



Dogs' Refuge Home (WA) Inc.

# Annual Report 2016/17



# Our **Motto** is: 'Rescue is the best breed'

Ten year old Laddy spent more than five months in our care. Many Facebook posts and loads of photos later, finally a lovely family came in on 26th November 2016 and Laddy was off to his new home! What a happy day it was!

**The Dogs' Refuge Home (WA) Inc. (The Home)** is one of the oldest animal shelters in Australia dedicated to the rescue and re-homing of WA's lost and unwanted dogs since 1935.

*Cover: Mr Jones was a handsome hound and star in our 2018 Calendar shot by StellaPix. This lovely boy was adopted just hours after this photo was taken.*



## Our **Vision**

A community where all dogs live in safe and loving homes.

## Our **Mission**

The Home remains dedicated to the care and re-homing of lost and unwanted dogs through:

- Treating the dogs in our care as our own until we can find them a permanent loving home; and
- The active promotion of responsible dog ownership.

## Our **Values**

Our core values underpin everything we do and guide every decision we make. They form the basis of our interactions with our dogs, our staff, our volunteers, our stakeholders and the community. We live our values.

### **RESPECT**

We treat our dogs and the people in our community with respect.

### **INTEGRITY**

We adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and personal responsibility worthy of the trust our dogs and people place in us.

### **COMMITTED**

We are committed in heart and mind to providing the best care and re-homing of our dogs.

### **CARING**

We treat dogs and people with sensitivity and empathy.

### **TEAMWORK**

We value and acknowledge the contributions of all, nurturing the skills of our staff members, volunteers and partners in a collaborative effort.





Photo: StellaPix - Charlie from our 2018 Calendar

# Charlie

**Charlie is a large and beautiful Bull Arab x. He is now two and half years old and was surrendered into our care in September 2016. Charlie arrived in very poor condition with significant medical conditions including skin allergies and severe alopecia that had been left untreated for some time. His skin was hot and pink and he was in a distressed state all around.**

It was clear Charlie could not cope in the kennels and needed time to recoup in foster. He was kindly supported in several homes before experienced volunteers Josh and Beck took on Charlie's care in February. This has been a significant and committed undertaking as Charlie suffers from generalised anxiety, is reactive and uncomfortable with other dogs and has some compulsive behaviours when stressed.

Josh and Beck have worked their lifestyle around caring for Charlie and creating a calm and consistent environment that provides him with

stability and a chance to learn. Josh has worked hard on training and behaviour modification with Charlie who thrives on routine. While his health has improved greatly, he does bear the scars of his early neglect.

We can't thank Josh, Beck and all our other foster carers enough. For long term 'project dogs' like Charlie, it is our foster network, trainers and behavioural vet Dr Kate Lindsey who provide the vital link to successful re-homing.

*Charlie is still searching for his forever home at the time of going to print.*





# President's Report

**It's been a year of milestones! Our fantastic new Adoption and Education Centre – built with a very generous grant from Lotterywest – was officially opened in October 2016 by then Premier Colin Barnett. The increase in efficiencies and staff and volunteer morale has been incredible and we now welcome the public to a facility we are proud of.**

We started more earthworks at the end of 2016 and began building three new kennels in February 2017. Due to our uneven land, it was a slightly more difficult build, but we managed to complete them by the end of June. These kennels were only possible thanks to several generous West Australians remembering us in their Wills over the past few years.

Each block is a single row with underground heating and cooling. They are roomier and dogs no longer face each other helping to reduce stress levels. We are hoping they will also reduce the length of time dogs spend in our care as they present



themselves in a calmer environment. We've already noticed much happier and more relaxed dogs, which could also be due to the specially selected classical music which plays in the kennels.

We've had another record year of dog adoptions, but sadly more older dogs are being surrendered and are in need of help in what should be their happy retirement years. We're there for them, as our supporters are for us. Our 'Save our Seniors' fundraising campaign in June had a great response so thank you to everyone who donated.

Once again I'd like to thank and acknowledge our amazing Vet, Greg Wilkinson from Subiaco Vet. Greg has been supporting our Home for more than 10 years. His guidance and

integrity have kept our vet costs more manageable for the ever increasing number of dogs who arrive on our doorstep.

Almost all dogs arriving from regional areas require sterilisation and vaccination and many need treatment for mange and neglect. Geraldton and Broome feature prominently in the never-ending number of homeless dogs, but WA is a big State and we

**"We've had another record year of dog adoptions..."**

received dogs from over 40 localities in the past year.

