

Chinwag



Winter 2023

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

End of Financial Year Appeal

Paging Dr Dog... Emergency Vet Bills Spike at the Dogs' Refuge Home

Here at the Home, we have a saying, "it's always the sweetest dogs that have the biggest medical issues." We never want to say 'no' to a dog that can be saved on medical grounds, but this year, that philosophy has led to a huge increase in medical bills for specialist appointments and emergency care.

Since January 2023, we have spent over \$80,000 on emergency and specialist care. To put this into perspective, this is four times our budgeted ANNUAL cost of \$20,000.

On emergency and specialist care, this year so far, we have spent roughly;

🐾	Hearts	\$12,000
🐾	Legs and feet	\$22,000
🐾	Obstructions and gastro	\$17,000
🐾	Parvovirus	\$13,000
🐾	Mum and pups	\$5,000
🐾	Trying to save dogs that didn't make it	\$11,000

These figures do not include the standard care for our dogs, which is around \$25,000 per month. For this we are so incredibly lucky to have the support of our Veterinary partners; Subiaco Veterinary Hospital, who offer us massively reduced rates and allow us to keep our dogs happy and healthy. We would be lost without them and would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Greg Wilkinson and the team for their ongoing support.

So, what falls under the umbrella of 'specialist or emergency care'? Meet some of our latest special cases...

Lisa, our gorgeous greyhound mix, was returned into our care after sustaining a traumatic injury to her leg. It was devastating to see her in pain, and even though we knew she was suffering, she kept her sweet and loving nature. She is now recovering well in foster care.

Cooee, pictured left, our charismatic Dingo required Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO) surgery, he has just received the all clear to be able to head out on his beloved bush walks again. Mum's **Honey** and **Minnie** both required



caesareans, they and their pups have all now found loving homes. Our poor, darling 'J' puppies, **Juliet**, **Jasper**, **Jemima** and **Jessica** tested positive for parvovirus shortly after arriving into our care. After a 4 day vet stay, they were back up on their feet causing mischief, and have now all found forever homes. **Little Red**, a 6 week old staffy pup, arrived to us from a breeder with glaucoma so advanced he needed his eye removing. He bounced back like a trooper and was adopted. These cases all required around the clock care, and we are very grateful to Perth's emergency vets that help our dogs out in their hour of need.

We are so enormously grateful to everyone that donates, enabling us to be able to keep saying 'yes' to these special cases. Without you, it would not be possible. If you are in a position to make a tax-deductible donation this year, we and the dogs would be so thrilled.

If donating is not in the budget, there are other ways you can help. We are also always on the lookout for foster carers to take in these sweet dogs as they recover. All costs are covered by the Refuge, including all medical expenses, food, toys and bedding. All you need is time and love to share. You can also join our volunteer army and help us transport these lovely pooches to their various vet appointments.

Once the dogs have recovered, we are then looking for families with hearts big enough to take them in. Many dogs that receive medical treatment in our care make a full recovery, and are just like any other dog. Others will need ongoing care, so we are always on the hunt for those extra special homes willing to take in a special needs dog.

Please help us continue to care

Due to these high medical expenses and other daily costs, the average cost to our Home to take in and rescue a dog is over \$1500. 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.

Help us now by pledging your support at:

<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2023>



Follow us on: Facebook Instagram Twitter



Brooklyn

President's Message

As we head into winter and come to the end of the financial year, we look at our figures, we reflect on what we've achieved, we wonder how we've survived, and we look to what's ahead of us.

The things that stand out have been the incredible support we've received from our amazing dog loving community, the generous souls who remembered us in their wills, and the never-ending number of requests from local and regional pounds and individuals begging us to take in the unwanted dogs in their care.

One of these dogs Peppa we took in late March, she was very young, heavily pregnant, shut down and bewildered, she was still a pup herself and about to give birth. Finding a foster always takes a little time so each night different staff members took her home in case she went into labour. We eventually found her the perfect foster home with one of our long-term, and very experienced, volunteers Suzanne.

As happens with most pregnant mums, our darling Peppa started to give birth at midnight and by 7am had popped out 11 gorgeous little pups. She was never going to be able to feed that many pups by herself, so an army of volunteers supported Suzanne with help feeding and cleaning, vet visits etc. It takes a caring team to achieve what we do supporting our dogs and each other through the highs and the lows.

With more dogs than ever needing to be rescued, and a slower than usual number of adult dogs being adopted, we've got a busy 6 months ahead of us. We can only save those dogs in need when our current dogs are adopted or find foster homes.

So, in summary, we've achieved lots in the last six months, we were only able to do it with your help, and there is still so much more to do.

I urge anyone who is able to donate to our winter appeal to please do so knowing that all donations over \$2 are full tax deductible. And if you are in a position to adopt or foster, please get in touch with us – you will literally be saving a dog's life.

With thanks from me and the dogs

Karen



Peppa and her pups



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!

