

# Chinwag



Winter 2022

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

## End of Financial Year Appeal

# Rental Evictions lead to Homeless Hounds

As competition increases for rentals, it is sadly less likely for an application with pets to be accepted and the cost of rent is forcing people to find alternative solutions which very rarely include their pets.

In the first three months of 2022, we received 297 surrender applications with many people contacting us in emergency after other options for their dog had fallen through or an alternative couldn't be found. It has been heartbreaking for our staff to witness owners saying sad farewells to their beloved dogs - we do everything possible to make the process as simple as possible with a great deal of compassion and reassure the owners we will find their pet the best home possible.

Just a few of those surrenders were Bella M, Joey, Gryphon & Kymeria - all very much loved and cared for by their owners - all heartbreakingly surrendered and all now living in loving homes. We thank their owners for trusting us with their care and thank their new owners for giving them the loving home they were used to.

Sam - Sadly surrendered at 13 years old



1299  
Adoptions  
July '21 - May '22

As the pressure of surrender applications increases, we continue to appeal to the WA community to consider fostering or adopting a rescue dog to enable us to keep saving more dogs when they've found themselves without a home.

With the high daily intake of dogs and puppies into our Home from around metro and regional WA, our medical costs continue to increase.

**"From July 2021 to May 2022, we have paid over \$225,000 in veterinary fees, health care products and medication. Our monthly veterinary fees now exceed \$30,000, including specialist veterinary consults and surgical procedures."**

Many of the dogs who arrive at our Home (besides needing sterilising, vaccinating and microchipping) require additional work to be undertaken for abnormalities including suspicious lumps, heart murmurs, skin conditions, vision impairment, ear infections, incontinence, urinary infections and musculoskeletal conditions.

Stanley, an 8 year old American Staffy was surrendered with torn cruciate ligaments in both knees which required surgery at a cost of \$7000. Stanley was completely loveable and was

great with dogs and kids so we knew we couldn't say no to his adorable face - he was worth every cent we spent on him, he melted his foster carers hearts and is now living the wonderful life he deserves.

Nala, is a larger than life 1.5 year old American Bulldog who was surrendered with incontinence issues and is about to undergo colposuspension surgery at a cost of \$5500 including diagnostic work. As soon as this surgery is completed, we'll be working hard to find her a loving home.

We are incredibly grateful to the WA community for supporting our fundraising appeals, becoming regular donors and kennel sponsors to help ensure,



Pictured here: Nala who is awaiting surgery and a forever home

as the costs of medication and veterinarian services increase, we can continue to provide quality health care to every dog and puppy that arrives to the Refuge.

Thank you!

Gryphon & Kymeria adopted



Donate by 30 June to claim a tax deduction

## 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:  
<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2022>



**Storm- patiently waiting to be adopted**

**President:**

Karen Rhodes

**Vice President:**

Lynne Milligan

**Secretary:**

Chris Osborn

**Treasurer:**

Philip Golding

**Board:**

Lynda Hancy  
Denise Cheir  
Alex Gillespie  
Leanne Copping  
Marsha Sullivan  
Simon Herbert

**General Manager**

Belinda Barnes

**Veterinarian:**

Greg Wilkinson

**Trustees:**

Sarah Murphy  
Ruth Gourley  
Judy Flanagan  
Jen Sainken

**Graphic Design:**

Melanie Moore Design  
Sophie Elliss - Chillii Art

**Patrons:**

Melanie Greensmith  
Peter Collier MLC  
Nelson Woss

Supported by:



# President's Message

**As we head into winter and cope with the impact of Covid I'm reminded more than ever how fortunate we are to have the support from an incredible community, a volunteer base who is second to none and amazing staff.**

The team of dog lovers is extraordinary and helps us to continue to save dogs in need every day and I am so grateful of being able to offer a safe and loving home until we can find them new ones.

A couple of fundraising events have been cancelled due to the current climate and our Street Appeal was online this year, but our work hasn't stopped. In fact, we've travelled to Geraldton more times than I can ever remember, and we've done trips to Bunbury and Bridgetown too.

There are extra costs with transport with our regional picks ups and we're sadly seeing an increasing number of dogs in our care who require extensive medical but thanks to donations from our dog loving community we're still able to help.

On that note as we approach the end of June, I appeal to anyone who is able, to make a donation to the dogs in our care to do so and claim a tax deduction. If you're not able, then please help us by spreading the word about our work by sharing our social media. We also have an online newsletter Refuge Ramblings to keep you updated on what happens bi-monthly – you can subscribe by visiting [www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au) and filling your details into the 'Subscribe' section.

A heart felt thank you to everyone who has adopted from us, donated to our Home or shared our story – together we achieve amazing outcomes for abandoned, unwanted and homeless dogs.

