

RO&Ming with Lil Episode 31

Guide Dogs with wheelchairs
and complex needs – Lee



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Introduction to Episode 31

- Welcome to Lee Stanway
- Guide Dog Mobility Instructor for 30 years
 - Early on, had a deafblind client with muscular dystrophy who became a GD handler
 - Lee learned British Sign Language
- Now: Additional Needs Development Lead at Guide Dogs UK

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Additional needs

- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism Spectrum
- Selective mutism
- Powerchairs and manual wheelchairs
 - Experienced GD handlers train with a wheelchair
 - Experienced wheelchair users train with a GD

GD use with powerchair

- How much/little vision?
 - Little enough to need a GD
- GD Handle length has to be right to keep balanced posture
 - Consult an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist about posture
- Can use GD and long cane together
 - Long cane is useful investigative tool
 - Needs to be long enough to avoid the kebab factor: ~forehead height
- Important that dog is guiding the client, not pulling the chair
- Good driving skills are essential, to avoid harming the dog
- GD with a manual wheelchair is a harder challenge, but possible

Dual purpose dogs

- GDUK works with other assistance dog organisations to custom train a dog to meet dual purposes for the client
 - GD + hearing tasks: doorbell, alarm clock, phone
 - GD + physical tasks: picking up dropped objects, taking socks off
 - GD + epilepsy alert: 42 minutes before a seizure
 - GD + diabetes alert: before hypoglycemia, prompt to check blood sugar level

Conferences earning COMS points

- SPEVI Conference – Celebrating Change!
 - 18-19 January 2021
 - <https://www.speviconference.org.au/>



- International O&M Online Symposium
 - 4-6 February 2021
 - <https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>



Contact & Credits

- To offer feedback, suggest a topic, or record an episode together:
Email: lil@deverell.net Mobile: +61 418 370 312
- Links and PowerPoint slides for *RO&Ming with Lil*
www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/
- Music: *Happy Stroll*, a royalty-free download from Purple Planet Music
- Graphics by Lil Deverell, with technotherapy from Erin Deverell

