

Chinwag

Winter 2017

Dogs' Refuge Home ☎ 9381 8166 🌐 www.dogshome.org.au



SOS: Saving Our Seniors

Over the last few years, we have watched with despair the increasing arrival of 'senior' dogs or dogs over the age of seven years.

Faithful, loving and trusting companions who are in or near their twilight years and suddenly find themselves abandoned, left uncollected at a local pound or if they are lucky, more humanely surrendered directly into our care.

In the last twelve months, we have taken in **more than 150 dogs** over the age of seven – a similar number to the year before but almost double that of 2015. And while seven may not be an 'old dog' these days, almost half of these dogs were over the age of 10; the oldest fella, Macca, estimated to be 15 years.

They arrive with their silver muzzles and sad eyes, often bewildered, often in poor shape and suffering from medical

conditions that have been left untreated for some time. While there are genuine and heartbreaking reasons that people need to give up their older dogs, we can't escape the fact that too many people simply won't accept the costs of their older dog or just want a newer, more active model.

For the Home, the costs of caring for and preparing a senior dog for re-homing are much higher than a young pup. Teeth, eyes, skin conditions, arthritis and lumps and bumps are all explored and treated. Thankfully we have an amazing vet, Greg and his team at Subiaco Vet Hospital and a fantastic foster network willing to take our seniors into their homes to

recoup, often for months. Many just can't cope in the kennels.

Re-homing senior dogs is also challenging, even with the power of social media! People rightly need to consider the emotional and financial cost. Families often want younger dogs 'the kids can grow up with', but there are many rewards to adopting a senior!

Firstly, you will have a dog who is very grateful for being given a second chance! Many older dogs already know the basics – sit, stay and how to walk on lead – and if you need to, you can always teach an old dog new tricks! Some seniors are calmer

and less energetic and therefore make ideal companions and instant walking buddies. And the list goes on!

If you can consider giving a home to an older dog, please come and see us or take a look on the website. There's plenty of life and love left in our older rescues yet!



Bindi
10 Years

**A BIG
thank you!**

Thank you to
CITY FARMERS and
ADVANCE for their
ongoing support!

**City
Farmers**
For pets and their people

ADVANCE
ADVANCED PET NUTRITION™

Give a senior a second chance

With the end of the financial year around the corner we are asking you to please dig deep and help us save our seniors (and other dogs needing our support throughout the year). Make a tax deductible donation online at www.givenow.com.au/sos or return the slip enclosed with your newsletter.

With your support we can rescue and re-home even more deserving dogs this year.



Grandpa

© Furry Hearts Photography



Vale: Steve (Watto) Watson – 21 April 2017

We were so sad to learn of the sudden death of Steve, a dedicated life-long firefighter, husband, brother and friend to so many. His wife Donna is a colleague and friend of ours and kindly requested that well-wishers direct their tributes in his honour to the Dogs' Refuge Home. Owner of big GSD Otto, Steve was an avid dog lover. More than \$5000 has been donated in his memory. RIP to a very good man.

**Chevy - long term
resident looking
for a home**



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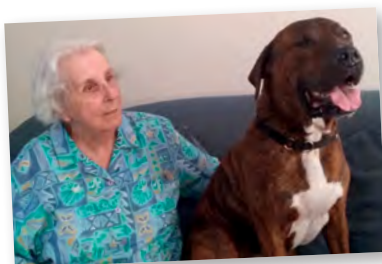
Thank you

President's Message

As we approach the end of another financial year I am more aware than ever of the importance of legacies in underpinning our sustainability.

For the first time in several years, our end of year financial statement won't be as healthy as usual. It's got nothing to do with our fundraising and events, which have continued to be successful, although we are definitely seeing the economic climate have an impact on donations.

This financial year our bequests have been the lowest in many years. Having said that we are expecting a large gift in the second half of this year and for this we are eternally grateful. Sadly, longtime supporter of our Home, the amazing Sonia Guinan who founded MayDay Dog Rescue, passed away late last year.



**Vale Sonia Guinan. Long time
supporter and Founder of
MayDay Dog Rescue.**

Sonia was a passionate dog lover whose commitment to caring for dogs in need knew no bounds. Sonia and her late husband Ron emigrated from the UK many years ago and founded MayDay in 1983 when they saw the desperate plight of unwanted and neglected dogs in Perth. MayDay dogs were either looked after in foster homes or transferred to us to be rehomed.

We are so incredibly honoured that Sonia decided to remember us in her Will and her legacy will never be forgotten. She asked that a kennel be built in memory of her first MayDay dog Honey and we promise to build 'Honey's Haven' which will be a comfortable home for many dogs as they patiently wait to be adopted.

