

# Chinwag

Winter 2020

Dogs' Refuge Home ☎ 9381 8166 🌐 [www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au)



ESTABLISHED 1935

## THANK YOU WA

### You're absolutely pawesome!

Wow! 2020 has turned out to be one of the most amazing and unimaginable years in recent history. As we turned the corner into the New Year, we were on a record adoption pace and had a full six month calendar of events ahead.

But we were soon stopped in our tracks when the Coronavirus hit our shores and impacted every business and charity including ours. Perhaps not in the way we had imagined, because all of a sudden, we were busier than we had ever been! Fostering and adoptions just spiked and **in the first month of March, 154 dogs found new homes while 72 spent time in foster.**

Our phones ran off the hook and our inboxes overflowed, especially when we had to close our gates in late March and move to an online adoption questionnaire with appointment-only meetings. We have honestly lost count of the number of applications to adopt and foster that we have processed – but let's just say it is in the several thousand!

At one stage we got down to just one dog in our kennels – and that was only because he came in too late in the day to find a foster home. With ranger services interrupted and regional border closures, we did wonder whether we might get to a zero intake, but of course that didn't happen.

Dogs were building up in regional pounds and we found government officials more than willing to allow our van to travel north and south to collect

dogs from Bunbury and Geraldton.

Between **March and May we collected 48 dogs from Geraldton**

including 23 puppies and another 13 dogs from Bunbury. Huge thanks to our wonderful volunteers who do these trips for us.

As you can see, people surrendering their dogs made up almost 30 per cent of our



dog intake. Economic hardship is impacting so many people and sadly, we expect to see a continued rise in people giving up family pets they can no longer afford.

But even while the economy and people's lives were thrown into turmoil, the outpouring of love we felt at the Dogs' Refuge Home was amazing. People continued to donate online and give strongly to our annual Street Appeal and arrive at the gates bearing blankets, towels and food. People have understood and adapted to our new processes and worked with us to keep our rescue and re-homing work safe and viable.

*For the care and love you have shown to our organisation – dogs, staff and volunteers – we can't thank you enough. We think you are truly pawesome!*

### our COVID-19 Period Stats

March to May 2020

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Dogs in Foster       | 175              |
|                      | (inc 76 puppies) |
| Surrendered by Owner | 101              |
| Rescued from Pounds  | 248              |
| <b>Adoptions</b>     | <b>348</b>       |

### our Winter 2020 Appeal

[www.givenow.com.au/winter2020](http://www.givenow.com.au/winter2020)

We know times are tight, but any donations great or small will be warmly welcomed and help to fund our vital work in FY20/21. Donate by 30 June for your FY20 tax-deductible receipt. Give now online, by returning the slip enclosed or calling 9381 8166 (10am to 4pm daily).



**1,376**  
Dogs adopted  
1 July '19 - 7 June '20

# President's Message

**Well I never thought I would be writing a report this Winter saying we have fewer dogs available for adoption than ever before, yet we've had our biggest year of adoptions in 25 years (or more). It's both amazing and true, although we are all very conscious that things could well change very quickly.**

These last three months have seen us quickly adapt almost all of our operating processes and procedures to adhere to government restrictions and health warnings, whilst always ensuring we were there to rescue any dog in need.

The last few weeks in March saw an unprecedented number of adoptions as everyone wanted to secure their new best friend before the inevitable lockdown. After all, what better company is there than a rescue pooch? By the 24th March we had closed our Boarding facility and our gates to walk-in visitors but continued with a heady rate of adoptions via a new appointment-only system.

We quickly moved to online applications, telephone interviews and pre-arranged meetings. With such high demand

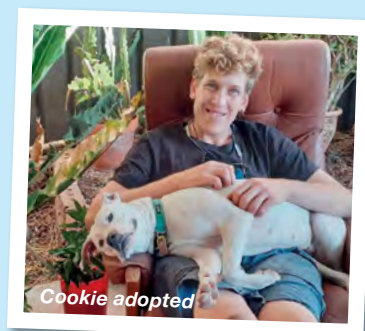
"Motors and Mutts", which we were all looking forward to also late March and with the uncertainty surrounding the months ahead, our famous Quiz night was clearly off the cards.

