



DOGS' REFUGE HOME



Dogs' Refuge Home (WA) Inc.

Annual  
**REPORT**  
2017/18





## Our Motto is:

# 'Rescue is the best breed'

Beautiful Bull Arab cross Charlie has been with us since September 2016 and in foster with the amazing Josh and Bec for more than 18 months.

Charlie has been widely promoted, featuring on Facebook, making a guest appearance at our quiz night and visiting the ABC Perth. He's been Insta-ed and Tweeted countless times and still the pawfect home has not been found. But we are ever-hopeful of finding three year old Charlie a special home. We always believe there's a right owner for every dog and won't give up until we find them!

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



### 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.

# Big is beautiful – adoption success!

**Diesel arrived at our Home in September 2017 after we collected him from a local pound. He was an instant favourite with our staff and volunteers and had them all around his paw in no time!**

Diesel was larger than life and was immediately given the penthouse suite in K5 where his new minions catered for his every need. Diesel was regularly taken offsite for walks and cuddles, and it was not unusual to see staff and volunteers hanging out with him in kennel. There was lots of love showered on him and he was more than happy to share his love around too.

Unfortunately, his size seemed to put off many potential adopters so he was still with us at Christmas and the New Year, which he celebrated in style. As 2018 started ticking along we were worried he might become a long-term resident. He did have a false start and was adopted briefly only to be returned due to his separation anxiety being too much for full time workers.

In June all our dreams (and his) finally came true when a fabulous couple came in and decided to adopt our lovable lad. There were many tears of joy when he left and we all kept our fingers tightly crossed. We didn't need to worry as it quickly became clear he would never be returning to his

kennel – he had the same effect on his new owners that he did on us!

Diesel has been renamed Bootsmann or Bo for short by his new owners Bjoern and Lis. The couple had recently lost their dog and decided they needed someone to take care of. They put a plan in place to manage his separation anxiety and have never looked back! "Bootsmann has brought so much joy and laughter back into our lives. It's great to have him here, we need him as much as he needs us", said Lis.

Some of his most dedicated fans still go and visit him at his new home and always report how blissfully happy he is – music to our ears. Even when our dogs leave us they always remain part of our family.



Photo: StellaPix

## 'Roughie' Radley wins a heart

**There are always some significant adoptions each year, in fact every adoption is significant, but if we had to single one out it would be the incredibly handsome Radley. 'Radders' had been with us for 12 months, and even though volunteers and staff knew he was an absolute softy, his rough exterior was putting off potential adopters.**

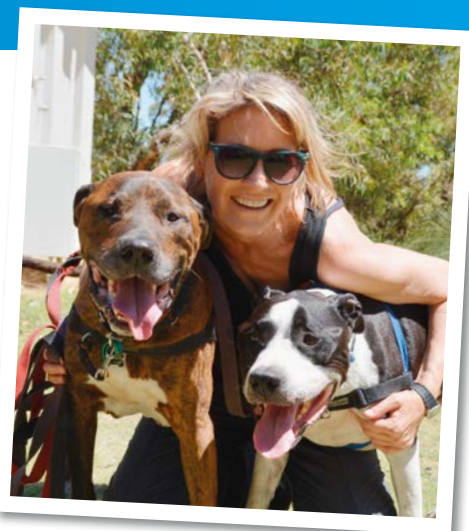
Luckily for Radley one of our fabulous long term volunteers Paul decided to take him home on foster to give him a break from kennel life. Radley already loved Paul but once home he knew he was the one for him. Paul tried to refrain from falling in love, as he wasn't really in the position to adopt, but one afternoon that all changed. Paul had left out a piece of chicken which he planned to cook that evening and came into the kitchen to find it in Radley's mouth. Radley was so horrified he might have upset Paul enough to spoil his chance of ever being adopted, he gently dropped it – totally untouched and with his big brown eyes apologised. Paul's heart melted and the deal was done – Radley was adopted soon after and is now living happily ever after with his bestie Paul!