Partnerships like the one we have with MayDay are what makes dog rescue and rehoming more effective. We are also very proud of our working relationship with WISH and SAFE Broome and know that together we are making an even bigger difference. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, but we all have the same goal of saving as many abandoned and unwanted dogs as possible and reducing the number of dogs being euthanised unnecessarily.

This year we have had more dogs surrendered by their owners than I can ever remember – well over 400. I'm not sure if it's a result of the economic climate, but it doesn't seem to be slowing down any time soon. Sadly more and more are older dogs or dogs requiring extensive veterinary care and specialist surgeries. That's the sad news!

The good news is we are well underway in building three new kennels, which took many years of saving to achieve. We are on track to have these completed by the end of June and our vollies and staff can't wait – not to mention our dogs!

Similar to Bonnie Block, which was opened in 2015 and funded by dog lover extraordinaire Terry Crommelin, the kennels are single rows thus reducing the stress for our dogs. They have underground heating and cooling. Special thanks to Mr John Doust for guiding us through this build, which was tricky due to our varying land levels, and to ASL Constructions.

The kennels themselves will be great but we desperately need landscaping and lots of plants to ensure our dogs have an interesting and peaceful vista. Our quiz night proceeds will go towards this so we can start saving for our next kennel block. Our Treasurer



keeps reminding us we have to be sustainable and we are mindful of balancing operating costs with the need to continue with our long overdue master rebuilding program.

As always, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped us to achieve what we have. Thanks to those who have adopted, fostered, volunteered, donated or just helped us to spread the word about our work. Big thanks to my fellow Board members and all the staff who care for our dogs every day.



And finally, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to our General Manager, Judy Flanagan who is leaving us at the end of June, after three years, to enjoy a very well earned retirement. Judy had a substantial impact from the day she arrived and our new Administration and Education Centre certainly wouldn't have happened as soon as it did or as smoothly without her. Her passion for dogs made her one of us straight away and she will always be part of our family.

Karen



Dog 'n' Health Games

Great weather, a fun day and a large new obstacle challenge awaited participants in this year's Dog 'n' Health Games held Sunday 30 April 2017.

Special thanks to **event sponsor HIF Australia** for once again supporting the day. This included creating a range of fitness merchandise and doggy treat pouches that were sold on the day with all proceeds helping the dogs!

A number of Perthonalities came down with their pooches including Nat Locke from NOVA 937, Greg Hire from the Wildcats, Olympians Brooke Peris, Georgia Nanscawen and Emily Little, Claire Dearle and Beau Pearson from 10 News and Lara Shannon from Channel 10 'Pooches at Play'.

And of course thanks to our hard working staff and volunteers and to everyone who came down and helped make the day a huge success!



Fostering

Bonnie & Sox



Bonnie and Sox arrived with high hopes for a new life. But after four months in kennels getting overlooked, they were kindly fostered by regular carers Lauren and Mark in April. Mum Sox is 10 years old and Bonnie is just 2.5 years. They are a delightful, sometimes shy duo who just need a new place to call their own.

Lauren and Mark have been foster carers for two years. They have generously provided care for three bonded pairs now, including seniors Duke and Holly who stayed with them for over 10 months last year until a new home was found. "We do find it difficult to say goodbye as you do get attached" said Lauren. "But with Holly and Duke, their new mum stays in touch and invites us to visit which is great."

"We're loving Bonnie and Sox. They are well behaved, love to play and go for walks. But mostly they love cuddling up even more!"

If you can provide a home for Bonnie and Sox or would like to know more about fostering, please call in or visit our website for more information.

Rescue dogs star in new TV campaign

HIF Australia recently launched a TV campaign for their new HIF Pet Cover - and again they used a cast of 'rescue talent' from the Dogs' Refuge Home! Audrey, Pepsi, Coco and Zain all took part in the project, proving that 'rescue' really is the best breed!

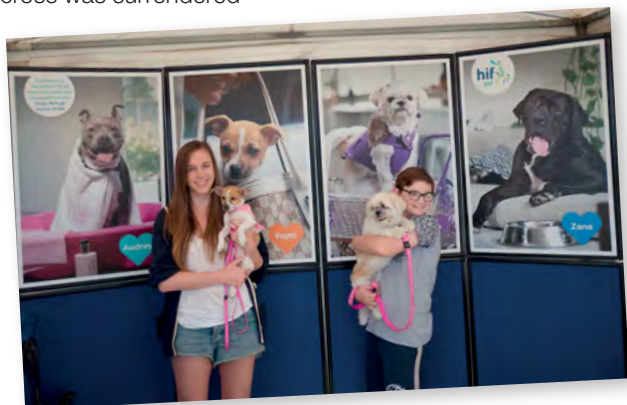
While we're proud as punch of all our 'rescue stars', we were super pleased and happy for Zain. This big Neopolitan Mastiff cross was surrendered

in August 2015, aged around 18 months, in poor shape and suffering from a severe skin condition. He was underweight and needed much care from two lovely foster families who nursed him through extensive rehabilitation.