Thankfully our annual Street Appeal was able to go 'viral' and while we couldn't get out onto the streets of Perth on the 3rd April, the public came through donating over \$15,000 online. I'm pleased to report that our annual Home Open should go ahead as normal in late October.

We also adapted our Board Meetings to 'Zoom' and held numerous online meetings as every day it seemed circumstances were changing, and information was updated. But we managed to adapt, keep going and keep our staff and volunteers safe. A huge thanks to my fellow Board Member's for their time, business expertise and amazing resilience.

I would especially like to thank our staff and volunteers for their flexibility during these unique and challenging times and the community for their patience and understanding as we learned to dance on a shifting carpet. It was humbling and heartwarming to see the support given and received so we could keep doing what we love; finding homes for our precious dogs.

We particularly missed our senior volleys during the COVID-19 period, who we had to ask to stay away for their safety. But they were never far from our thoughts. I'd like to say a special thanks



to Linda Mortimer who each week compiles an unofficial newsletter for all volunteers which keeps everyone updated – I know more than ever during these last few months her 'Wag Waffle' has been their ongoing connection to our dogs and our Home.

As we now adapt to the 'new normal', we have now opened our Boarding facility. With building plan afloat and low dog numbers on the adoption floor, we have decided to remain open by appointment only for some weeks ahead.

A special thanks from the Board to our General Manager Kristi who has worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 crisis to ensure dogs continued to be rescued from Bunbury to Geraldton. Kristi liaised closely with the Govt to attain the exemptions needed for our volunteers to travel and it was heartwarming to see that rescuing dogs in need were considered essential.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we live in the best State, in the best country in the world and that dogs are the best company ever.

As we always say, we simply cannot achieve what we do without the support we get from our wonderful dog loving community. As you stand by us we will continue to stand by dogs in need – thank you for enabling us to do just that.

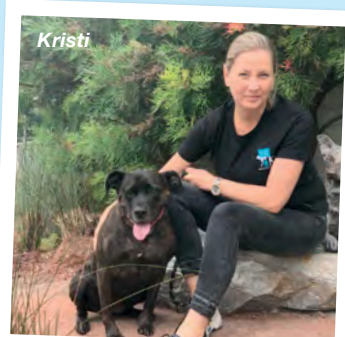
With warm regards

Karen



and pre-qualified visitors, our dogs have spent less time waiting than ever before to find a new home. Of course with people working from home, many of our dogs went out on foster meaning even less time in a kennel alone.

Sadly, of course we had to cancel some of our major fundraisers for 2020. Our pre-loved ladies clothing Pup-Up scheduled for late March was the first casualty, with hundreds of items left hanging on the racks as we scrambled to find storage and pack it all away. Next was a new event called



Leo

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Thank you to  
**CITY FARMERS** for  
their ongoing support!

**CITY FARMERS**  
For pets and their people



# Let's celebrate 85 years in dog rescue!

**Built during the Great Depression of the 1930s, this year the Dogs' Refuge Home will celebrate our 85th anniversary in the time of COVID!**

Tuesday 20th October will mark the occasion of the opening of the Home by Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell in 1935 and in front of a huge crowd of well-wishers, all decked out in their hats, gloves and Sunday best!

Situated on five acres of land given to the Home by the government, construction of the first kennels and superintendent's cottage began on the 2nd July 1935. Just like today, donations helped the fledgling organisation to make a start with tiles, other building materials and labour donated.

It's hard to guess, but with the records we have, we estimate that more than 50,000 lost, unwanted and stray dogs have passed into our care and out to loving homes in that time.

While recent events have delayed our plans, rest assured we look forward to celebrating later this year and into 2021 with some special events. We are particularly excited to be continuing our building works and hope that in our 85th year we can turn sod on yet another modern kennel block to continue our rescue work.

***So thank you WA for supporting your very own locally run dog rescue shelter for 85 years. Independent and powered by the love of dogs.***



## Loving Lady looking for new home at 16!



**In mid-April a call came to surrender of a dog called Lady, a Jack Russell Terrier aged 6-7 years. When this poor little girl arrived it was apparent she was much older – her microchip with her birthdate aged her at 16.5 years and she was in heartbreaking condition.**

Lady had been living more like a tramp - undernourished, skin conditions, poor teeth, a heart murmur, toe-nails so neglected they had curled back themselves and she had been left outside. She was immediately placed on medication and her nails trimmed. We made Lady as comfortable as possible, although she was very timid and nervous as could be expected.