In July and August 2016, we had a huge number of pups arrive at our Home – almost 60 arrived within weeks of each other. It was demoralising knowing the sterilisation message is still clearly being ignored by many, but all the pups found loving homes and we ensured the mums wouldn't have to go through the process ever again.

The beginning of 2017 started sadly for me when I lost my darling pit bull Homer. Homer was a long term resident at the Dogs' Home, and in 2006 he became part of my family and a huge part of my heart. I am forever grateful that the Home cared for him for as long as it did and proud that we



still care for our dogs, regardless of how long it takes, until we find them the perfect home.

When Homer peacefully passed away I spent weeks in mourning with my other boy Bronson until I decided it was time to try to fill the hole he left. Bronson is now 10 years old, so I wanted a dog of a similar age and decided to adopt eight year old Harley, another senior who had been surrendered through no fault of his own.



I love my boys more than I ever thought possible and I still miss Homer every day. The Dogs' Refuge Home is an incredible place made possible by an incredible team of staff and volunteers and funded by a generous community of dog lovers.

Once again we enjoyed several very successful fundraising events this year, including our infamous Quiz Night where hundreds of prizes were donated by businesses around Perth. Excitement hit when Nelson Woss, producer of Red Dog and Red Dog True Blue, joined us on stage and auctioned off a special night at the Backlot Cinema that went for a staggering \$4000! Thanks as always to my fellow Board Member Lee-Anne Ashley for driving this and making it the signature event it has become and for ensuring we had another record breaking result.

Sadly, we said a fond farewell to our General Manager Judy Flanagan, who retired in June after three years of dedicated service. I would like to acknowledge the significant impact she made during that time. Our administration building began with a well written grant, transitioned to five months working out of dongas in our staff car park and a seamless

move all led by Judy. Before leaving, Judy helped to ensure the new kennel development was as smooth as possible and we gratefully made her a Life Member when she retired.

We were once again thankful to previous General Manager Ros Clarke, a Trustee and Life Member, who stepped in for a few months before we welcomed new CEO Catherine Purvis. Catherine joins us from the Australian Red Cross where she has managed a range of community justice, social support and migration programs.

With tertiary qualifications in law, Catherine has also volunteered her time with a number of animal welfare organisations. She brings a strong knowledge of animal welfare legislation, codes of practice and standards for the management of shelters. Catherine brings a range of skills, experience and passion that we felt were a good fit with the Home's goals and mission. We are very fortunate to have Catherine join our team and lead us in the future - welcome Catherine!

It's been a busy yet challenging 12 months and as always, I would like to thank and acknowledge my fellow

Board Members for the countless hours given over the year and for all of their support and advice. This year the legislation for our financial reporting changed this meant our Honorary Treasurer, Tracy Chang, needed to spend a vastly increased amount of time bringing our reporting in line with these new requirements. I am incredibly appreciative of all the time and dedication from Tracy.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Home this last year and to all of those who join us. Our message hasn't changed - 'Rescue' is still the best breed! So adopt don't shop and if you can't adopt, foster and if you can't foster volunteer and if you can't volunteer, donate and if you can't donate please help us spread the word! Follow us on our social media channels and share our news or talk to your friends, we need all the help we can get until everyone agrees that 'Rescue is the best breed'!

Together we can make a difference to lost and abandoned dogs and together our voice is stronger.

Karen



## Introducing our new CEO

### Catherine Purvis

I am delighted to take on the role of CEO of the Dogs' Refuge Home. I would like to thank Judy Flanagan for her leadership over the past three years and also thank the Board for its support.

Broadly speaking I see the focus over the next year as follows:

- organisational effectiveness
- building the capacity of our people
- educating the public, influencing policy and driving reform

Leading an animal welfare organisation is a life dream for me, so it is with great excitement, together with a deep sense of responsibility that I begin my service with the Dogs' Refuge Home.

*Photo: Houndstooth Studio*





# Rescue & Re-Homing 2016-2017



Photo: Houndstooth Studio



## Dogs Entering Shelter



## Dogs Sterilised



## Where our Dogs Come From

	2016/17	2015/16
Pound Rescue	<b>582</b>	518
Owner Surrender	<b>353</b>	332
Dogs Returned	<b>219</b>	167
Other Rescues	<b>186</b>	236
Good Samaritan Surrender	<b>37</b>	32
Shelter Offspring	<b>23</b>	13



**Dogs Returned:** The Home accepts 'returns' of our dogs unconditionally. Sometimes the fit is just not right, but often circumstances within the household change and dogs are surrendered back into our care. Detailed feedback collected at the time of return helps us better understand the behaviour and needs of the dog and assists greatly in re-homing.