By mid 2016 Zain was ready to find his new forever home and in July, he was adopted and has never looked back. What a handsome, healthy three year old he is now! Zain is no stranger to fame, starring as Mr May in our 2017 Calendar before hitting



the big time in this clever ad campaign! Keep your eyes out for our stars or visit 'HIF Health Insurance' on You Tube to see all our ex-Refuge dogs in action!





Thanks City Farmers

City Farmers got right behind 'rescue' again with their successful 'Wishing Tree' appeal in December which saw the community give generously to support animal charities around Australia including the Dogs' Refuge Home.

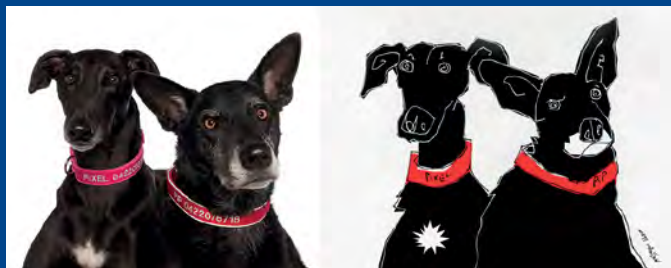
Locally, City Farmers also sponsored the printing and promotion of our 2017 Calendars, selling over 1800 copies through their WA stores. We can't thank them enough for all they do for us at Christmas and throughout the year.

Double Take Dogs! Saturday 1 July

Join us for Double Take Dogs, a collaborative photography & art exhibition from Alex Cearns of Houndstooth Studio and Matt Mawson of Vector Mutt with proceeds to the Dogs' Refuge Home.

Photographer Alex and artist Matt have been friends for several years. They have wanted to work together for a while but had to find the right project. Their brainstorming led to the idea of a joint fundraising exhibition, showcasing dog photographs by Alex, interpreted in a sketch by Matt. Double Take Dogs was born.

One night only! Saturday 1 July 2017 from 6pm at the Nedlands Yacht Club. Prints for sale plus silent auctions and more. Visit www.dogshome.org.au for event details.



Street Appeal 2017

Another lovely Autumn day saw more than 100 volunteers take to the streets of Perth and surrounds on Friday 7 April.

Thanks to everyone who came to visit our stall in Murray Street or dropped a few coins into our tins! This year we raised \$13,000 and had a great time with our 'pat-a-pup' pop up during the lunch hour!



Volunteer Week – A Time to Say Thanks

Volunteers really do make the world go around and without volunteers, rescue groups like ours just could not survive.

Walking, laundry, meals, enrichment toys, gardening, mending, answering the phones, fostering, fundraising – you name it and we have volunteers doing it! Over 250 people have committed their time to the Dogs' Refuge Home in the past 12 months.

National Volunteer Week from 9 – 15 May was a great chance to say "thank you" over morning

tea with our volunteering heroes! We couldn't do it without you.

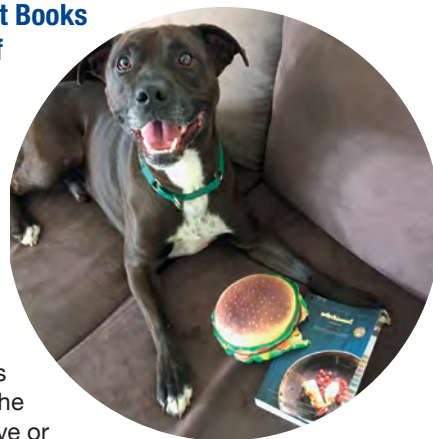


That's Entertainment!

The 2017/18 Entertainment Books are on sale now and full of great discount vouchers.

We receive a 20% donation for every book we sell so if you're looking to bag a bargain, come into the Home to pick up a copy, go online and order a hard copy or new digital copy for your smartphone! You can even buy books for locations outside Perth and still help the dogs no matter where you live or plan to travel in Oz!

www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/844p42



Dear Carmen,

a 10 year old Mastiff x, arrived at the Home a few days before Christmas 2016.