*Karen*



**A few of our staff after a hard days work**



**Our amazing volunteers celebrating Easter**

## Redevelopment News

**As the newest development in the Refuge Master Plan, we are excited to see our new kennel block take shape. With the delays in the building industry inevitably affecting us, we're still hoping to have it all completed by the end of July.**

Our new kennel will provide a safe place for 11 dogs with the comfort of underground heating/cooling sleeping areas, garden outlooks and plenty of space to relax between walks.

We've recently installed a new bore which will provide reticulation for a number of our large exercise yards and are about to complete a new training yard space.

We are very grateful to Alannah MacTiernanan and the Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the grant which enabled this build and a special thanks to our local MP Dr Katrina Stratton for supporting our application for this grant.



### Keep up to date!

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!



**Karen with Dr Katrina Stratton who kindly donated 100 RATs to the Home**





## Dream Donations

We are so grateful for the amazing donations we receive from our dog loving local community.

Unfortunately we have seen a big increase recently in 'donations' being placed into our bins that are soiled, damaged, have no relevance to doggies, and are sometimes simply just household rubbish. While we always like to err on the side of optimism and hope that the items are placed with good intention, that does become harder when we receive soiled and broken items, miscellaneous household waste and sometimes straight up discarded food waste.

**"These items cost us \$450 a week in skip hire to dispose of."**

On top of that, please remember, at the end of that bin is an amazing volunteer who gives up their time to sort through, launder and organise the donations. It takes a lot of time and effort to dispose of many items that are left at our site that we can't use.

When in doubt, please check **'Our Wishlist'** below (cut out and keep on your fridge!), or pop us a message on Facebook if you'd like to check if we can use your donation!

# Extreme Makeover: Refuge Edition!

Who doesn't love a good before and after photo? From inner transformations to fabulous makeovers here are some of our favourite transformations from the past six months.



## Ghost

Ghost had such a sad face when he arrived to the Refuge. With lots of love and TLC from his foster carer, the amazing Natalie, it wasn't long before he had a BIG smile on his face!



## Daisy

Our darling Daisy was a little on the heavy side when she arrived into our care! With a little diet and plenty of long walkies with our volunteers, she was soon feeling much better!



## Matty

Poor Matty arrived to us in an awful state. His fur was matted to his skin and he had a painful ulcer on his eye. After a visit to the vet and a complete groom he was feeling like a new dog (if a little chilly!)



## Harry Potter Puppies

Hermione and Bellatrix were the smallest of a litter of 9 pups surrendered recently. They weighed in at just 1.3kgs, which is TINY for five week old Mastiffs. How cute are these photos taken three weeks apart of them in the same tub.



## Fluffy & Ginger

An amazing mother and daughter makeover! How fantastic do Fluffy and Ginger look after a visit from the groomer!

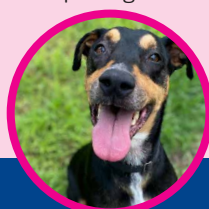


### OUR WISHLIST... WE LOVE:

- High quality doggy treats
- Biscuits for special diets ID, Hypoallergenic, Puppy, and Senior
- Good quality dog roll donated inside the Refuge to keep refrigerated
- Enrichment toys & basketballs

- Tuna & Sardines in Springwater
- Good condition doggie accessories jackets, beds, leads, toys etc
- Monetary donations
- BlackDog Balance Harnesses
- Dog Sunscreen

- Rice, peanut butter, cream cheese, blueberries to stuff enrichment toys donated inside the Refuge to keep refrigerated



### WE CANNOT USE:

- Doonas & Pillows with stuffing
- Soiled & broken Items
- Household Waste
- Large, bulky items unrelated to dogs
- Fitted sheets - flat sheets ONLY please
- Low quality dog food & treats - gives our dogs the runs!
- Human clothing





# Regional Rescue

**On top of the enormous numbers of local surrenders, we are still taking in plenty of dogs from rural areas including Geraldton, Bunbury and Broome.**

The fantastic Ruth is a testament that, to our vollies, rescue never rests! Coming home from her camping trip to Kalbarri, she made a pit stop in Geraldton expecting to bring one dog back to the Refuge and ended up bundling 4 homeless pups into her car. Many chaotic hours later, they arrived safe and sound and were adopted later that month. What would we do without you, Ruth?



*New dogs arriving every week from regional areas*

## Thank you SaviourLife!

We are so grateful to have been selected as one of the lucky rescues receiving funding to save regional dogs earlier this year as part of the SaviourLife Regional Rescue challenge in collaboration with Petbarn and City Farmers.