# Chopper, Snoopy ... and Duke

In September 2016 we visited the Home without a fixed idea of the dog we were looking for ... my 9 year old daughter Kelly had been searching the website for options and spotted a senior pair. At first I wasn't sure, but agreed we would look at them first ... the rest was history no one else got a second look!

Little did we know, that we would fall in love with a gorgeous senior duo named Chopper (9) and Snoopy (8) and that we would soon be returning home with not one rescue dog but two! What an incredible day filled with emotion. When I looked into their eyes,

my heart just filled with love and I knew these guys were the perfect fit for our family.

Once they entered our lives each day was blessed with a special moment that happened because they were there. Sometimes this moment was utter surprise as to how fast a beagle could steal and eat a pizza ... other moments were more dear, like how they just knew when you needed a cuddle or for them to do something silly to make you laugh.

Sadly, in June our beloved boy Chopper became unwell and was diagnosed with brain cancer. Seven weeks later and he was gone. It was one of the saddest moments we have experienced; he left such a void but so many wonderful memories. Snoopy,

who was his best pal, had the hardest time so after a few weeks we picked ourselves up, put aside our sadness and started the search for a new family member almost one year to the day.

Snoopy was picky with his first few meet and greets but when Duke entered the yard and we just knew he was the one ... he is filling our lives with joy and is such a beautiful boy. Snoopy has a new pal and our family is whole once more.

*Angela Erasmus*



## Pound Rescue

Pound rescue **increased by 12%** during the year with dogs received from 26 metro and surrounding localities. Many of these dogs are collected by the Home's trainers during weekly visits to local government pounds. Our major partners continue to be **Wanneroo (137 dogs)**, **Gosnells (131 dogs)** and **Armadale (94 dogs)** which account for 62% of our Pound intake. The increase in this area is due largely to new partnerships with Bayswater (38 dogs) and Canning (26 dogs).

## Regional Dogs

The Home continues to broaden our reach and received **227 dogs** from **16 regional localities** during the year. Many of these come to us via regional rescue groups including the SAFE network {Broome 100 dogs; Karratha 27 dogs; Other 30} and WISH Animal Rescue (18 dogs). The Home is now collecting directly from Geraldton and brought down 32 dogs during the year.

## Foster Dogs

**450 dogs** spent time in the loving homes of foster carers during the past year. These range from short term stays of under a week, to mums with litters of puppies, dogs recovering from surgery or illness and others supported on medium term behavioural programs. Many dogs do not cope in the kennel environment and we can't thank our foster carers enough for opening their homes and hearts until these dogs find their new homes.

## Lost Dogs

During the year, the Home received **157 lost dogs**. The majority were picked up within the surrounding localities of Cambridge, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Mosman Park, Perth and Subiaco, who retain the Home as their pound facility. More than 90% of lost dogs were re-united with their owners, while the remainder were transferred to our care and lovingly re-homed.



## In Memoriam

The Home works hard to provide the best outcomes for all dogs in our care. With great sadness and following expert veterinarian and vet behavioural advice we sadly accept that some dogs cannot be safely re-homed or have severe medical conditions that cannot be effectively treated. In 2016/17, 13 dogs were humanely put to sleep by our vet. Each dog was respected and treated with loving kindness while in our care.

## 47,632 Fans

**on Facebook at 30 June 2017**

Social media has become a powerful tool for promoting our dogs and sharing our key messages on dog welfare and responsible dog ownership. Over the year, we posted over 1200 times on Facebook alone! We have a growing presence on Twitter and Instagram, however, Facebook has significantly increased visits to the Home and helped us to greatly reduce waiting times for many dogs.



# Fundraising and Events

## Doing it for the Dogs!

**It was another huge year for the Dogs' Refuge Home with one event after another and so many wonderful individuals and groups chipping in to help raise funds for the dogs in our care.**

The **2016 Perth Royal Show** was wet, but that didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of hundreds of people that dropped in to buy a WAG BAG, once again generously sponsored by City Farmers. Show numbers and hence proceeds for the Home have continued to decline over recent years, but our amazing volunteers continue to support us with more than 40 people giving their time to run the stall.

