

Chinwag



Winter 2021

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

How much is that homeless hound?

It's a question we get asked all the time. Why do you have an adoption fee? Surely you could re-home more dogs if they were free. We think our dogs are priceless, but what does it actually cost to rescue and rehome a dog?

We are determined to help every dog that arrives at our gates seeking refuge. That means we accept dogs regardless of their physical condition or age. Our small team of staff along with hundreds of volunteers work tirelessly to give our dogs everything they need during their time with us.

Many dogs arrive in good health and need little more than the basics: a vet check-up, vaccination, sterilisation, worming and flea treatments (and a microchip if they don't have one).

But plenty of dogs arrive in poor condition. Some the result of long-term neglect and abuse, others left untreated due to cost or age. Whether it's teeth, eyes, skin conditions, arthritis, lumps that need to be removed or costly specialist surgeries, we care and nurse them back to health, ready for a fresh start in a new permanent home.

The cost of care

Our annual cost of vet care and clinical supplies this financial year will exceed \$280,000. These costs would be a lot higher if not for the significant and ongoing support of Dr Greg Wilkinson and his team at Subi Vet Hospital. Dr Greg and his staff share our philosophy to treat every dog like they're our own and give them all the best care possible before they leave us.

'Our annual cost of vet care and clinical supplies this financial year will exceed \$280,000.'

Medical care is only part of the equation. The Dogs' Refuge Home is a large operation. We manage and maintain seven kennel blocks including two dedicated to generating income from boarding. We have two, soon to be three, quarantine blocks, two vehicles used for regional rescue and local pound pickups and maintain grounds set over five hectares.

We operate seven days a week, allowing dogs to arrive and be adopted every day. We do this with around 25 staff and an army of volunteers who contribute over 3100 hours a month.

How much is that doggy?



Transport costs



Sterilisation & vax



Other vet care

Board & lodging

Training & support

Kennel & clinical care

**Approx. cost per dog
\$1560**



**Adoption Fee (Average)
\$500**

All tallied up, it costs us around **\$1560 per dog** we intake and adopt. Our average adoption fee is **\$500** or about one third the 'actual' cost of making a dog or puppy ready for re-homing.

Where does the shortfall come from that allows us to keep our adoption fee at a level we feel is fair? YOU. Without a full fundraising calendar, gifts and legacies and donations from dog loving people like you, our operations would not be sustainable.

Please help us continue to care



While people are buying pedigree pups for \$5000+, we are asking on average just \$500 to help us cover a portion of the costs involved in taking in abandoned dogs, unwanted mothers and unwanted litters and giving them the best chance at a new, happy life.

We ask you to please consider adopting a hound who finds themselves homeless through no fault of their own and also consider supporting us now so we can continue to take in lost and surrendered dogs and care for them until they can be adopted.

**Help us now by pledging your support at:
www.givenow.com.au/help-rescue-me**

Follow us on: Facebook Instagram Twitter

1196
Adoptions
July '20 - May '21





© Photo: Houndstooth Studio

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President's Message

It's been another busy six months - Honey's Haven is now officially open, we've had two more COVID lockdowns, made multiple regional rescue trips, completed almost 600 adoptions, and we just celebrated National Volunteer Week plus one of our longest serving and valuable volunteers turned 85 just months after we turned 85.

We continue to take in more and more dogs from regional WA. We cannot leave dogs in regional pounds knowing that if we juggle, we can fit them in at our Home and save their lives. However, there are also additional costs with regional rescue especially transport and veterinary care as many dogs arrive in a poor condition with many never having ever seen a vet in their life.

Behind the scenes we are finishing off another quarantine kennel to house the regional dogs - this has been funded thanks to legacies. Our Masterplan is coming to life and we will continue to rebuild our facilities as generous West Australian's remember us in their Will.

These have been testing times, but there have been many testing times over the last 85 years. We always seem to make it through thanks to incredible teamwork from staff and volunteers and incredible support from our dog loving community.

We remain resilient because we all have a united, passionate and driven desire to save as many dogs as we possibly can regardless of what greets us each day. The dogs we take into our care have often experienced an undesirable life we cannot imagine. Yet, they arrive willing to trust humans again and that inspires us to ensure we find them all a loving home and

a life they deserve. Their resilience inspires ours.

When the rental moratorium and Job Keeper ended on 31st March we were inundated with surrender calls as many dog owners could no longer afford to care for their dogs or no longer had anywhere to house them. It was a sad and unsettling time, we went from receiving ten calls a week to coming in one morning in early April and finding ten surrender applications overnight.

Our surrender intake took a huge increase and our vet bills increased too as multiple dogs were surrendered due to their owners not being able to pay for necessary medical care which we then had to cover. Senior dogs especially who had lived with their family their whole life were very sad surrenders.

