

Chinwag

Winter 2019

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

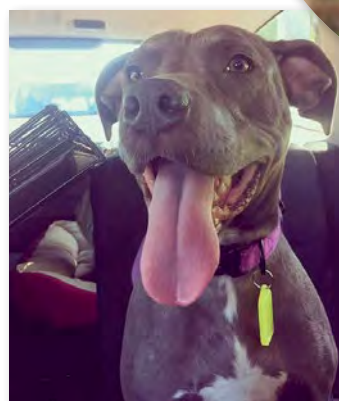


Rising cases of neglect drive rescue costs up

As the financial year comes to an end and tax time is just around the corner, we're appealing to all of our wonderful supporters who are in the position to donate, to please help us to support the rising number of dogs who arrive needing significant surgery or specialist veterinary care.

In the last year, we've taken in over 1200 dogs for re-homing, and have spent over \$240,000 on vet bills year to date. This figure has consistently been on the rise, and being a self-funded organisation, we rely heavily on the generosity of the public to help us continue our work with the homeless dogs of WA.

We've had some heartbreaking cases of neglect this year, which have required extensive veterinary and specialist care. From hip and cruciate surgeries, entropion (eye surgery), severe skin conditions, severe malnourishment, and one of our saddest cases ever; a full mastectomy of an eight-



month-old dog, Berry (featured) who was used for backyard breeding and sustained life-threatening complications as a result.

When Berry arrived she was given a very low survival rate –

around 10% and was expected to die on the operating table. Due to her age it was agreed to give her chance. Thanks to Subiaco Vets and her foster carers (now new owners) Mike and Andrea, she has made a full recovery. Berry is loving her second chance at life and is just one of our thankfully happy endings in the last 12 months.

Your donations really do help to improve the lives of dogs like Berry, and many others, and enable us to continue to provide the critical veterinary care needed for many of our dogs.

Please help support WA dogs in need

Please donate by 30 June 2019 online at www.givenow.com.au/dogs-in-need or return the slip enclosed with your newsletter.

Donations to the Dogs' Refuge Home of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

It's dogs online with new website!

Pawesomely excited to launch a new website in March thanks to the amazing help and support of volunteer Daniel Gouvignon (hatchet.com.au) and his colleague Maïke Griessbach.



Dan has volunteered for the home for many years and also created our "Blue App" which allows our trainers and volunteers to track our project dogs.

The new website offers a live feed of dogs for adoption plus plenty of information for new adopters and dog owners. Thanks also to James Heath from Computing WA for his continued work on the project.

Check it out at www.dogshome.org.au



1078
Adoptions
July 2018 - May 2019



Mikey

© Photo: Houndstooth Studio

President:

Karen Rhodes

Vice President:

Lee-Anne Ashley

Secretary:

Chris Osborn

Treasurer:

Philip Golding

Board:

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Ian Coombes

Lynda Hancy

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Greg Wilkinson

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Jen Sainken

Graphic Design:

Annie Bramley -
ScruffyDog Designs

Patrons:

Melanie Greensmith

Peter Collier MLC

Nelson Woss

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



President's Message

Before I write my report I always check back to see what was happening this time last year. In May 2018, we had four mums and their litters out on foster and this year we have FIVE!

Sadly, the sterilisation message still isn't getting through so I need to start by saying again PLEASE sterilise your dogs and if you know someone who has an unsterilised dog please encourage them to do so too.

Kennels aren't ideal for mums and pups, so we always try to get the little families out on foster and we are always looking for foster carers. So, my second message is PLEASE, if you are in the position to give a temporary home to a litter (up to 8 weeks) or any of our dogs who are recovering from surgery or not coping in kennel, contact our foster coordinator at foster@dogshome.org.au or visit our website for an application form.

We've taken in more dogs this last year requiring extensive medical care and our vet specialist medical bills reflect this increased cost (as does our bank account). I know how lucky we are to have community support, but the economic climate is having a considerable impact on us and so my third message is a cap-in hand plea - PLEASE, if you can afford it, donate to our Home and our dogs to enable us to continue our work. (Donate before 30th June and claim it as a tax deduction.)

We can only save all the unwanted dogs out there seeking a second chance with your help. Without generous donations and gifts in Wills, we

wouldn't be here and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to anyone who has donated or remembered us in their will – our dogs are so incredibly grateful and (I'm sure you'll agree), very deserving of your thoughtfulness.

This year we have welcomed a new General Manager in Kristi Treadgold. Kristi joins us from a leading WA not-for-profit and with the experience of adopting two rescue dogs from our Home. We have also been fortunate to have two amazing volunteers in Lynda Hancy and Lynne Milligan step in to temporary fill vacant roles in volunteering and event management. We are so lucky and can't thank these volunteers enough for all they do for our dogs and our Home.

Working together is so rewarding and anyone who adopts, fosters, volunteers or donates is a part of our team. In addition to other rescue groups, we work with local and regional rangers and only recently took in an adorable young mum



Olive and her 11 pups will be searching for homes in early July.

Lucky from Fremantle. Read her story overleaf.