It was apparent from her condition that she had not had an easy life, but despite this Carmen never bore any grudges and her sweet nature soon captured everyone's heart.

It also soon became apparent that Carmen was a special pooch and she soon had everyone at her beck and call! To begin with, a couple of vollies decided

to take her on a Saturday afternoon drive. It was clear that Carmen was not used to getting out and about much, but she sure loved the ride in the car with the roof down. So much so, that Carmen went on a Saturday day trip almost every Saturday that she was at the Home (when she was not entertaining guests at KOKO's for lunch)!

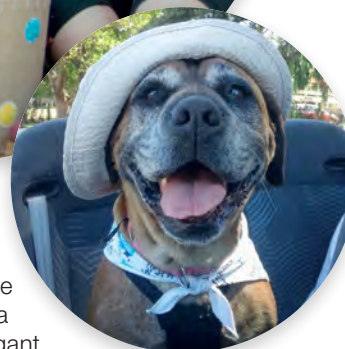
Carmen soon made it known that she was an inner fashionista (never to be seen in the same outfit twice) and quickly engaged a driver and a wardrobe assistant, who was later demoted to bag carrier. Thereafter Carmen, now known by all as the Diva, was prancing with joy when she was collected from her digs for her regular Saturday afternoon outings.

There were many adventures including a trip to Parliament House, but the Diva's destination of choice was Matilda Bay. Always practical, she would chose an

outfit comprising a hat, befitting the day, paired with a colourful but elegant designer scarf.

Easter came and went and dear Diva Carmen was still glamorous but still waiting. Finally on 21 April a new driver and wardrobe assistant came to adopt her and we hear she'll soon be off on further travels to Broome with her new family.

Special thanks to vollies Terri and Annie – our intrepid day trippers and fashion consultants!



Sponsor a Kennel

Help us meet the cost of kennel care with a \$2500 annual kennel sponsorship. Your kind donation will help cover basic vet care, bedding, toys and kennel enrichment for at least 10 dogs who will call your kennel home during the year.

Anyone can sponsor a kennel – businesses, families, couples or individuals. A plaque with your name and/or business name and logo will be affixed to the kennel front for 12 months with added recognition in various publications.

Visit the dog in your kennel at any time and help promote him or her on your own social media. Kennel sponsorship is highly engaging for employees and kids who get to see philanthropy in action!

Thanks to recent sponsors: **Perth Mint** (3 kennels); **Swan River Chapter HOG**; and **Tiddox**.

For more info, please call 9381 8166 or email events@dogshome.org.au





Radley

Male/ Staffy X/ 2.5 Years
Waiting: 5 months

Can You Give a Long-Term a Home?

Sometimes it takes a while to find the right home for a special dog who so desperately awaits a second chance. But we never give up hope! If you're looking for a new family member, come and meet one of these pooches who have been with us far too long. Visit www.dogshome.org.au or call 9381 8166 (Please note dogs in foster are available for adoption)



chevy

Male/ Staffy X Mastiff/ 4.5 Years
Waiting: 19 months



Qwark

Male/ Kelpie X / 10.5 Years
Waiting: 12 months



Buddy

Male/ Mastiff X/ 3.5 Years
Waiting: 12 months



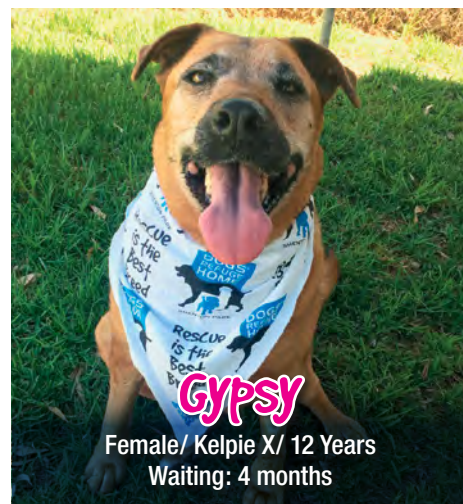
Sorja

Female/ Rottweiler X/ 8.5 Years
Waiting: 6 months



Fred

Male/ Staffy X/ 10.5 Years
Waiting: 9 months



Gypsy

Female/ Kelpie X/ 12 Years
Waiting: 4 months

Join Our Pack

Stay in touch with all things happening inside and outside the Dogs' Refuge Home by joining us on social media!

Search: [dogsrefugehome](https://www.dogsrefugehome.org.au)



Coming Up

Don't miss an event!

Stay in touch by visiting our event page at

www.dogshome.org.au/events-calendar



1050
Dogs adopted
1 July '16 - 14 May '17