The \$10,000 funding allowed us to carry out expensive rescues such as flying 1 year old Angel and her 4, chunky puppies down from Broome. As we all know, air transportation is not cheap, and it's no different when it comes to transporting dogs. In situations like this support from organisations such as SaviourLife makes all the difference to allow us to say YES to saving more regional doggies whose fate would otherwise be uncertain. Thank you so much for to Saviourlife for their ongoing support!



**SaviourLife**  
DOG FOOD THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Winter 2022



# Puppies... Puppies EVERYWHERE!



**From January- May this year, 120 puppies have arrived through the Refuge gates. This is a 64% increase on the 73 pups surrendered in the same period in 2021. Puppies are arriving from regional areas, local pounds and private surrenders, and intake requests are relentless.**

While puppies are adorable, they do require more dedicated care, often with additional medical expenses and longer stays here at the Home and with our amazing foster care team. We also have to make sure people are adopting a rescue puppy for the right reasons, not as an impulse buy or because they are a 'cheap' alternative to a designer breed.

Many of our pups arrive to us from regional areas or backyard breeders, have never seen the vet and are completely unsocialised. This year we have seen spinal injuries, severe infections, and pneumonia in young puppies, as well as pups that appear to have had little to no human contact. We often take in pregnant mothers, too, who

can have complications during birth which require emergency medical care.

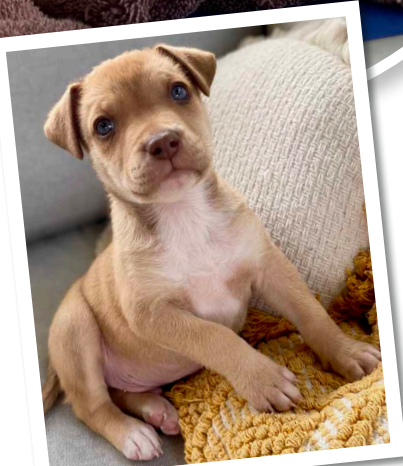
Late last year we accepted a call for help from a member of our local community. A gentleman's dog had an unexpected litter of puppies, who now at 7 months old were taking over his home. Upon arrival, as they were unvaccinated, they entered our strict quarantine facility which was a blessing as within 24hrs we discovered these poor sweet puppies had been exposed to the deadly parvovirus. After weeks of 24hr care and a vet bill of over \$30,000- 5 out of 6 of the pups made it through and found their forever homes. Huge thanks to SAI Veterinary Hospital for not only donating a portion of their fees back to us, but also for being there for the pups Christmas

Day, Boxing Day and beyond. We also want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our community appeal.

**"Please think twice before you choose to breed your family pet."**

The cost of veterinary care continues to be the most common reason local puppies are surrendered to the Home, many people are unprepared for what can be an extremely costly and exhausting experience. We also urge all dog lovers to desex their pets at an appropriate age to avoid 'accidents'.

**We simply can't continue our work without the support of kind-hearted, caring animal lovers, and would be incredibly grateful for donations to help keep us going.**





# Success Stories: Long Termers ADOPTED!

We've had some truly amazing adoptions in the past 6 months! Here are some of the happy endings of our longest residents.



## Harry

(waited 6 years)

Long termer Harry couldn't believe his luck to be adopted after all these years by a wonderful couple who live on a property. Harry now has all the space he needs. Big thanks to his previous foster carers for looking after him so well, and to his new owners- you are gems!



## Malpa

(waited 8 months)

Malpa arrived to us from Geraldton and waited 8 months for his perfect home, and the poor boy had not had a pleasant life. That has all changed for him now! He says a big thank you to everyone who loved him at the Refuge, especially foster mums Natalie, Karen and Tahlia.



## Brutus

(waited 14 months)

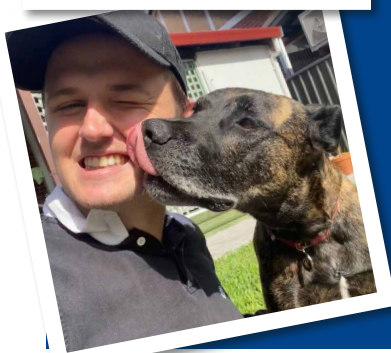
Brutus waited 14 months for his perfect home, but boy oh boy was it worth the wait! "Boo" as he was affectionately nicknamed by our team lead Lindsay hit the jackpot with his new family and we have already had some wonderful updates.



## Klyde

(waited 20 months)

Almost 2 years after he first arrived at the Refuge, Klyde found his forever home! HUGE thanks to the Woo family who fostered him while he waited, they have already taken in a new foster dog- Patch! Klyde is doing really well in his new home and totally landed on his paws!