# President's Report

**This last financial year started off with the official opening of our three new kennel blocks on Friday 8 September. It was a fabulous day and made even better by our Patron Melanie Greensmith of Wheels & Dollbaby and her partner Mark McEntee of Divinyls fame. We are so lucky to have such amazing supporters and our dogs are thoroughly enjoying their new digs. The kennels are built in single rows to reduce stress, they are lighter and brighter and have integrated heating and cooling through the floors. They also include specially piped music that plays throughout the day to help calm the dogs and create a peaceful environment.**



On the day of the launch we couldn't help ourselves and played some Divinyls tracks which was very popular and definitely made Mark feel at home.

There are 11 kennels in each block and the end kennel is a double – we refer to them at the penthouse suite. Our resident duo, Patches and Angel, have been residing in the penthouse suite in K5 and love it. Of course, we know they'd prefer their very own home but for now their stay with us is as pleasant as it can be.

In December, In the Doghouse was our most successful ever for fundraising. Huge thanks to Jen Sainken and Indi Ellison who between them raised a massive \$24K. If that wasn't enough, all donations were once again matched up to \$25K by our fabulous friends and supporters Tate Family Foundation.

Big thanks to Gillian O'Shaughnessy – Gillo – who also went in the kennels with our dogs and has been a huge support, helping us to raise awareness of our Home over the last year. Gillo and ABC Perth Radio even recorded

a show direct from our Home, promoting the work we do, our historic pet cemetery and many of our dogs looking for homes. The combined 'In the Doghouse' team were amazing and we can only hope this year is as good.

There's no doubt this has been a challenging year for us and one of consolidation while we adjust to operating our new kennels. As the dog numbers at metro pounds reduced, the need in regional WA became more apparent so we adapted to accommodate these dogs wherever possible. We are looking at our current business operating model and the changing rescue landscape, and as always are focussed on saving and re-homing as many dogs as possible.

Our growth over the last six years has been exceptional so we needed a year to catch our breath. The economic environment has meant fundraising is becoming increasingly difficult, but thanks to some amazing volunteers and generous supporters we've made it a successful one.

Our fashion Pop-Up Op Shop night driven by Lynda Hancy and Jill Munyard was a huge success and our famous quiz night led by Lee-Anne Ashley was as successful as ever. Once again the very generous Nelson Woss donated a 'money-can't-buy' item – the original Banjo played by Bryan Brown in the Red Dog prequel, Blue Dog.

Bids started off well and continued until they reached a whopping \$5,000! KOKO's memory definitely lives on at the Dogs' Home and he's continuing to help save many dogs each year.

Ironically the number of dogs we have saved from regional areas is the highest it's ever been, over 280 dogs last year. I'm sure Red Dog would be proud that his legacy is helping to save dogs from his old stomping ground.

City Farmer's continued to be incredibly supportive and generous. They sold our popular calendars in their stores raising over \$20K and their Christmas 'Tree of Hope' appeal, where customers kindly buy a gift card in store for selected charities, saw us receive an overwhelming donation of \$50K. We are so lucky to have such amazing support and are in the process of getting our 2019 calendars into their stores as this report is printed.

As always we have received incredible support from our vet Greg Wilkinson from Subiaco Vets and for that we are very grateful. Greg's experience and genuine respect for what we do and desire to give every dog a second chance, provides a strong platform for us continuing our work.

On a personal note, I had another sad year losing my darling Bronson to cancer. I adopted Bronson from the Home in 2009. He was an incredible



# "Together we can make a difference..."

dog, best friend, family member and comedian and a large piece of my heart was taken when he passed away which will never be replaced. I would like to thank Greg for his compassion and care with Bronson – he was there for me and Bronson as he is for our Home and all our dogs.

During the year we received the funds from Sonia Guinan's estate. Sonia was the founder of MayDay Dog Rescue and her love of dogs, tenacity and desire to save as many dogs as possible will live on forever at our Home. We hope to start building 'Honey's Haven', a new kennel block in the next 12-18 months as we continue with our Master Rebuild Project. Honey was Sonia's first rescue dog and will forever be remembered.

Life at the Dogs' Home is as rewarding as it is challenging. The highs are high and the lows are low. The dogs we save and re-home each year make it worthwhile but without the whole team our work would be impossible.