Our famous **Home Open** was held Sunday 7 November. There was huge excitement being the first event since the opening of the new Adoption & Education Centre. Our Jumble Sale stretched more than 15m down the entire length of the new car park, plus we had all our favs – Myrna's delights, City Farmers Dog Wash, Subi Vet, Advance and loads more! We were also pleased to host loads of fun, educational activities for the kids inside and competitions for the doggies outside.

2016 saw the launch of a fun new event – an **OpPAWtunity Shop Night** - Sunday 27 November. Long time volunteers Lynda Hancy and Jill Munyard worked tirelessly sorting, ironing and hanging an array of recycled female fashions. Over 150 ladies joined us for a sundowner and shopped until they almost dropped to help raise over \$5000! We can't wait to do it again next year.



Of course it was almost Christmas in the blink of an eye! We were very happy that **Tate Family Foundation** and Jarrad Tate once again supported

us with a \$25,000 matched giving pledge for **In the Doghouse**. Thirteen people joined Jarrad on Saturday 3 December and spent four hours locked 'in the Doghouse', raising \$24,800 which was then doubled! Special thanks to the Tate family that remains a committed supporter of our Home.



The day would not have been complete without a visit from **Santa Paws** and the amazing Alex Cearns and Deborah Brown of **Houndstooth Studio**. Alex clicked off shots of over 100 dogs again this year, raising \$3500! Special thanks to Alex and Deb and to Chris Watson who played a pawesome Santa.

April saw our 'green team' hit the streets again for the **Annual Street Appeal**. We were slightly down on numbers this year with less tin shakers, and also felt the pinch of the downturn in WA's economy. Still a lunchtime visit to Forrest Chase of a litter of puppies did bring a smile to city workers and all up we collected around \$13,000.



The end of the financial year culminated with our biggest Quiz Night ever! **Trivial Pawsuit** was a sell out with 350 people attending the annual event at the South Perth Community Centre. We can't thank our regular (and new) donors enough. Oakford Wines came on this year with a full wine sponsorship, while Helen Norton donated over \$12,000 worth of pieces in her eighth year. The surprise of the night was Nelson Woss of Red Dog/ Blue Dog fame, whose surprise announcement of a private screening and party for 40 people at the Backlot Cinema was auctioned and raised \$4000! Overall a whopping \$38,000 was made on the night.



To everyone who donated to an event, attended, volunteered or organised we say a huge and heartfelt thanks. We all do it for the love of rescue dogs and for making sure we can always care for them like our own until we can find them new forever homes.







## Community Fundraising

**Every year we meet amazing people who love dogs and want to spread the word that 'rescue is the best breed'!**

From the many kids who hold bake sales or donate proceeds from their birthday to the truly remarkable individuals like Caleb 'Salty' Davenport and his dog Morrison – originally from our Home - who walked for 10 days and 235kms from Secret Harbour to Dunsborough in the middle of winter!

Caleb raised over \$4800 for our Home and loads of publicity which he dedicated to talking about the importance of animal rescue.

Sadly, we also receive a number of gifts 'in memory' each year for dog lovers who have passed away too soon. Steve 'Watto' Watson died suddenly in April 2017 and his wife Donna and friends set up a tribute page. More than \$5000 was donated to the Home in Steve's memory and we have erected a plaque in his honour.

Thanks to everyone who raised funds or awareness for our Home during the year – our dogs are blessed and so very grateful for your kindness and generosity.



## HIF Dog 'n' Health Games

**This year we moved to a warmer time slot in April, redesigned the entire course and found a great new location at the South Perth foreshore. It really was an amazing morning and over 100 people came along to get out and about and exercise with their dogs.**

The Celebrity Challenge was a hit with Greg Hire – Perth Wildcats; Hockeyroo champs Brooke Peris and Georgia Nanscawen; Emily Little – Olympic gymnast; Claire Dearle and Beau Pearson from Channel 10; Lara Shannon from Channel 10 'Pooches at Play'; and Nat Locke plus the crew from Nova 93.7!

Despite our best efforts and the amazing support from HIF, we have decided not to continue with this event in the foreseeable future.

## City Farmers Super Supporters!

**City Farmers continued their amazing support throughout the year.**

From sourcing stock for Wag Bags, selling our 2017 Calendars, collecting donations through their Giving Tree Appeal and volunteering their time by providing mobile City Farmers Dog Wash teams at all our major events. Through the calendars and Giving Tree Appeal, City Farmers raised an amazing \$71,000 to donate to our dogs this year.





