

## Podcast transcript

### History of guide dog

The history of guide dogs dates back to ancient times. The earliest evidence comes from a 1st-century AD Roman mural showing a blind man being led by a dog. Written records in Asia and Europe during the Middle Ages also mention dogs assisting the blind.

Modern guide dog training began after World War I. Many soldiers who lost their sight in combat needed help navigating daily life. In 1916, a German doctor, Gerhard Stalling, started training dogs for this purpose, leading to the world's first guide dog school in Oldenburg, Germany.

The idea spread quickly. In 1929, Dorothy Eustis founded The Seeing Eye in the United States, revolutionizing guide dog programs worldwide. Today, breeds like Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers are most commonly trained, offering independence and confidence to people with visual impairments.

Guide dogs are more than helpers – they are life-changing partners.