

## **A letter from a Guide Dog owner to her dog.**

***For anyone wanting to know what the Guide Dogs charity is all about:***

Dear Samson,

I know that you're never going to understand this, and that you'd far more appreciate a dentistix, a tummy tickle or a run in the park.

You'll get all that anyway, but I NEED to write this.

Before you, my life was getting darker and darker, and my world was getting smaller and smaller. It took me a long time to accept the condition I have and to realise that I needed something to make life easier and safer.

Before you, I would rarely go out, I'd go to work and come home and turn down 99% of invites because it was more stressful and sometimes more dangerous than staying in.

Before you, I was sinking into a dark depression, where I could not see it ever getting better.

Before you, I'd fall over, walk into walls, bump into people and constantly be covered in bruises, grazes and bumps.

Before you, my confidence, self belief and happiness were at rock bottom.

Before you, despite having loving friends and family I felt desperately lonely and scared. No one can prepare you for the terrifying knowledge that one day you might be completely blind and deaf.

Before you, I could see no meaningful future.

Then you came crashing and bouncing through my front door and life...

I remember the moment when I first realised I could trust you, that you'd got my back and that your sole aim in life was to ensure I was safe.

That was the beginning of the light coming back into my life, and the world throwing itself wide open again.

The relief and emotions that came with that hit me like a ton of bricks, and instantly after, I felt freer than I had in years.

You have given me back my confidence, my self belief, my happiness and my independence.

You have lifted me out of a bottomless pit of despair.

Since you've been with me I've only had one fall when out, but that was on a steep hill covered with ice, so I can't really blame you for that!! ;)

You have guided me out of harm's way, and you have guided me back into life.

I love how you cheer me up when I'm feeling a bit down.  
I love how I can trust you and that you trust me.  
I love the obvious joy you have when we go for a free run.  
I love the fact that you are an absolute tart for a tummy tickle.  
I love your very naughty streak when you decide you want to be naughty.  
I love the way you're thrilled to see me when I come down in the morning, your whole body wags, not just your tail!!  
I love that you have given me back my life, my pride and dignity.

You are my gentle brute, my daft brush and sensitive soul.  
You are more than 'just' my guide dog.  
You are my mate, my saviour and dare I say it...my hero.  
Thank you Samson!  
Love and tickles,

Rachel/Flossy/Usherchic xxxx