Our famous quiz night is booked for 27th July and we are looking for prizes to raffle and auction off. We are hoping it is going to be the best ever as it is our 10th year! Big thanks to my fellow Board Member Lee-Anne Ashley for driving this and for making it the fabulous event it always turns out to be. Thanks also to artist Helen Norton for her continuing support and for donating even more than ever this year.

As we approach the end of the financial year I really hope you will consider a donation before 30th June. Our financial sustainability is always a prominent discussion at the Board table and we are always looking at how to increase funding or decrease costs without impacting dog welfare or intake. Knowing the community has kept us going this long, and knowing how much you all love dogs, gives us hope that together we will be able to continue to care for Perth's lost and abandoned dogs for many years to come.

Karen

PS. Please remember to share the message **ADOPT! DON'T SHOP!** We will have many puppies available in June and July.



Mia and her 12 pups in January.

Welcome!

New Patron – Nelson Woss

Nelson Woss has been a fabulous contributor to our Home for many year's. Most of you will remember the iconic film Red Dog and KOKO the fabulous dog who was the star and who Nelson adopted after production. When KOKO sadly passed away in 2012 there was an outpouring of grief, Nelson selflessly asked that anyone who wished to acknowledge and remember KOKO could make a donation to our Home.

Donations poured in and we were able to fit out our own clinic room so that Dr Greg Wilkinson and the team at Subiaco Vets are able to do sterilisations and minor vet work on our premises. Nelson has been supporting us ever since and we even have a fabulous statue of KOKO at the front of our Home which is a popular place for photos.

Every year for our quiz night, Nelson donates a 'money can't buy' prize for us to auction off to help us raise much needed funds and we often receive donations when Red Dog is shown at various events.

We wanted to acknowledge and thank Nelson for his continued support, so asked him to become a Patron and we were delighted when he said yes. Nelson is good friends with Home Patron Melanie Greensmith (Wheels and Dollbaby) and we are so grateful that such well known West Australian's are proud to support our Home and our dogs. Welcome to the team Nelson and thank you for everything you've done.



Our Seniors Rule

We are so incredibly grateful to all our volunteers, but want to give a special shout out to our senior vollies who come in day in and day out and help our Home and our dogs. They help in the office, with gardening and maintenance, walking our dogs, collecting dogs from the airport when they are flown down from regional areas and doing the laundry! They really are troopers!

Sadly, one of our longest serving, and much loved, volunteers **Myrna Lobo**, now in her late 70s, retired from dog walking a few months ago and we want to recognise and acknowledge her 20 years of dedicated service. Besides dog walking Myrna, is well known for her food stall at our Home Open where she makes a number of delicious homemade preserves and chutney's and sells the best Samosa's in town. Myrna is a fabulous character and is already being very much missed by our vollies and our dogs.

Just a few of our other fabulous 'senior' legends are Ian Coombes, Joan Reimers, Meagan Fletcher, Dot Weary, Linda Mortimer, Mike Hill and so many more – we simply couldn't imagine our Home without all our Super Seniors!



Myrna with
her rescue
pooch Gonzo,
Keith and
Lynda.

Sponsor a Kennel

Special thanks to new kennel sponsors HEALTHVEND AUSTRALIA; ABSOLUTE COSMETIC SURGERY; and DEMETER LEGACY.

Kennel Sponsorships are now available for an annual tax-deductible donation of \$2500. Call 9381 8166 or email events@dogshome.org.au for details.



Santa Paws 2018

Special thanks once again to Award winning photographer Alex Cearns of HOUNDSTOOTH STUDIO and her partner Deb for another amazing Santa Paws.

Saturday 1st December saw a 156 doggos climbing onto Santa's knee! A record \$5000 was raised on the day for our dogs! Special thanks also to Santa Dave - what a trooper! Thanks Alex and Deb for continuing to be such great supporters of our Home.



Street Appeal 2019

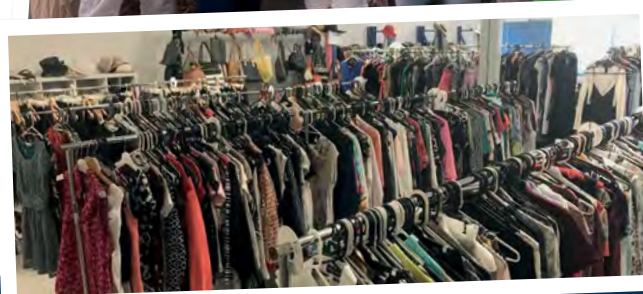
More than 60 volunteers once again hit the streets of Perth on Friday 5th April for our annual street appeal. Thanks to everyone who came to visit our stall in Murray Street or dropped a few coins into our tins! This year we raised \$14,500 and had a great time with our 'pat-a-pup' during the lunch hour!



Pre-Loved Fashion For the Pups!

Our lovely team of vollies – lead by Jill, Lynda, Lisa and Nicolee – with plenty of helpers, sorted through racks and racks of pre-loved fashion for our now annual 'Pup-Up' shop.

Ladies bagged loads of pre-loved and new bargains on 22-23 March helping us raise over \$9000! Thanks to everyone who donated items and came along. See you next year!



That's Entertainment!

