



Assistance Dogs
Australia

Tatum the Titan takes Advanced Training in his stride

We're proud to share that Tatum, one of our promising Assistance Dogs in training, is approaching a major milestone: the final stages of his Advanced Training! The team is currently preparing to match Tatum with a future handler, and his potential pathway is looking toward supporting someone living with PTSD.

Some of you might have been lucky enough to meet Tatum during a visit to the National Training Centre this past June. Since then, Tatum has made excellent progress in developing the specialised skills needed to provide comfort, grounding, and support.

One of the key tasks he's working on is *visit*, where he responds to a subtle cue, like a shaking leg, by approaching and applying gentle downward pressure. This behaviour offers vital emotional relief for clients experiencing anxiety or flashbacks, creating a calming, physical presence during distressing moments.

Another task in development is *flop*, where Tatum lies down calmly while making soft eye contact. This behaviour helps provide a soothing visual and emotional anchor, encouraging emotional regulation through connection and quiet presence.

As with all our Assistance Dogs nearing graduation, stability assessments are a crucial part of the process. Tatum is being evaluated across all his core skills to ensure consistency, reliability, and responsiveness in a variety of environments.



Tatum proving himself to be the picture of restraint as he pretends to not see (or smell) the meat counter behind him!

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Additionally, he's becoming accustomed to wearing a Halti, which offers his future handler flexible handling options to suit their personal needs and preferences.

Tatum's progress is a testament to the dedication of our trainers and the potential for Assistance Dogs to change lives. He's almost ready to take the next step, and soon, he'll be bringing independence, comfort, and companionship to someone who truly needs it.

SKILLS REPORT CARD

Visit

Flop

Halti

- Great - smashing it!
- Good - making progress
- Working on it - needs some practice

Tatum the show pony adores attention!



Stay tuned: Tatum's future is just beginning, and we can't wait to see where it takes him.

Thank you, Canon Medical team, for supporting ADA and Tatum's journey!



Tatum and his Instructor, John-Paul, enjoy a peaceful trip to the river