In mid-June, CEO Catherine Purvis, tendered her resignation to the Board to return to South Australia. It was

a busy and often challenging 12 months, which saw us introduce structural change to provide more leadership, management and specialist skills to support our operations. This has included appointing a new Operations Manager, Finance Officer and Foster Co-ordinator. Catherine made a significant contribution to the Stop Puppy Farming Implementation Group, which should see a range of new legislation introduced in WA over the coming 12-18 months to limit both large scale and backyard breeding among a range of other measures to improve dog welfare in the State. We wish Catherine all the best for her future endeavours and thank her for her contribution to the Home. I am incredibly grateful to former GMs Judy Flanagan and Ros Clarke for providing an interim management team.

The Board I work alongside inspire and support everything we do - I am grateful for each and every one of them. Jane Kikeros and Mark Simpson stepped down earlier this year due to personal commitments and I would like to thank and acknowledge their significant

contribution over a number of years, particularly in advancing our Organisational & Governance goals. The remainder of our Board remains constant and we are very fortunate to be able to draw on the skills and resources they provide. Our Secretary Chris Osborn has been on the Board for 14 years and Chris and his employer Williams & Hughes Legal once again provided many hours of pro bono legal support throughout the year.

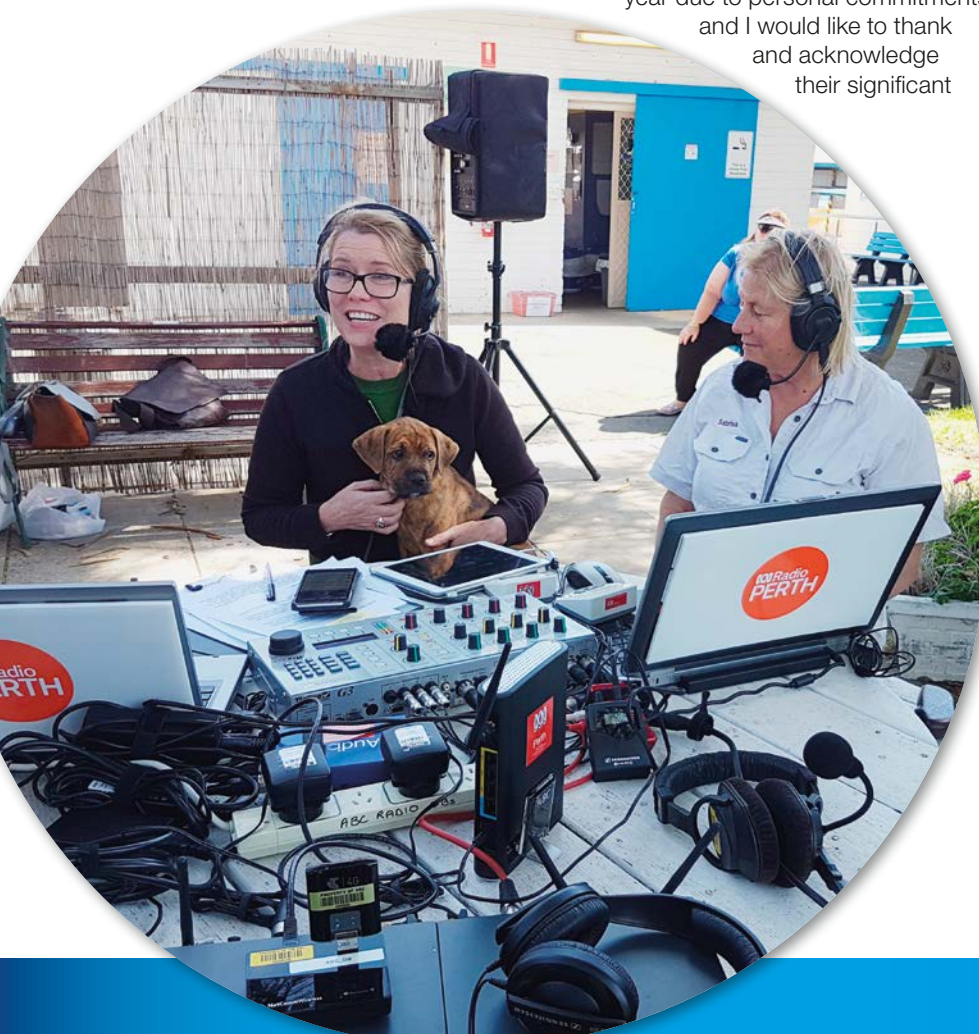
Our sponsors and the community provide the essential backbone of donations without which we simply could not survive. We also could never afford the labour cost to run such a large scale operation without our volunteers and our staff are always there for our dogs rain, hail or shine.

