



## NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2007

### GOING TO THE DOGS!

#### *Guide Dog Foundation Chooses Aquarium for Puppy Walker Program*

Atlantis Marine World will host the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. on Friday, March 16 when its Puppy Walker Program expands to include the Aquarium in its off-site training classes.

Puppy Walking means fostering a guide dog puppy in a home for the first year of its life. The aim is to socialize and educate the puppy in everyday life and outdoor experiences. The experiences play a vital role in the future of a guide dog.

"We're hoping our visit to the Aquarium exposes (and gets the reactions of) the puppies to the different areas, tanks, different smells," explained the Foundation's Maria Nuzzi. She continued, "There'll be obedience work, teaching the pups how to act in public, and a lot of socialization."

Puppy walkers must attend at least one puppy obedience class a month but are welcome to attend as many as they want. There are two main components to puppy obedience class: exposure and obedience. Puppies are exposed to dogs, traffic, food, and other distractions and taught to ignore them. They are also taught basic obedience commands.

"We feel privileged that the Foundation has chosen to hold these very important training classes at the Aquarium," enthused Education Director Eileen Gerle.

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### **About The Guide Dog Foundation**

Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. has provided guide dogs free of charge to blind people who seek enhanced mobility and independence. Striving to improve the quality of life for people who are blind, visually impaired, or with other special needs, The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. is supported entirely by donations from generous individuals, corporations, and foundations, and does not receive any government funding.

### **About Atlantis Marine World Aquarium**

Atlantis Marine World (AMW) opened in Riverhead, NY on June 15, 2000, as the first large-scale Aquarium to open in New York State in more than 35 years. Themed around the "Lost City of Atlantis," AMW blends science and nature with myth, inviting visitors to explore its inhabitants while discovering the Lost City. Today, nearly two million people have visited the Aquarium, enjoying its interactive exhibits. AMW is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center. Additional information can be found at [www.atlantismarineworld.com](http://www.atlantismarineworld.com).

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