

Chinwag



Summer 2017

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

Hello! It's Gillo 'In the Doghouse'!

We're so excited to have Gillian O'Shaughnessy, ABC Radio Perth Afternoons host, dog lover and Dockers tragic, heading into 'the doghouse' on Saturday 2nd December, to help raise funds and awareness for the dogs in our care.

Gillo will be joining a number of other Perthonalities and Dogs' Refuge Home volunteers to spend the day locked in a kennel with a rescue pooch looking for a home. Visitors are welcome and you can come down from 10.30am to 2.30pm to say hello to all the crew and find out more about the dog in their kennel.

Once again **Tate Family Foundation** are pledging to match dollar for dollar the first \$25,000 donated for this important annual appeal. That means together with your donation, we are aiming to raise at least \$50,000 to help support the ever growing number of dogs who find themselves in our care.

Why go In the Doghouse?

Every year we continue to experience a large operating shortfall, covered only by the generosity of the community of WA. In the last financial year, we took in 1400 dogs – another record breaking year. While this included a 12% increase in dogs rescued from local government pounds, sadly, we have also witnessed an increase in dogs surrendered.

Economic hardship, change in life circumstances and people leaving the State and unable or unwilling to take their dogs are the main reasons given.

We have continued to watch senior dogs arrive on our doorstep in high numbers since June and as always this is heartbreaking to see. While we would all dearly love to see a downturn in need, it appears the messages to sterilise or to

consider that a dog is for life are just not getting through.

With your ongoing support, we can make sure that every dog receives the best possible care until we can find them a new forever home.



Support Gillo and help all our dogs in the Doghouse

We hope you will be able to support us with a tax deductible donation to In the Doghouse and have your donation matched by Tate Family Foundation.

Donate online to www.everydayhero.com.au/event/doghouse2017, by returning the slip included with this newsletter or over the counter at our Home.

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™

Santa Paws is coming to town



Perth's original and best Santa Paws, **Alex Cearns** from **Houndstooth Studio**, will once again join us in Santa's Grotto to help raise funds for the Home and take a fab photo of your pooch for Christmas.

Join us on **Saturday 2nd December** from **10.30am to 2.00pm**. For \$35, you receive by email a digital image that you can use for prints, social media or card making! No bookings, just come along on the day. Refreshments and festive shopping available. All proceeds to our dogs.



Double thanks!

Huge thank you to **Houndstooth Studio** and **Matt Mawson** of **Vector Mutt** for their Double Take Dogs art show on 1 July. A pawesome \$6500 was raised for our dogs!



Radley

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Thank you

President's Message

As I write this, we have just completed our 2017 Annual Report and it reminded me what a huge year of milestones it has been! Our fantastic new Adoption and Education Centre was officially opened in October 2016 and almost a year later we officially opened our three new kennel blocks in September.

We've also had another record year of dog adoptions, reaching 1350, but sadly as we reported in June, more older dogs are being surrendered and are in need of help in what should be their happy retirement years. We're there for these dogs and you our valued supporters have proven you are too. A huge heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to our 'Save Our Seniors' campaign. It was a great result and has certainly helped ensure the best care for these and so many other dogs coming into the Home.

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 has helped keep our vet costs more manageable with 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 received dogs from over 40 localities in the past year.



Once again our infamous Quiz Night in June saw hundreds of prizes donated by generous WA businesses. 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 and helping us achieve a record-breaking result of \$38,000! Thanks also to Alex Cearns and Houndstooth Studio for Double Take Dogs, a showcase of doggy art and photography, held in July that raised \$6500.



Sadly, for the first time in many years, we were unable to attend the Perth Royal Show. Rising show costs and the inability to secure content for our famous Wag Bags meant we could not make it work this year. That has set our fundraising efforts back so far this year, but we are hoping to make up some ground by attending Pet Expo on 5

and 6 November and by hosting our annual Home Open over two days 11 and 12 November. I'm pleased to say with the help of City Farmers and other suppliers we do have great new Wag Bags ready for these events and we hope you will come along and grab yours!

Our final event for 2017 will once again be IN THE DOGHOUSE. I am so grateful to **Tate Family Foundation** who have come on board for the fourth year with a pledge to match donations raised up to \$25,000. As always, I ask you to please dig deep and help us to raise these much needed funds to support our work in 2018.

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. The legislation for our financial reporting changed this year, which 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.

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. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Home this last year. Our message hasn't changed – 'Rescue' is still the best breed! Together we can make a difference to lost and abandoned dogs and together our voice is stronger.