Remember if you're after a 2019/20 Entertainment Book you can order from us, with a 20% donation received for every book we sell!

Pick up a hard copy at the Home, go online and order a hard copy or download a digital copy for your smartphone and take your vouchers everywhere! You can also buy books for locations outside Perth and still help the dogs no matter where you live or plan to travel in Oz!

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



Thanks City Farmers

**City
FarMErs**
For pets and their people

City Farmers and their customers once again got right behind 'Wishing Tree' appeal in December which saw \$40,000 donated to the Dogs' Refuge Home!

City Farmers stores also helped with the sale of our 2019 Calendars and sold over 1700 copies! We can't thank them enough for all they do for us at Christmas and through the year.

Winter 2019

Lucky Lucky!

While many mums were preparing to be spoilt on Mother's Day, one poor mum was being abandoned with her new litter of puppies. On Saturday 11th May we received a call from the fabulous Fremantle Rangers who needed help to rescue a very young (only 8 months old!), emaciated mum and her eight recently born pups.

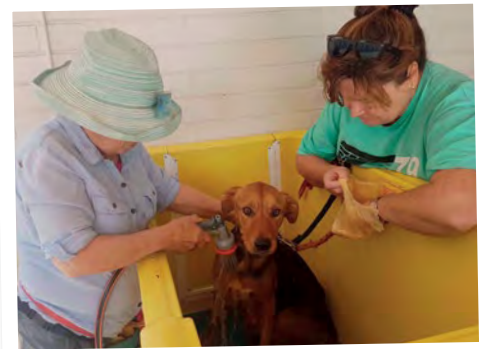
Our clinic room was set up in no time and the lovely 'Lucky' arrived looking like a skeleton. Sadly, she had no milk and couldn't feed her pups. We raced her and the pups to Subiaco Vet who said her little body was close to shutting down. Thankfully a lovely vet nurse offered to take the pups and hand feed them all, every 3hrs – what a job! Lucky went to bed with a belly full of chicken and woke up on Mother's Day in her new PJ's and with a pamper session ahead.

We are so thankful to the Fremantle

Rangers for saving this little girl and trusting us with her care, to the foster carers who have helped us to keep them all out of kennel (and alive) and to Lucky for being so sweet after enduring so much at such a young age. We have promised Lucky she'll never have to go through another pregnancy again.

Lucky and her pups are now together and being well cared for by one of our amazing foster carers Emma – Emma and her family have a dog of their own, but are always there for us in times of need. We are so incredibly grateful to Emma and know Lucky and her pups couldn't be in better hands.

The condition of Lucky when she arrived was appalling - no dog should be left to starve and with a belly full of worms - let alone a mum who needs to feed her pups.



So please, if you know anyone who can't afford to look after their dog, ask them to consider surrendering it to the Dogs' Refuge Home or another rescue group rather than leaving them to get in the state Lucky found herself in.

PS Lucky and her pups will be ready for adoption in late June.

Love conquers fear

Brody (12 months) and Nova (5 months) arrived in the poorest of conditions in February 2018. They were terribly shut down, traumatised and malnourished and came to us from Kununurra via another rescue group. They cowered in fear in the corner of quarantine and were a heartbreaking sight for our staff and volunteers who desperately wanted to help.

What lay ahead was a journey of months and months of dedication by many amazing volunteers and then multiple foster homes - separately and together. Sometimes it looked like they would never be able to be rehabilitated to successfully live without fear alongside humans.

Carina, another of our amazing volunteers, was a lifesaver for Brody and then Nova. Integrating him into family life with her own pooch, kids and hubby, Brody learnt to trust again. He went on trips to the beach, out on long walks, met people and other dogs and slowly, but surely, came out of his shell. Nova was likewise learning to trust and live in a home environment.



Both proved to be escape artists and got away several times giving their foster families (and many staff and volunteers) sleepless nights, teary eyes and much grey hair!

To cut a very long story short, 15 months later and this pair who arrived shaking with fear and hiding in dark corners, found their FOREVER HOME together! It was a very happy day when in April, following a successful in-home trial, Robyn and Jordon adopted Brody and Nova.

We can't thank their new owners enough for taking on this special twosome, to all their carers, staff and volunteers, but most especially Carina and her family who really did give these lovely dogs their second chance at life.





Lani

Male / Am Staffy x / 3.5 Years
Waiting: 485 days

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 / 8 years
Waiting: 416 days



Orazio

Male / Staffy x / 3.5 years
Waiting: 595 days



Olivia

Female / Kelpie x Staffy / 6 years
Waiting: 340 days



Gracie

Female / Kelpie x / 6 years
Waiting: 120 days



(Mamma) Mia

Female / Staffy x / 3 years
Waiting: 140 days



Lachie

Male / Staffy x / 12 years
Waiting: 367 days



Saturday 27th July 2019 Claremont Showgrounds

Join us for our 10th annual quiz night! Our biggest and best ever! Over the years, quiz goers and sponsors have helped us raise over \$280,000 for our dogs!

Booking link: www.trybooking.com/507997

Donations of prizes are now being sought to help make this a special night. Please call 9381 8166 or email donate@dogshome.org.au if you can help out.