# Amazing People



The love of dogs and a commitment to treating the dogs in our care as if they were our own until we can find them a loving permanent home drives our passionate and committed team. We have a small number of staff who are supported by a large team of volunteers. Their collaborative effort has allowed us to rescue and re-home an increasing number of dogs each year and ensure we deliver the highest standards in animal welfare.

## Staff

(at 30 June 2017)



## Volunteers



Volunteers contribute across all areas of our operations, most significantly in walking and providing in and out of kennel training and enrichment support for our dogs. Countless additional hours are 'unlogged' planning and participating in fundraising and awareness events, serving on committees and hitting the road to collect dogs from the airport

or from regional locations. Without this 'unpaid' support, the Home could simply not survive or continue to intake as many dogs as we do. To all our volunteers who contributed their time and talent again over the past 12 months we salute you!

During the year 219 people attended Volunteer Inductions, while 69

volunteers completed upgrade training from Yellow to Green Badge and 4 volunteers completed upgrade training from Green to Blue Badge.

We would also like to give special thanks to our corporate heros – countless people and teams who elected to serve their volunteer hours at our Home during the year. Gardening, maintenance, painting, packing and stacking blankets and towels, tin shaking at our Street Appeal or donating pro bono time on legal, financial, human resources and safety projects – **THANK YOU!**





## Pawesome Efforts!

### Volunteer Service

**Christmas is a time to celebrate and reflect on our many achievements during the year. We also recognise our volunteers who have racked up significant hours of service to our dogs.**



*Dot Weary - logged 2470 hours to December 2016*



#### Gold Badge

(over 2000 hours)

Dot Weary; Gaye Pathmanathan; Mary McKenzie and Bev Forsyth



#### Silver Badge

(over 1000 hours)

Ros Stynes; Penny Hanton; Henry Moors; Patricia Kimbar; Terri Vincent; Chris Watson; Lisa Lewis; Greg Goad; Sabrina Arklie; and Jen Harwood



#### Bronze Badge

(over 500 hours)

Irena Jarenowych; Edwina Tonkin; Edel Trembath; Tania Whittle; and Andy Yeoh



### My Refuge

When we decided to enter a video into the 2017 Revelation Film Festival, we didn't have to look far for help! Bree Billington is a talented local filmmaker and Home volunteer and gladly took on the project. The theme this year was positive ageing and this provided a great opportunity for us to showcase the amazing contribution of our 'mature-aged' volunteers. Screened in July, the film won the Ambassador Choice Award and a \$1000 prize donated to the Home. We can't thank Bree and all our senior stars enough – thank you for the difference you make and as all know 'age is just a number'!

**Watch now:** [vimeo.com/224894805](https://vimeo.com/224894805)

### Wag Waffle

If you want to know what's going on at the Home, you only need to wait for a Friday afternoon email with the next instalment of Wag Waffle! Filled with pictures and news from the week's activity, the bumper newsletter is produced by Linda Mortimer and distributed to our vast volunteer network. Linda volunteers at the Home at least three days a week and must spend countless more hours on Wag Waffle. Thanks Linda!



### Regional Rescue

Special thanks to the teams at SAFE Broome and Karratha who call us to take dogs that will sadly be put to sleep if left in regional pounds. Our volunteers must be well known at Perth Airport collecting dogs every week. The Home pays for flights when needed and all the vet works once the dogs are in Perth. Special thanks also to Jono Pollard and Greg Davies who each made several road trips to Geraldton bringing back up to nine dogs at a time!



### Photography

We are blessed with so many dog loving professional, amateur and iphone/ android photographers who take beautiful photos to help promote our dogs. Special thanks to **Houndstooth Studio by Alex Cearns** who is our primary photographer and responsible for the best Santa Paws in town! Thanks also to Clarissa Human, StellaPix Photography, Furry Hearts Photography and all our volunteers who send photos for social media.