Lastly I would like to thank our treasurer Tracy Chang. Tracy joined us in 2015 and has taken us from Special Purpose accounts to General Purpose accounts which has literally more than doubled the workload. Tracy has been a strong contributor to our Board and has also been through a challenging year losing her darling dog Odin. This is Tracy's last year as our Treasurer and we are forever grateful for the difference she has made.

Once again a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who has helped us achieve what we have. Our dogs deserve your support and you never let them down.

Here's to another amazing year – we know we can't save every dog but for those we do, it's all worth it.

Karen





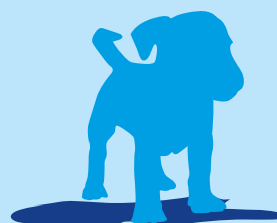
# Rescue & Re-Homing 2017-2018

## ADOPTIONS

1111



## DOGS ENTERING SHELTER



1185

 234 Puppies

 951 Dogs



## Where Our Dogs Come From


	2017/18	2016/17
 Pound Rescue	565	582
 Owner Surrender	252	390
 Dogs Returned	177	219
 Other Rescues	164	186
 Shelter Offspring	27	23



Photo: Clarissa Human Photography

**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.

Photo: Clarissa Human Photography

## Pound Rescue

Pound rescue fell slightly during the year. Many of these dogs are collected by the Home's trainers during weekly visits to local government Pounds, while others are transferred in by rangers or volunteers. Our major partners continue to be **Wanneroo (90 dogs), Gosnells (81 dogs) and Armadale (83 dogs)**. Ranger Services report that mandatory microchipping is assisting to reunite lost dogs more readily with their owners.

## Regional Dogs

The Home continues to broaden our reach and received **280 dogs** from **16 regional localities** during the year. Many of these come to us via regional rescue groups including the SAFE regional network (83 Broome and 50 other). The Home is now collecting directly from Geraldton and brought down 88 dogs during the year – more than double the previous 12 months.

Collectively, we received **dogs from 46 localities** during the year extending from Esperance to Kununurra, Mid West, Pilbara, South West, Great Southern, Goldfields and throughout the metro area.

## Foster Dogs

**378 dogs and/or puppies** spent time in the loving homes of foster carers during the past year. Foster carers help in many ways including: short term stays for dogs not coping in kennels; raising litters of puppies; dogs recovering from surgery or illness; palliative care; and supporting dogs on behavioural programs. 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 **108 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. Around 90 per cent of lost dogs were re-united with their owners, while the remainder (11) were transferred into our care for re-homing.

## In Memoriam

The Home works hard to provide the best outcomes for all dogs that enter our care. However, on the advice from a vet behaviourists and our trainers we must accept that some dogs just cannot be safely re-homed. In 2017/18, 12 dogs were humanely put to sleep by our vet on behavioural grounds. Each dog was treated with loving kindness during their passing.

## We're a very sociable pack!

**Social media has become a powerful tool for promoting our dogs and sharing our key messages on dog welfare and responsible dog ownership. Our social media posts are now viewed and shared literally around the world!**

On Facebook alone, our posts were **shared over 51,900 times** with **average daily users reached topping 28,000!**

	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter
Number of Posts:	1,238	694	272
Fans / Followers:	57,500	10,800	1,401
Impressions:	30,700,000	1,800,000	471,000

Social Media Stats 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018



Photo: Clarissa Human Photography



# 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 new financial year kicked off with a first-time event created by Alex Cearns of **Houndstooth Studio** and Matt Mawson of **Vectormutt** called **"Double Take Dogs"**. Over 150 people braved the cold July night to come and view the collection of sketches by Matt and photographs by Alex which raised \$6,500 for our dogs.