The next day we posted her on Facebook seeking a home with an active senior or people who would promise to give her TLC for her twilight years. We were flooded with calls and emails offering to foster or adopt but were thrilled to hear from Robin. In March 2019, Robin and Steve came in to adopt another senior dog Sassy, a 15 year Border Collie Cross, who sadly passed away in December after a wonderful last few months of love. Robin said she and hubby are committed to helping older dogs in their last months or years to live their best life.

A week later Robin reported that Lady was slowly relaxing into her new home and loved to follow her and Steve around everywhere, supervising in the garden, trotting around the park and getting lots of face rubs. Now edging closer to 17 years, Robin reports that Lady is still doing well and enjoying her daily walks.

We can't thank the kind and compassionate people we meet who are willing to open their heart to a senior dog. We are so glad these smoochy old pooches get the love they desire and will pass away feeling safe and loved.





# Thanks a Tonne!

A huge thanks to Australian company SavourLife who have donated almost 2 tonne of their premium dry dog food to us this financial year.

They also raised \$6,250 for us in March during their rescue challenge with PetBarn. We are pleased to now be stocking their range in our retail shop. For every bag of SavourLife that we buy for our shop, they donate two bags for our dogs! We think SavourLife are great because their food is made in Australia and they support rescue groups around the country! Their premium range is also pawfect for dogs with sensitive tummies!

Our shop front is open 7 days from 11am to 4pm on Lemnos Street, Shenton Park.



## Meal Deals and More! Entertainment Book 20/21

With restrictions lifting and a whole year ahead to enjoy and explore Perth and WA, it's time to pick up the annual Entertainment Book!

This year, many restaurants have increased their take-away menus to provide you with ISO-friendly options. There's plenty of offers on dining, travel, beauty and more – right here in WA – and part proceeds go to our dogs when you order your book from us! Plus, there are more bonus offers for earlybirds!

**PURCHASE HERE:** <https://bit.ly/entbooksDRH>

You can purchase a hard copy OR a digital membership for your phone.  
*(PS We no longer have hard copies at the Home so it's online orders only)*



## Coming Up!

Don't miss these events scheduled for later this year

-  **Our 85th anniversary**  
(20 October)
-  **Home Open – weekend expo**  
(24/25 October)
-  **Wembley Districts Fair**  
(31 October)
-  **Pup-Up Pre-Loved Fashion**  
(TBC November)

Please follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@dogsrefugehome](https://www.instagram.com/dogsrefugehome) for these and other event details



## Thanks

  
**City Farmers**  
For pets and their people



City Farmers continue to be a good friend to our dogs and once again got behind our 2020 Calendar selling them in store.

With over 1950 copies purchased by City Farmers' customers we received \$19,500 this year. The 'Wishing Tree' Christmas appeal was again a huge success and the Dogs' Refuge Home received a \$20,000 present from the Petbarn Foundation.

**Thanks to all the WA City Farmers stores for your continued support.**





# Regional Rescue Missions!

**COVID-19 didn't put a stop to country pounds filling up with unwanted dogs, especially mums with a litter in tow. Neither did it stop us hitting the road to save them.**

As regular readers will know, over the last few years we have significantly increased our intake of dogs from regional and remote locations. While COVID-19 stopped flights out of the north-west, we were fortunate to find a sympathetic ear in government that meant we could continue visiting our key rescue partners in Geraldton and Bunbury.

Between March and May we made more than a dozen trips out of Perth to collect unwanted dogs. The majority were to Geraldton where we collected 48 dogs and in one trip bought back two mums and their litters with 17 pups! In fact in one week we did two trips – our van

arrived home and left the next day to head back and collect those we could not fit!

We are very thankful to both staff and volunteers who make these trips. Also special thanks to Sally and BARRC in Bunbury and the City of Greater Geraldton for working with us to give these deserving dogs a second chance.

After 11 years our old van is getting a bit tired and was never set up for long distance trips. We are very grateful that a generous benefactor has come forward and donated the funds for us to purchase and fit out a new vehicle especially suited to regional travel. We can't thank her enough and are looking forward to taking delivery of our new rescue van soon.