Thanks to Ruth from Shine Communications for helping us to get some important media attention we had a very busy few weeks of adoptions. There's no doubt when the community realised our plight they were there for us.

It's important to say we weren't alone - all the other rescue groups experienced the same and we worked together to take in and save as many dogs as we could.



**Dr Katrina Stratton
MLA Nedlands at
Honey's Haven opening**

Once again our Street Appeal was held online and unfortunately we weren't able to hold our annual quiz night (due to social distancing) so we relied heavily on online donations to help to cover our shortfall.

As we come to the end of our financial year I ask you to please donate and claim a tax deduction if you are in a financial position to do so. If you aren't, we completely understand and remember there are still many ways you can help support our dogs:

**• Adopt • Foster
• Volunteer • Advocate**

**It all makes a difference.
Thank you as always - we
only achieve what we do
with your support.**

Karen

Ian Coombes 85 years young

On 23rd May we wished a very Happy 85th Birthday to Ian Coombes, a living legend, a kind, generous, warm, dog lover extraordinaire and all round top bloke.

Ian has volunteered his time to the Home since 2005. He has been a dog walker, handyman, general Mr Fixer and is a long serving Board member. Ian still volunteers three days a week and his contributions to the Home have been innumerable. We are so very honoured to have this amazing man associated with our name.

Thank you Ian for all that you do, and here's to many more years!



Honey's Haven

On 30th April we officially opened Honey's Haven, our newest kennel block which is light, bright and modern thanks to an incredibly generous bequest from Sonia Guinan.

Sonia started MayDay Dog Rescue in the late 1970's and was a dog lover extraordinaire. This amazing, kind and generous lady devoted her life to saving dogs in need and often went without herself so she could rescue and care for more dogs.

Honey was Sonia's first rescue dog and when discussing her legacy, she requested that money be used to fund a new kennel in Honey's memory. Sonia's friends and colleagues from Mayday Dog Rescue were as pleased as punch to unveil a plaque that declared Honey's Haven open.

A few hours later the first two dogs were enjoying their comfortable new accommodation, the warm sunshine and the lovely surroundings in their new kennel while they waited for someone to fall in love and adopt them.

During their stay with us they will have relaxing music piped through the kennel, dogs in Honey's Haven enjoy underground heating and cooling and be spoilt by our vollies and staff. This wonderful accommodation is only possible thanks to Sonia and her memory will live on at our Home forever. We are so incredibly grateful to this amazing dog lover.



Sonia's friends and MayDay volunteers

Benji from trash to treasure

Earlier this month, little 8-year-old Benji was dumped in a rubbish bin in an industrial area in Bayswater and left all alone to fend for himself. While Benji was searching for food, he unfortunately ingested poison and was in a really bad way when he was found.

Benji faced an uncertain road ahead. To save him he needed to undergo multiple major surgeries followed by a period in intensive care. But this tiny chap has proven just how strong he is by coming out the other side, and now his luck has changed forever!

We matched Benji with the perfect new owners, and he is now on the road to recovery surrounded by safety, warmth and love.

Benji's new family recently gave us an update on this sweet boy saying: "We are gradually increasing his weight and his skin is nearly completely healed. Benji is a delightful doggie and we both adore him. He follows us everywhere and wants our company all the time."

We want to say a big thank you to City of Bayswater rangers for the huge part they played in turning this sad tale into a happy ending.



Short term fostering a winning formula for our dogs

Dusty and Sophie, like many of our volunteers, go above and beyond to support our dogs. They are regular dog walkers, have dashed off on regional road trips to rescue dogs and regularly open their home to foster dogs in need. This is Sophie's story.

Dusty and I fell into short-term fostering a few years back - it was all rather by accident. We'd just finished the afternoon toilet dummies when we were introduced to senior pooch Neo in the clinic office. We were told that Neo, a kelpie x, was feeling rather poorly, and had shut down to the point where he was hardly eating and refusing to drink. He needed monitoring overnight and being late in the day, it was going to be tricky finding foster carers at such short notice. Could we take him? I still remember our feelings of trepidation as we bundled Neo into the car and brought him home. What if our very first foster doggie refused to drink or worse still, didn't make it?

Fast forward a few years, we've fostered a few dozen doggies - most of them overnight (we would drop them off at the Home on the way to work and collect them again on our way home) and some for a week or two at a time.

Most of our foster charges either struggle in kennels (stressy Staffies in particular); are too old or young to spend the night in

kennels; or are recovering from surgery, illness or have reached the Home severely neglected, and need overnight monitoring. The vast majority simply need to decompress, cuddle and catch up on sleep.

With our overnight guests, we keep things very simple - we let them have a good sniff around the house and settle in as we prepare our dinner (they have usually already had theirs), watch some TV (by that stage they are snoozing), and take them for a quick toilet break before bed. Then it's a brief morning toilet walk, before heading back to the Home for their breakfast and a nice long walk with a volunteer.