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the Perth Royal Show this year due to the increasing price of attendance and our stall being moved to a new location we did not feel would work. We are also having ongoing difficulty in sourcing content for our famous Wag Bags, as suppliers tighten up in the poor economic climate. We did however, get along to our first two-day **Pet Expo** on 4-5 November and hope to make this a regular event.



This year we took a new approach to our famous **Home Open**, holding it over two days on 11-12 November. We kicked off with our huge jumble sale on Saturday and added more family and



dog-friendly events and stalls on Sunday. The Home was a hive of activity across both days. Despite requiring a bit of extra work, the event was a success in raising over \$20,000 and bringing many new and familiar visitors to the Home.



Once again, Estelle of **StellaPix** volunteered to take the photos for our **2018 Dogs' Refuge Home Calendar**. This remains a fabulous fundraiser for the Home with almost 3000 copies sold. We simply could not achieve this without **City Farmers** who kindly agree to stock the calendars in all their stores. And of course, special thanks to **Houndstooth Studio** by Alex Cearns who once again took a great series of photos for our **Christmas Cards** and **Fuji XEROX/ Mailflow** for printing – so popular they sold out well before Christmas this year.

And speaking of Christmas, it was December in the blink of an eye which meant **IN THE DOGHOUSE** and **Santa Paws** on Saturday 2 December. Both activities were a huge success this year – our biggest ever! Alex from **Houndstooth Studio** clicked off 113 photos featuring 150 dogs in a single day, raising over \$4,000! Special thanks to Santa Dave and all Santa's helpers. We reckon it's the best **Santa Paws** in Perth – big thanks to Alex after seven years and going strong!

The new year began with our second **OpPAWtunity Shop** event in March. This is a volunteer-led event by Jill, Lynda, Lisa, Lee-Anne and friends, and takes many weeks of washing, sorting, ironing and pricing well over



2000 items of ladies clothing and accessories. The new two-day format meant more shopping time and saw \$10,000 raised. Thanks to everyone who donated, helped out or came along to shop!



April saw our 'green team' hit the streets again for the **Annual Street Appeal**. After a rainy start the day picked up with lots of lovely people making donations, trying out our new 'Tap-n-Go' terminals and visiting our puppies at lunchtime. Over \$15,000 was collected and we appreciate all volunteers, including **Bankwest** and their staff, who kindly helped this year.







The end of the financial year culminated with another huge **Trivial Pursuit Quiz Night** – our ninth year! Fabulous supporter and ABC Perth Presenter Gillian O'Shaughnessy donated her time to MC the event and artist Helen Norton once again donated a range of items to auction. The big surprise of the night was Nelson Woss (Producer of Red Dog and long-time donor) arriving with a banjo played by Bryan Brown in the Red Dog Prequel – True Blue. The banjo sold to a lucky bidder for \$5,000, pushing our total to over \$40,000 for the first time! Special thanks to all our major donors and to **Oakover Wines** for again sponsoring the bar. It's our 10th anniversary in 2019 so we'll be chasing an even bigger total to celebrate!

Thank you to everyone who attended an event, donated time, talent or treasure or volunteered – we could not keep up this amazing schedule of activities without you. Fundraising is vital to the ongoing viability of running a large shelter like ours and we do all this every year with less than one paid FTE in our fundraising team!

## In the Doghouse – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

Eleven supporters including ABC Radio Perth presenter Gillian O'Shaughnessy and West Coast Eagles Coach Adam Simpson braved the heat locked in a kennel and raised over \$40,000!

Our fundraising success was led by Home Trustee Jennifer Skiff and her 'Western Woofers' team including 12 year old dog-loving pal Indi Ellison. Together they raised a whopping \$24,000! Once again **Tate Family Foundation** pledged \$25,000 in matched-giving, giving us the best result yet for this wonderful annual event.