**Please help us if you can:  
[givenow.com.au/winter2020](https://givenow.com.au/winter2020)**

## Darling Nala – a story of overbreeding and neglect

Nala was rescued from Geraldton with her 11 pups on 6th May. On the same trip we also collected another mum with her six pups so it was a full load arriving back to Perth that afternoon.

It was very clear, that at just three years old, Nala had already given birth to multiple litters. Her poor body showed signs that it had never been given the chance to recover from the previous litter before she was expecting again. She was grossly underweight for Mastiff with her skin sitting firm against her rib cage. She was suffering mammary enlargement, amongst the worse we have seen, and it was little wonder that on arrival, the vet gave her a body score of just 2/5.

Nala and her pups (estimated to be four weeks old) went on foster with instructions to feed her up. But with 11 pups Nala found it impossible to put on any weight and was quickly losing interest and patience with her litter. She was also suffering with painful mastitis, her breasts so large and swollen. At six weeks her pups had to be removed and Nala provided with one-to-one care to finally improve her condition.

Thankfully Nala is improving thanks to lots of TLC from foster carers including Emma (pictured here). Nala is coming out of her shell, gaining weight and enjoying being a pet and not a breeding machine. Once she has improved further, Nala will be sterilised and a mammary chain resection completed to try and repair her terribly damaged body.



Saving dogs like Nala is so rewarding because we know she will never have to go through the trauma of another litter, but at the same time so sad to think of her being abused in the past.

Nala's pups are all adopted and now it's Nala's turn. She deserves the best home ever and to be shown that she is loved and adored not just used for the pups she can produce. Your donations enable us to change the future for dogs like Nala.





**olivia**

Female / Kelpie x Staffy / 7 years  
Waiting: 2 years

## Olivia: our last long-termers looking for a home

Our back page would normally be filled with dogs who have been waiting months to find a new home, but all our long-termers have now been adopted except poor Olivia here who is still looking for a special home without children or other pets after two years in our care. Thankfully Olivia is on foster and enjoying a special home-away-from-home.

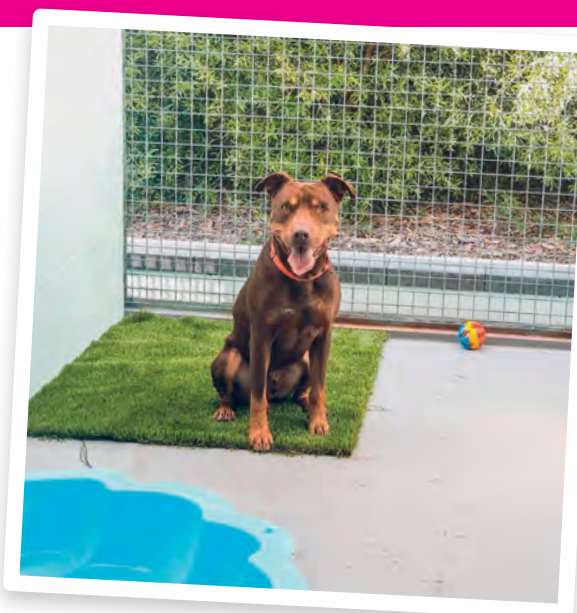
## We're Open again for Boarding

If you are planning travel around WA for a mid-week getaway, the weekend or longer trips, did you know we have onsite Dog Boarding here in Shenton Park?

We are now housing our Boarding dogs in our new kennels which offer underground heating, snug sleeping quarters, piped music and more! As you would expect we will love and care for your dog like they were our own until you return.

Bookings now available by calling 9381 8166 between 10am and 4pm 7 days.

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



## Sponsoring a second chance!



Special thanks to all our new and returning kennel sponsors:

Chloe & Lilah Zilli and Kane Blaquiére  
CS Automation  
Hilsz & Pittman  
Jenny and Charlie  
Lynda and John Hancy  
MayDay Dog Rescue  
Peter Kennelly, Samantha Denford, Beli & Lulu  
Samantha Parker – In Memory of McDuff  
Taz's Handyman Services (2)  
The Perth Mint  
Woodlands

Kennel sponsorship is available for \$2500 per annum and will support many dogs who call your kennel home during the year. Please call 9381 8166 or email [events@dogshome.org.au](mailto:events@dogshome.org.au) to find out how.