# Governance & Financial Overview

**The Dogs' Refuge Home is committed to building strong organisational foundations which underpin and guide the delivery of high quality services for our dogs and the community.**

The Home continues to be led by a committed and stable volunteer Board. Membership during the financial period included:

**Karen Rhodes** – President

**Mark Simpson** – Vice President

**Chris Osborn** – Secretary

**Tracy Chang** – Treasurer

**Ian Coombes**

**Jane Kikeros**  
(appointed 26 October 2016)

**Sarah Murphy**  
(appointed 26 October 2016)

**Lee-Anne Ashley**  
(resigned 30 September 2016 and  
reappointed 7 February 2017)

## Contemporary Facilities

2016/2017 saw many further and exciting milestones achieved towards our Masterplan redevelopment. The new Adoption and Education Centre was officially opened by then Premier Colin Barnett in October 2016. Around 100 guests attended the launch including many Life and long term members and donors. The opening also received strong media coverage and resulted in a great increase in visitors to the Home.

A year on and the new administration building has made a significant difference to the Home's operations.

The spacious shop and reception area is more accommodating for the public and staff and the private interview rooms have been appreciated by people in the sad circumstance of surrendering their dogs.

In December 2016, groundwork commenced for three new kennel blocks on the south boundary of the property. This saw the old caretaker's cottage demolished in preparation for the earthworks ahead. Substantial retaining walls were required due to severe gradients and the uneven land our property sits on and whilst challenging, we were determined to maximise the space we had to work with.

The new kennels have the capacity to house 30 dogs and have been designed around best practice in animal welfare and consideration of Perth's weather conditions. They are built in single, non-facing rows to reduce stressors for the dogs, feature integrated underground heating and cooling and even include specially piped music designed to calm the dogs and create a more peaceful environment.

The new kennels offer significant improvements for dogs, staff, volunteers and the public alike. They are safer and easier for staff and volunteers to access and move dogs and more appealing to the public when they are viewing our dogs.

This project was funded through bequests and money set aside in the Building Reserve over the years.



Marcus Otten and the team at **ASL Constructions** were once again engaged to build these kennels. We used the popular and successful 'Bonnie Block' as the prototype and have continued to improve on the



features and benefits it offers. We are thankful for the ongoing support from **Total Eden**, that donated and installed our reticulation, **Greenacres** that supplied turf and **Landscaping Australia** that greatly reduced its fees on plants and landscaping.

In preparation for this significant build we undertook a major upgrade to our plumbing and water catchment installing a 100,000 litres water storage tank in our Agility yard. This was an expensive exercise, but necessary facility works for our future planning.

Whilst the Masterplan to maximise the efficiency of our land (and intake of dogs) is in place, we are constantly reviewing this as the Rescue landscape changes and evolves. We have been buoyed by the overwhelmingly positive response from



Photo: Clarissa Human





staff and volunteers about our new kennel blocks and look forward to replacing more of our old kennels over time. The timing of more development, however, inevitably will correspond to the legacies we receive.

Once again we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ian Coombes, who at 82 years of age is showing no signs of slowing down and has been a key driver in our maintenance and redevelopment projects over the years. Thanks also to the many corporate volunteers and individuals who donate their time to garden or attend to other projects around the Home.



## organisational Development

The Organisational Development and Governance sub-committee has had a focus on some important areas in the reporting year. Most significant was the recruitment of Catherine Purvis as our new CEO. Sub-committee and Board members were involved in establishing a process and completing first and second round interviews with the assistance of Lil Watt of Lil Watt Consulting.

Also significant is the work that has been completed in relation to Policies and Procedures which were identified as a key priority area to assist in the effective running of the Home. While important policies have been in existence, the need for consistency and a thorough review will help to build greater understanding among staff and volunteers. It will also be a step forward in governance and operational efficiency.

Occupational Health and Safety has continued to be a priority with the work of integrating our Safety Management System leading to an increased focus on managing risks and safety issues. We have received extensive support and guidance from Fremantle Port Authority and the work of integrating the OHS systems and procedures will continue to be an important area as we continue to develop the Home's operations.

From an employee wellbeing perspective, we were pleased to introduce an Employee Assistance Program whereby confidential counselling assistance is available from a third party service to employees.









Strategic planning for the next 3-5 years and the long term future of the Home is also under consideration as the current planning period comes to a close. Significant milestones have already been realised to redevelop and improve the Home consistent with the strategic priority areas identified in the 2014-2017 plan.








## Financials

The Dogs' Refuge Home remains in a sound financial position due only to a robust program of successful fundraising and events and the kindness of dog loving individuals who generously leave the Home a gift in their Will. Without donations, legacies and fundraising events, the Home would simply not be sustainable. In 2016/2017, a little over 50 per cent of the Home's income was generated from these activities and gifts.