Redevelopment News

Before



We will be building two new kennels like these



If we weren't busy enough this year, we're about to build two new kennel blocks to provide our future residents with much comfier kennels. One of these kennels is only possible thanks to the incredible generosity of one of our long-term volunteers who has donated the funds in the memory of her beloved DRH dogs. We'll be having a big celebration when this kennel is finished.

These are the last 2 kennels in our Masterplan to be built but there's still lots more to do after that. Our aim was to try to get as much completed by our 90th Birthday as possible so it's full steam ahead.

"We are hoping the kennels will be finished by Christmas so we can celebrate at the end of the year having all our dogs in kennels with underground heating and cooling and designed for maximum comfort."

Our large 5.34 acre property takes lots of time to maintain - a special shout out to our dedicated maintenance and gardening volunteers. Every weekend we see Jono either on a roof cleaning out gutters or on a ladder pruning trees, we see Lynda and Pam weeding in our cemetery every Friday and mid-week we see Ian on the Dingo and fixing all the problems we have.

Our Home and the surroundings have never looked better and we are so grateful for the support we get to achieve that. We've come a long way since 1935 but are always proud of our roots, our history and our heritage.



Borgus and Tradie



Supported by:



Dogs on the Road

The dogs of DRH have been on the road more than ever this year, spreading the word that rescue is the best breed!

Our gorgeous pooches have been helping us raise much needed funds by sharing their kisses and capturing the attention of crowds at many of our fundraising events. They've been to Floreat Forum, Mix 94.5, Pets at the Park Claremont, 100 St Georges Tce, Bark Subiaco and more! Molly even traveled to Australind to represent us for National Rescue Dog Day.

Not only is this a great experience for the dogs to be out and about and get a bit of respite from the

kennels, it is also a great way to educate and inform people who perhaps haven't considered rescue before.

Thanks to our awesome volunteers who are so dedicated, many give up their weekends attending events to spread the word and raise funds for our homeless hounds.

Special mention to Toby Brown who is always the first to offer to take a dog to our events, thanks Toby!



Dogs Staying In

On 1 April this year, one of our amazing volunteers, Nicolee Collica, gave up the comfort of her own bed to sleep overnight in a kennel with the gorgeous duo Sandy & Indie.

Nicolee has been a valued volunteer at the Dogs' Refuge Home for over 10 years. She has amassed over 2500 volunteer hours walking dogs every week and helping at our regular events. Nicolee has also gone 'In The Doghouse' a number of times, our annual fundraiser where some of our valued supporters spend the day in a kennel with a dog to raise money for the Refuge. This year Nicolee decided to step it up a notch and slept overnight in kennel with Sandy & Indie, giving up the comfort of her bed and braving the elements, all in the name of fundraising for the Dogs' Refuge Home.

Nicolee reached out to her friends and associates asking for donations and the response was overwhelming.

Our social media followers and Nicolee's fellow DRH Volunteers also donated generously to help achieve the grand total of \$32,000!

We are so proud of Nicolee for raising these much needed funds which have made the following projects possible:

- 🌸 A misting system for one of our new kennel blocks
- 🌸 Sun shades for exercise yards

Plus a significant contribution towards our veterinary bills which are higher this year than ever before.

Nicolee didn't manage much sleep as she had some noisy neighbours, but she did receive the best snuggles ever from the girls who were so happy to have human company for the night. To make things even better Sandy & Indie were adopted the week after their sleepover and have gone to live the life of their dreams down south!

Thank you so much to Nicolee for dreaming this incredible project to life and to everyone who donated to make it such a success!

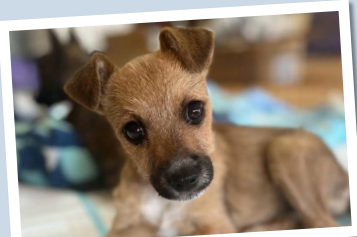


Street Appeal Success

Our 2023 Street Appeal kicked off on the 31st of April and went through till the 6th of May and we are so thrilled to share that we raised \$25,000 in a week!

Our legendary volunteers hit the streets with doggies in tow to ask for kind donations, as well as sharing some of our dogs stories and behind the scenes footage of what happens here at the Refuge! At the end of the week we celebrated with a bang by teaming up with Channel 10 and Bark in Subiaco for their 5th birthday party!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who donated, we are beyond grateful!



Regional Rescue

This is an incredible story about one very lucky dog, Floss, and the huge heart and compassion of our long term volunteer, Ruth Gourley, who made this happen. Ruth was contacted by one of the Kununurra rangers who was desperate to see four-year-old Border Collie, Floss saved from being euthanised.

Ruth wanted to bring Floss to Perth, where she had a better chance of being adopted, so she contacted Mr Horsman, a long-haul truck driver. Thankfully, Mr Horsman didn't mind Floss jumping on board.

Saved from certain death and riding alongside truckie Barry "Bushy" Horsman, Floss went on a mammoth journey across the country that has allowed her to see more of this vast continent than most Australians.