## Community Fundraising

**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.**

Lots of bake sales by kids, gifts in lieu of birthdays, wedding and anniversary presents, participating in events like the City to Surf, Rottneest Swim and others, dress down days at work etc all make a huge difference and help raise over \$20,000 per year.

Special thanks to our Honorary Treasurer Tracy and her husband Jeremy who ran 12km in the 2017 City to Surf and raised \$5,300. The whole family have been long term supporters of the Home.

Congratulations to Sook and Julian who got married in October 2017 and asked guests to donate in lieu of gifts which raised \$3,100 for our dogs. Thank you!

You can Start Your Own Fundraiser any time of year by searching for 'Dogs Refuge Home' on [www.everydayhero.com](http://www.everydayhero.com)



## City Farmers – Super Supporters!

City Farmers continued their amazing support again this year.

We are blessed that City Farmers continue to stock, sell and donate 100% of the sale of our calendars every year and promote us as a beneficiary of their Christmas 'Tree of Hope' appeal. They also support us with City Farmers Dog Wash vans at our major events. Once again more than \$70,000 was raised and donated by City Farmers on our behalf this year.





# People Power

Photo: Clarissa Human Photography



## Staff

(at 30 June 2018)

12



Full Time

16



Part Time

6



Casual

The 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 have allowed us to rescue and re-home an increasing number of dogs each year and ensure we deliver the highest standards in animal welfare.

## Volunteers



30,190

Logged volunteering hours 2017/18



363

Active Volunteers 2017/18

Volunteers contribute across all areas of our operations. The most significant volunteer hours are in daily dog walking and providing in and out of kennel training and enrichment for our dogs. Countless additional hours go 'unlogged', for example 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 can't thank you enough!

Volunteering at the Home remains popular and we receive a large number of applications every year.

During 2017/18:



219 people attended Volunteer Inductions



97 volunteers completed Green Badge training



10 volunteers completed Blue Badge training

We would also like to say a big 'thanks' to our corporate heroes – 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!**



### Gold Badge

(over 2000 hours)

Annie Gerritsen; Audrey Macpherson; and Marlene Coles



### Silver Badge

(over 1000 hours)

Andy Yeoh; Dani McKenna; Edwina Tonkin; Greg Davis; Irena Jaremowych; Jo Sweeny; and Lynda Purser



### Bronze Badge

(over 500 hours)

Barbara Stephenson; Christine Chinnery; Daniel Gouvignon; Fiona Maher; Gill Reid; Jim Ashenden; Jo Lanning; Jono Pollard; Lynne Milligan; Marsha Sullivan; Michael Hill; Nicolee Collica; Paul Ross; Sandra Arnold; Sue Terry; Suzanne Turner; Walter Munyard; and Wazza Harrison



# Pawesome Efforts!

## Wag Waffle!

Linda Mortimer and her partner Barb continue to volunteer hundreds of hours a year to the Home. They can be seen around the place most days making

enrichment treats, lending a hand, spending time with dogs in kennels and they also make regular outbound calls to new owners to see how their adopted dogs are settling in. This vital work helps us to ensure we track any issues and gather feedback in a timely manner to support owners when needed. Of course, Linda and Barb are most famous for WAG WAFFLE, a bumper PDF that arrives by email every Friday packed with news, photos, adoption updates and all the happenings at the Home!

## Regional Rescue

Supporting regional rescue groups by taking their overflow of dogs has become an increasingly important incoming source of dogs for the Home.

We have relationships with seven of the SAFE regional groups, with the majority of dogs coming in via SAFE Broome. Our volunteers are a familiar sight at Perth Airport often doing weekly pick ups.



We also continue to make regular road trips to Geraldton to collect dogs from the City of Greater Geraldton and surrounding pounds. During 2017/18 our van made 9 trips and collected 83 dogs! Special thanks to Greg (4 trips), Richard (2 trips), Walt (2 trips) and Jono (1 trip) who all volunteered their time for the 12 hour round trip!

## Helen Norton – Art for Dogs!

Helen Norton has remains a regular supporter of the Home and over the past nine years has donated countless

prints for our quiz nights and other events. In June, Helen joined with Applecross Art & Framers for a special showing called “Dogs’ Lives” and produced three small original pieces showcasing our long term dogs – Charlie, Dorothy and Diesel which raised much publicity for our Home and \$3,500. Big thanks to Helen for her ongoing pawesome support!