Have a great festive season!

Karen



Glamorous opening for kennel makeover!

Friday 8 September saw the official opening of our three new kennel blocks by Home Patron Melanie Greensmith of Wheels and Dollbaby and partner Mark McEntee of the Divinyls.

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. They are much lighter and brighter, have integrated heating and cooling through the floors, improved sleeping quarters and more room to move around. They also include specially piped music that plays throughout the day designed to calm the dogs and create a more peaceful environment.

This project was funded through bequests and money set aside in the Building Reserve over many (many) years. Very special thanks go to our project team – President, Karen Rhodes, former CEO Judy Flanagan, Ian Coombes, John Doust and Marcus Otten and the team from **ASL Constructions**. We also gratefully acknowledge ongoing support from **Envirolumb, Total Eden, Greenacres Turf Farm** and **Landscaping Australia** and who donated their time and plants/ turf so it all looks great! And to all our fabulous staff and volunteers – thank you!



Thanks

Thanks to the following people and businesses who have sponsored a kennel since July 2017:

Resolve Finance
Duck Duck Bruce
Mayday Rescue
Gail Archer
For Paws (Kate Newton)
Ashleigh, Claudia, Keta & Max Wallis

If you would like to help dogs in our care you can sponsor a kennel too for \$2500 for a year! Please call 9381 8166 or email events@dogshome.org.au



Introducing our new CEO

In late July, we were pleased to welcome new CEO Catherine Purvis following the retirement of Judy Flanagan.

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.



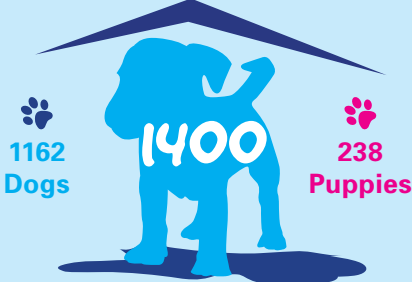
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Our Pawesome Year In Review

Adoptions



Dogs Entering Shelter









Dogs Sterilised



© Photo: Houndstooth Studio

Where our Dogs Come From

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

Shelter Offspring: Sadly we often find dogs in pounds who are pregnant so these are pups born while in our care. We always place these mums in foster so pups are well socialised in a home environment until ready for adoption.



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.

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.

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.



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.



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

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.

Josh and Beck have provided a calm and consistent environment



© Photo: StellaPix - 2018 Calendar

that gives Charlie stability and a chance to learn.

Josh is working on a training and behaviour modification plan with Charlie who thrives on routine and is making great progress.

We can't thank Josh, Beck and all our 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.

So all that's left is for Charlie to find that special forever home of his own. If you would like to adopt Charlie or know someone who might please get in touch on 9381 8166.

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



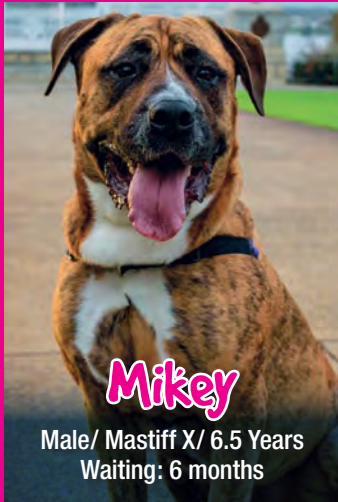


Katie

Male/ Rottweiler X/ 4 Years
Waiting: 10 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)



Mikey

Male/ Mastiff X/ 6.5 Years
Waiting: 6 months



Radley

Male/ Staffy X/ 2.5 Years
Waiting: 10 months



Snitzel

Male/ Medium Mixed/ 2.5 Years
Waiting: 7 months



Chevy

Male/ Staffy X Mastiff/ 5 Years
Waiting: 2 years

© Photos: Kane, Mikey, Radley & Chevy by StellaPix 2018 Calendar

Shop for the Dogs!

Don't miss our 2018 Calendars featuring the fabulous photography of Stellapix and still only \$10! Purchase from our shop, online or from your local City Farmers store. All proceeds go straight to our dogs.

Plus, Perth's best Christmas Cards with photography by **Houndstooth Studio**, design by **ScruffyDog Designs** and print sponsored by **Fuji Xerox**. Online and in store.

Visit our store at 30 Lemnos Street for loads of great toys and treats for your beloved pooch and pooch loving friends this Christmas and all year round!

Or shop online: shop.dogshome.org.au



357
Dogs adopted
1 Jul - 26 Oct '17

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)

