when the dogs are just puppies. People who raise puppies are usually families that live in large houses in the suburbs or country, with big gardens so there is enough space for many puppies at a time. Puppy raisers have to take classes on puppy training and have the puppies checked regularly, to make sure they learn the things they need to. The puppies get medical check-ups with local vets. After the puppies have grown, the families donate them to the organisations where

professionals teach the dogs the specific skills they will need to know to become guide dogs.

Vocabulary

breed = a particular type of an animal

intelligent = clever

prohibit = not allow

puppy = a young dog

vet = a doctor for animals

B. Read the text and write T for True, F for False or NM for Not Mentioned.

1. For some people guide dogs can be more important and useful than common pets.
2. The breeds which are used as guide dogs are the most intelligent animals.
3. In the USA guide dogs are allowed in all public buildings.
4. Puppy trainers are trained on how to train puppies.
5. Puppy raisers give the dogs to organisations when they are still puppies.