As shown in the table, Legacy income was down considerably in 2016/2017 compared to the prior year. This has impacted our cash reserves and consequently our ability to allocate funds for facility upgrades in the short term.

Despite a continuing increase in dog intake, we have been able to keep our vet fees at a stable level thanks in great part to our long term partner Subi Vets. As a seven day a week operation, Employee Costs remain our largest expense. We are however, continually indebted and grateful for the support of 250+ volunteers who work alongside our staff and contribute hundreds of unpaid hours every week. This provides for dog welfare and enrichment that simply would not be possible financially otherwise.

INCOME	2016/17	2015/16
 Donations & Fundraising	<b>38.0%</b>	32.4%
 Dog Adoptions	<b>21.0%</b>	16.0%
 Legacies	<b>13.4%</b>	28.7%
 Boarding	<b>9.6%</b>	8.3%
 Shop Sales	<b>6.1%</b>	4.7%
 Grants	<b>4.3%</b>	3.0%
 Interest & Dividends	<b>3.9%</b>	3.8%
 Other	<b>3.7%</b>	3.1%

EXPENSES	2016/17	2015/16
 Employee Costs	<b>62.6%</b>	62.5%
 Vet Fees	<b>11.1%</b>	10.9%
 Admin Costs	<b>9.7%</b>	9.9%
 Property	<b>5.2%</b>	3.7%
 Shop Stock	<b>4.9%</b>	4.3%
 Kennel Operations	<b>4.3%</b>	4.5%
 Fundraising	<b>2.2%</b>	4.2%



# Valued Partners

The Home is blessed to have the support of a number of key partnerships that significantly impact our ability to provide continued high quality care to our dogs and advance the cause of dog rescue in Western Australia. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following people and organisations.



## Lasting Legacy

Bequests remain the cornerstone of the Home's sustainability and are today, as always, the key driver for our infrastructure and master rebuilding program.

We would like to express our sincere and lasting gratitude to the following benefactors whose legacies were received in 2016/2017:

Bevan Newton Blackburn  
Heidrun (Heidi) Erika Chall  
Evelyn Gollop  
Sonia Guinan\*  
Noelyn Ann Halewood

Thurza James  
Frederick Ernest King  
Rosemary Watson  
Jennifer Mary Wright

If you are considering a gift to the Home in your Will, please call 9381 8166 or email [bequests@dogshome.org.au](mailto:bequests@dogshome.org.au) for further information.

\* Interim distribution





# How to Help

## Adopt!

## Don't Shop!

Of course, the number one way to help a rescue dog is to adopt! We think 'rescue is the best breed' and you will be surprised at just who you might see when you next visit our Home.

You can see all our dogs, read our profile recommendations and find out more about our adoption process online at [www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au) or better still come on in we're open 7 days a week.

## Become a Foster Carer!

We are always on the look out for regular and reliable foster carers – especially people who have experience with dogs who might need help to improve their behaviour ready for adoption. We also seek foster carers who can commit to litters of puppies, convalesce a sick dog or a dog not coping with kennel life, or just to provide respite for dogs who have been in our care for too long.

You can find out all about fostering by visiting our website or coming in and talking to our staff.

## Volunteer!

If you have time on your hands we have a range of jobs for people who can commit to regular volunteering. Dog walking, ground maintenance, work in the office or helping out at events. Find out more by visiting us online at [www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au)

## Donate!

All donations great and small make a difference. You can make a donation any time of the year online or by calling our office on 9381 8166. Increase your impact by becoming a regular donor and joining our **Caring Friends** monthly donor program or **Sponsor a Kennel!** Just \$2500 a year will help cover basic vet care, bedding, toys and kennel enrichment for up to 10 dogs a year. A plaque with your name and logo (for corporate donors) will be affixed to the kennel front.

## Advocate!

Help us spread the word by asking all your friends and family to Adopt! Don't Shop! Join us on social media and LIKE, SHARE or RETWEET our posts to help us find homes for our dogs. Remember 'rescue is the best breed' and every adoption is a healthy life saved.



Photo: Houndstooth Studio



#rescueisthebestbreed





**Houndstooth**  
Studio by Alex Cairns

30 Lemnos Street, Shenton Park WA 6008

Tel: (08) 9381 8166

Open: 11am-4pm, 7 days a week

[www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au)

   #rescueisthebestbreed

**Dogs' Refuge Home (WA) Inc.**