For those doggies who have stayed longer with us, we always seek information from the Home on the dog's needs e.g short/ long walks, dog social/avoid other dogs etc and go at the dog's pace - for some, this has allowed us to go on treks in the Hills and to dog-friendly taverns and cafes; for others, our walks have been at quiet times around our neighbourhood.

Predictably, we have fallen in love with all the doggies who have come into our home, even those who have only spent the night with us. Neo will always be a stand-out (he was fine by the way - once home with us we worked out that he liked chicken broth and after a marathon sleep, he was much improved by the following day); Hulk holds a special place in our heart; and this year alone we have had the chance to look after the angelic Harlow (or Halo as we liked to call her) and Sargent (whose new family we are in contact with and already making plans to go visit!).



Abby's Amazing Transformation!

Last month we had a visitor to the Home that caused quite the commotion, and for all the right reasons ...

Our team could not believe their eyes when a spritely, lean and happy Abby trotted through the gate. You would be forgiven for not recognising her as the same dog who tipped the scales at 36.5kg when she first arrived back in September 2020.

Seven-year-old Abby was surrendered by an owner who had loved her almost to death. She was exhausted from carrying around her own weight, and was at high risk for arthritis, heart disease, liver disease, cancer, and more. Abby had the best personality but no quality of life.

Abby has now lost over 20kg - a huge achievement and a testament to the love and support provided by her amazing new owner. There were tears of joy and we could not wipe the smiles from our faces for the rest of the day!

What a great kindness to take on a senior dog and transform her life for the better in so many ways.



Santa Paws 2020

What an amazing turnout to the 10th celebration of Santa Paws with Houndstooth Studio by Alex Cearns. Thank you to the 105 people and 155 dogs who came to visit Santa on Sunday 6th December.

After 10 years, Alex and the team have taken over **1500 photos** and raised **\$44,000** for the dogs in our care.

Special thanks to Debora from Houndstooth who has managed the Grotto for 10 years, Santa Dave for donating his time for the fourth year and to all Santa's helpers and dog wranglers over the years - you're pawesome!



Our Street Appeal goes online again!

Like 2020, we had to take our annual 'Street Appeal' online. This year we raised well over **\$17,000**, which is a fabulous result.

We had a donation raffle with prizes from our friend Alex Cearns **Houndstooth Studio** and **The Queen's Tavern**. We also had a special song written for the occasion; Forever Home by local musician Ricky Green.

We want to say a big thank you to each and every one of you who donated, and a special thanks to Linda Shields who donated \$2000! Truly amazing. The week ended with a surprise lockdown, so we are so glad we had planned an online appeal again this year.

Check out the 'Street Appeal' highlights on our Instagram for some heartwarming content!

Mother's Day Markets

This year we celebrated Mother's Day with some special merchandise created by our own digital communications officer Robyn.

Robyn used the adorable mum Harlow and her pups as her muse and developed some beautiful artwork which was reproduced on mugs, water bottles, tops and we had a delicious cake stall thanks to our volunteers.

It was a popular weekend celebrating mums and the limited-edition merchandise sold incredibly quickly so look out for more to come.

Keep your eye on our online shop at www.dogshome.org.au/shop/ or pop in and see our great new merchandise collections.



Jaz modelling one of the new tees with long-time vlogger Penny

Thanks!

City Farmers once again got behind our 2021 Calendar selling them in store and helping raise **\$13,907**.

The 'Tree of Hope' 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.


For pets and their people



Winter 2021

A Home away from Home

We know planning a getaway isn't always easy when you have a dog. If you can't take your pooch with you or ask friends or family to doggy sit, our Home is the perfect place for your furry best friend to stay while you're away!

We have now opened our new boarding kennels which are modern, spacious and bright and our dog-loving staff and volunteers are here to make your dog feel at home.

Our kennels have temperature-controlled floors; warming in winter and cooling in summer, we provide thundershirts for fearful dogs in wild weather, dogs get at least one walk daily and we have many grassed dog exercise areas and agility yards for them to play in.

Our kennels are cleaned every day, bedding is changed, we provide toys and prescribed medications are administered by Qualified Vet Nurses.

We can accommodate short and long stays and best of all, your boarding fees help provide funding to other dogs in our care. Please call 9381 8166 to book for your next trip.



Puppy School is open for pupils!

We're thrilled to be re-opening puppy classes commencing from 12th June. Our courses are held here at the Home in Shenton Park and run over five weeks. Taught by our amazing trainers. All proceeds will go back to helping our dogs.

In the developmental period of dogs, the critical socialisation period is 9 to 14 weeks. In this time, the building blocks are formed which help your dog to process and interact with the world around them as they mature.