## Yappy Snappers!

We continue to be supported by many special dog lovers who volunteer their time and talent to help produce beautiful photos to promote our dogs – particularly our long termers. Special thanks to **Houndstooth Studio by Alex Cearns** who supports us throughout the year with photos and fundraising activities. Alex has taken the shots for our popular Christmas cards for a number of years and in December 2017 clocked up her seventh Santa Paws! Big thanks to Alex and Deb!

Special thanks also to **Estelle of StellaPix Photography** who took the photos for our fabulous 2018 Calendar and **Clarissa Human** for her hundreds of photos snapped during the year of dogs for social media and at events.



# Volunteer Awards 2017

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.





# Maintenance & Welfare



**After a busy period of building and finalising the new kennel blocks early into the new financial year, it was time for a deep breath! We remain committed to continuing our master development plans, however we are now in savings mode again. The wonderful legacy gift from our long-term friend Sonia Guinan has given us a strong start to replenishing our capital fund.**

Our new kennels however, certainly highlight just how 'imperfect' our 50+ year old kennels are now, and we have spent time this last year improving them wherever possible. Obviously, it is not sensible to invest largely in these kennels that will be demolished and replaced over the coming years, but maintaining them for the welfare of our dogs is critical.

This year was marked by our first decrease in dog intake for many years. Several factors contributed to this, notably a large drop in Owner Surrenders and dogs being returned for re-adoption. There was also a slight fall across the board in Pound Rescue and dogs from other rescue groups. We have however, experienced an increase in dogs incoming from regional areas and our focus over the coming 12 months will be to better understand the rescue landscape and how we can work to help save the most dogs' lives.

Another reason for our dip in dog intake was an outbreak of kennel cough in April/ May which caught us off guard and spread throughout all

the kennels faster than we had ever seen before. During this period, our dog intake was considerably impacted as we worked on containment and this added to our much lower number of dogs adopted than the previous year. All our dogs received the best possible care during this unfortunate outbreak thanks to staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly through this process to offer enrichment and care to dogs who were kennel-bound for many days. We did learn significant new lessons from this experience and now have an improved process for management which includes our new kennel landscape.









During the year we continued to work on enrichment opportunities including heightening the barriers between each of the runs in our yards to reduce fence running and the stress of dogs reacting when they see each other. For added safety we have now made each of them fence-jumping proof. It's great to be able to give them some off-lead play in a safe and interesting environment and almost all our runs now have sandpits.








Our grounds are also looking better than ever! This is primarily thanks to some incredibly committed green thumbs namely Mike, Norm, Byron and Ian and teams of corporate volunteers who come in across the year to help out. It's a major undertaking to manage such a large area and facilities cost-effectively and again we would be lost without people giving their time so freely.

Whilst our volunteers often exercise our dogs on-lead away from the kennels (to give them a break from the barking they live with), we know nothing can compare to the comforts of home so we have tried to replicate a lounge room in our fabulous KOKO's building. We have a couple of comfy lounges to make them feel at home, a number of snuffle mats which they love searching for treats in, and a ball pit to keep them entertained. It's so rewarding to see them enjoying this space while classical music plays to ensure all their senses are catered for. Any dogs with injuries who aren't able to be walked are also taken to KOKO's for TLC.



# Governance & Financial Overview

INCOME	2017/18	2016/17
 Donations & Fundraising	<b>25.8%</b>	38.0%
 Dog Adoptions	<b>16.4%</b>	21.0%
 Legacies	<b>34.3%</b>	13.4%
 Boarding	<b>8.6%</b>	9.6%
 Shop Sales	<b>4.7%</b>	6.1%
 Grants	<b>4.0%</b>	4.3%
 Interest & Dividends	<b>3.5%</b>	3.9%
 Other	<b>2.7%</b>	3.7%