## Diesel

(waited 7 months)

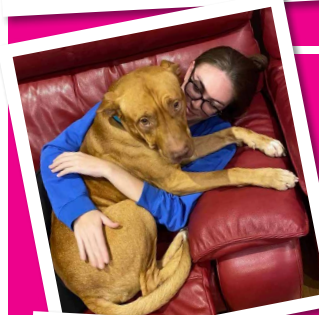
7 MONTHS waiting! It was all worth it for Diesel to find his dream home! Diesel is settling in so well already. Big thanks to his Refuge buddies, especially volunteer Sally, who adored this boy and kept him happy during his extended stay.

## BONUS Foster Fails:



## Hazel (waited 24 months)

Almost 2 years after she arrived, Hazel has a forever home. Now you would think after all that time, avid photographer Kieran would have taken a great family shot- but instead we have this charming photoshop number. which might just be even better!



## Belviour (waited 11 months)

This boy hit the jackpot! Belviour, now Bel, was first fostered by Taylor and Preston back in May 2021. They almost made it to the year anniversary... but made the adoption official instead!



## Sally (waited 14 months)

Sally also made it official with her amazing foster carers! Again, her gain is our loss as we lose an amazing temporary home. It's worth it though to see darling Sally so happy. Thank you so much for taking in this gorgeous senior girl!

## Still patiently waiting:



(9 months waiting)

JANE



(6 months waiting)

KEYANO



BONO

(11 months waiting)



(15 months waiting)

JESS



## Our New Foster Carer Training Program!

Our Foster Care program has recently extended training to our more experienced foster carers to provide them with the skills to help our dogs that need extra TLC. The program gives our Foster Carers all the tools they need to work with the dogs on daily behaviour modification to give them the best chance at a happily ever after in their future forever homes.

**"As with all our training at the Home, we focus on positive reinforcement methods."**

We had an amazing response to the first round of sessions and are excited for the future of this program. If you are a foster carer who would like to sign up for the training, please visit our website: [www.dogshome.org.au/foster-a-dog/](http://www.dogshome.org.au/foster-a-dog/)



Trainer Monja and Foster Carer Natalie with Kinsley

## Kennel Sponsors

Thanks to the following people and businesses who have sponsored a kennel since December 2021:

### John Batten

In Memory of Mugavin

### Tanya & Peter Sarich

In Memory of Rocky

### Linda Sproule

Dedicated to her Goldies

### Martin Bayly

In Memory of Rusty

- A Former Resident

### The McQuire-Wilson Family

Hickey Constructions (x2)

### Renuka R

In Memory of Forever Foster Buddy



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](mailto:events@dogshome.org.au)

## Our two favourite things- Wine and Rescue Dogs

We have teamed up with WA Cellars to bring you our DRH doggie wine! \$3 from each bottle (RRP \$12) will come directly to help our doggos! Plus- there's flat rate, super fast postage- I ordered my bottles over the weekend and they arrived by lunchtime Tuesday!

So which bottle best suits you and your dog?

- Faithful Friend- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Escape Artist- Shiraz
- My Shadow- Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
- Puppy Breath- Rose
- Unlikely Duo- Sauvignon Blanc
- Zoomies Times- Sparkling White
- Pocket Rocket- Sparkling Rose
- Couch Potato- Tawny Port
- The Howlers- Moscato

[www.wacellars.com.au/fundraising/dogs-refuge-home/](http://www.wacellars.com.au/fundraising/dogs-refuge-home/)



## How to Help



**Donate** Donate to our Winter Tax Appeal via: <https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2022>

Or by filling in and returning the slip enclosed with this newsletter



**Foster** Being a foster carer is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. We are always on the hunt for experienced, temporary homes that can assist with training and rehabilitation ahead of adoption. We also rely on our **amazing foster team** to take in litters of puppies, care for dogs who are unwell or provide a safe home or temporary respite for dogs who do not cope in the kennel environment.

**Advocate** Help us spread the word by asking all of your friends and family to Adopt! Don't Shop! Join us on social media and **LIKE, SHARE & comment on our posts** to help us find homes for our dogs. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram and LinkedIn. Remember to use **our favourite hashtag #rescueisthebestbreed**, because every adoption is a healthy life saved.

[@dogshome](https://www.dogshome.org.au)



**Adopt** We think '**rescue is the best breed**' and if you come along to the Home with an open mind, you might be amazed at the perfect match our team finds for you. You can see all of our available dogs and read their profiles online, or visit the Refuge 7 days a week from 11am-4pm.



**Volunteer** If you have time on your hands and can commit to regular volunteering, we have a **HUGE range of jobs available** for dog loving supporters. From dog walking and ground maintenance, to office support or help at events, the possibilities are endless! Visit our website to learn more. Refuge 7 days a week from 11am-4pm.