Our puppy classes enable your puppy to receive controlled, sterile socialization which is not only safe for them, but will give them all the tools they need to go out into the big wide world.

Courses are \$150.00 for 5 weeks, and slots are limited, so visit our website to book now!

www.dogshome.org.au/puppy-school/



Meal Deals and More! Entertainment Book 21/22

It's time to pick up the annual Entertainment Book! Again 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!

PURCHASE HERE: 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)



Kennel Sponsors

Thanks to the following people and businesses who have sponsored a kennel since December 2020:

Pat and Jimmy Chang

Quay Associates

Pomsky Maverick Irvine & Family

Sue and Peter Sumner

Taz's Handyman Service (2)

Curtain World

In Memory of Claire Ward

CS Automation

Danny and Rex Maloney (2020 – 2023)

People sponsor kennels for many different reasons. Earlier in the year we had a call from Maureen, an 81-year-old pensioner who wanted to honour the memory of her brother Danny who passed away aged only 66 years in early 2020. With his small estate settled, Maureen wanted to find a way to honour Danny's memory.

Danny experienced a life plagued by mental health issues and sometimes

homelessness. But he always had a dog by his side. Rex, a beloved German Shepherd was his final companion.

The week we opened Honey's Haven would have been Danny Maloney's 67th birthday. Danny's plaque was the first to be erected on a kennel in our new block. His kindness to dogs will live on at our Home for many years thanks to the thoughtfulness of his loving sister Maureen.

"When I am troubled, there is no greater comfort than the silent, devoted companionship of my dog."

Find out more about kennel and other sponsorship opportunities by visiting our website or emailing events@dogshome.org.au



UWA PROSH tradition continues to raise vital funds for charity



What an amazing result, the 2021 UWA PROSH Jam held in April raised a whopping \$42,000, with \$11,000 donated to our dogs!

We were presented with a giant cheque at the UWA Tavern by the UWA Prosh team alongside other worthy charity benefactors Fair Game and Short Back & Sidewalks.

Big thanks to all the UWA students who got up super early to help raise the funds, the people of Perth for supporting this great cause, the UWA Student Guild, the 2021 PROSH Committee and all of the amazing volunteers- our Home and dogs are so grateful!

Winter 2021

Hazel

Female | Staffy x
2yrs 4mths
Waiting: 385 days



Can You Give a Long-Term Resident 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! Please spread the word. Visit www.dogshome.org.au or call 9381 8166 (Please note dogs in foster are available for adoption)



Winnie

Female | Am Staff
1yr 10mths
Waiting: 325 days



Klyde

Male | Ridgeback x Staffy
5yrs 7mths
Waiting: 490 days



Peppa

Female | Mastiff x
1yr 8 mths
Waiting: 251 days

Chinwag



Terry the TikTok Star

We had our first viral TikTok last month!

Sweet boy Terry was not doing so well, he was refusing to eat, had little energy and decided the floors were far too scary to walk on. Our team came to the rescue, laying out a towel carpet to transport him safely to his bed in the office. Terry's video is still climbing, and at the time of writing he's currently had 125,000 views. Terry is feeling much better in his foster home, fingers crossed by the time of publication this lovely chap will be with his forever family!

Follow us on TikTok for plenty more behind the scenes videos @ [dogsrefugehome](https://www.tiktok.com/@dogsrefugehome).

Hear more of our Ramblings!

If you love hearing behind the scenes stories from the Home, we've got just the thing for you! Our digital Refuge Ramblings newsletter goes out bi-monthly via email and is packed full of pupdates, adoptable dogs, good news stories, videos and events. To sign up head to our website, scroll right to the bottom and enter your details in the 'SUBSCRIBE' section!

www.dogshome.org.au

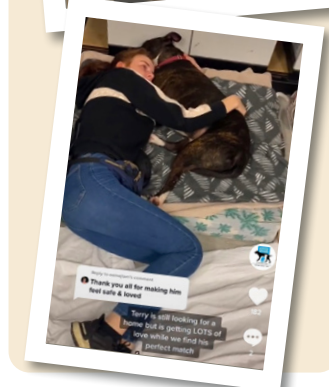
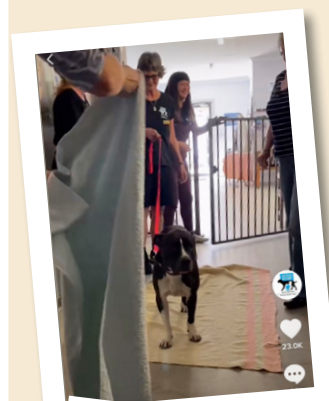
Dates for your Diary!

Father's Day Fun
4 Sept

Annual Home Open
23-24 Oct

Santa Paws & Festive Markets
5 Dec

Watch our socials & website for more details



Winter 2021

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