



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **GUIDE DOG BOARD KICKS OFF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH CALIFORNIA RESTAURATEURS**

*Will help restaurant staff know how to interact with guide dog teams*

SACRAMENTO – The California Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind today announced a partnership with the California Restaurant Association to educate restaurant staff on what to do when they encounter a guide dog team.

“It can often be awkward for both the restaurant employees and the visually impaired customer who enters a restaurant with a guide dog, yet it need not be,” said Guide Dog Board president Eric Holm. “A little education about what the law requires and about proper etiquette can go a long way toward making the encounter a smooth one.”

The partnership was announced as part of Guide Dog Day celebrations organized by the Board. The Board will develop materials that can be used by restaurants to train their staffs.

It is estimated that more than 7,000 Americans rely on guide dogs, frequently trusting them with their very lives. California is one of only a few states that licenses schools and instructors to ensure the high standards necessary to teach these remarkable animals are met. Nearly 400 guide dogs graduate from these programs every year.

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