EXPENSES	2017/18	2016/17
 Employee Costs	<b>62.2%</b>	62.6%
 Vet Fees	<b>9.3%</b>	11.1%
 Admin Costs	<b>8.9%</b>	9.7%
 Property	<b>7.3%</b>	5.2%
 Shop Stock	<b>3.9%</b>	4.9%
 Kennel Operations	<b>5.8%</b>	4.3%
 Fundraising	<b>2.2%</b>	2.2%

**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 volunteer Board. Membership during the financial period included:

**Karen Rhodes** – President

**Mark Simpson** – Vice President (resigned 28 March 2018)

**Chris Osborn** – Secretary

**Tracy Chang** – Treasurer

**Ian Coombes**

**Jane Kikeros** (resigned 28 March 2018)

**Lee-Anne Ashley**

**Sarah Murphy**

**Marsha Sullivan** (appointed 26 April 2018)

**Suzanne Turner** (appointed 26 April 2018)

Trustees:

**Jen Sainken**

**Ros Clarke**

**Ruth Gourley**

**Judy Flanagan**

Despite a challenging 2017/2018 financial year in a depressed economy, the Dogs' Refuge Home remains in a strong financial position due largely to the generosity and support of dog loving individuals who have left the Home a legacy gift. Legacy income increased significantly as compared to prior years and has enabled the allocation of funds for continued planned future facility upgrades.

In 2017/2018 donations, legacies and fundraising event income accounted for 60% of the Home's income. These donations and legacies have a lasting and positive impact on the lives of dogs seeking a second chance and without the receipt of these, the Home's operations would be unsustainable.

Employee costs continue to be the Home's largest expense, reflecting the cost of running and staffing a 365 day operation. This cost does not reflect the hundreds of unpaid hours that our 250+ volunteers donate towards dog welfare and enrichment.

A slight decrease in incoming dogs during the year is reflected in a reduction in variable expenditure, particularly with regular vet works. Special thanks and appreciation continue to go to our long term partner Dr Greg Wilkinson and Subiaco Vets who support the Home with significantly discounted vet care.





# 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 2017/2018:

Sonia Guinan  
(final distribution)

Cyril Maitland  
Ash Brown

Kevin & Edna  
Appleton

Theda Gilbride

Jacqueline Guhl

Janet Wauchope

Lilian Young

Helen Williams

Hazel Cameron

Ilma Hepworth



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.

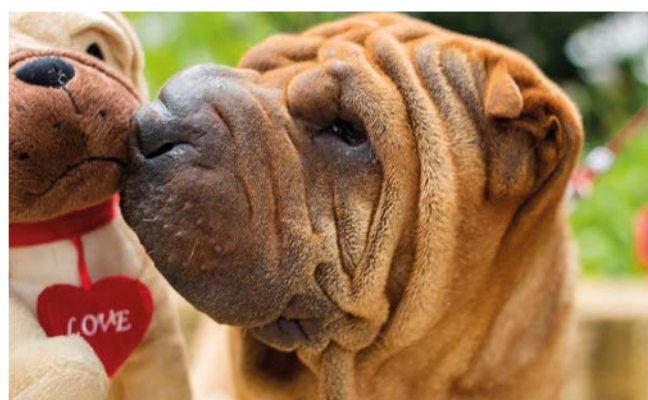


Photo: Clarissa Human Photography

## Where would we be without Caring Friends?

The Home has always enjoyed the financial support of a dedicated group called 'Caring Friends', our regular donors who pledge a regular weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly gift.

With the use of online platforms – particularly **Give Now** who provide a free portal with minimal fees for not-for-profits – we have been able to grow our Caring Friends to over 150 donors. These regular and reliable donations make a big difference to supporting our cashflow and contributing to the high standard of care provided to all dogs. It's easy to become a Caring Friend by visiting [www.givenow.com.au/dogshomewa](http://www.givenow.com.au/dogshomewa). This gives you control over your giving – how much, how often and your preferred payment method. We can all use more loyal friends, particularly our dogs as they await finding their forever homes.



# How to Help

Photo: Houndstooth Studio

## 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 \$2,500 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.



#rescueisthebestbreed





Photo: Clarissa Human Photography

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.