It was meant to be a straightforward trip down Western Australia for the new best friends Mr Horsman and Floss, but unforeseen circumstances sent them around the nation, gallivanting through the outback and stopping off in major cities. We were all following the journey, as Ruth and Barry made sure to keep us updated every step of the way!

Heading south, the journey started off well, with the pair making it to Geraldton, around 420 kilometres north of Perth. But then the floods in the east sent Mr Horsman and Floss back up to Kununurra to pick up some important cargo. The pair were tasked with delivering mining camp huts Victoria to serve as emergency accommodation for those affected by the floods. Four weeks on and many pit stops and 20,000km later, the pair finally made it to Perth.

Floss was greeted by Ruth and a group of loving supporters after following her amazing journey on Facebook, of course it didn't take her long at all to find her forever home! Floss goes to the beach every day, her family says she is just wonderful and they are so in love with her.

Floss is not the only lucky pooch, Ruth started Flossie's Flying Fund to continue saving other deserving dogs from regional areas just like Floss.

Ruth will never stop when it comes to rescuing dogs, she will try all avenues and we are in awe of her dedication. Ruth, we couldn't love you more!



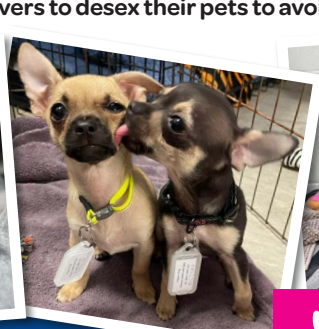
Puppies, Puppies and MORE Puppies

From January - May this year, we have rescued 174 puppies! That is a 33.6% increase from the 120 puppies surrendered in the same period in 2022.

Puppies often arrive without ever having seen a vet or receiving medical treatment, unfortunately we've experienced multiple cases of Parvovirus this year and have spent \$13,000 saving dogs from the virus.

Despite our best efforts at educating and spreading the importance of responsible pet ownership and desexing your pets, we have experienced more surrender applications of pregnant dogs and puppies than ever before.

We urge all dog lovers to desex their pets to avoid 'accidents'!





Our amazing VOLUNTEERS



Where do we even begin with our love for our volunteers?! Over 300 amazing volunteers make up the DRH family, their dedication, devotion and compassion for our dogs is unmatched. There is nothing they won't do for the dogs!

Volunteers have walked for miles and miles in the torrential rain with soaking feet until every last dog has been out. They have prepared feeds, conducted adoption interviews and have done it all with a smile despite long, long hours, aching muscles and sore feet.

"They have dropped plans to rush to the rescue and take dogs home for overnight foster..."

...driven back and forth for vet appointments and adoption meets and treated every single one of our dogs like it was their own. Our volunteer family reliably

turn up day after day, year after year, in rain or shine to walk and spend time with the dogs, and that's not all they do. From late night and long distance dog pick ups, to events, maintenance, laundry, fostering, fundraising and everything in between, there is no limit to what our volunteers will do for the dogs.

We are in awe of every single one of our volunteers and cannot thank them enough! Each May we celebrate National Volunteer Week and give our amazing volunteers the praise, admiration and adoration they deserve, but the truth is they should be celebrated every single day!



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.



Boof

(waited 9 months)

Staff and Volunteer FAVOURITE boy Boofy! We couldn't be happier for this boy, he has been here for so long he became part of the furniture and as much as we LOVE him we were thrilled to see him go to a loving home.



Leo

(waited 8 months)

Our darling Leo came from a local pound and waited so patiently for 8 months to be chosen! He is currently settling into his new routine with his lovely new Mum who is absolutely besotted by him.



Indy & Sandy

(waited 7 months)

We had no idea why Indie & Sandy were not getting any interest, the beautiful girls were so loving and deserving of a home! It all made sense when we realised their perfect home was all the way in Exmouth. The girls have settled in so well and are loving their new life.



orlando

(waited 4 months)

4 MONTHS waiting! This cheeky, loveable boy stole the hearts of everyone here. We were surprised when he wasn't getting much interest but his beautiful new family came along and fell in love. Thanks so much for adopting and for the lovely updates!

Still Patiently Waiting:



Ferris (21 months waiting)



Marvel (18 months waiting)



Sproxy (17 months waiting)

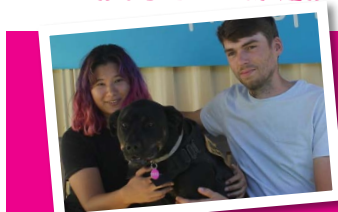


Cali (14 months waiting)



Jetson (14 months waiting)

Foster Fails:



Shadow (waited 13 months)

After 13 months of looking for her perfect home, Shadow's foster parents and long term volunteers Alya and Fraser decided she was right where she needed to be!



Jane (waited 14 months)

Jane was the saddest girl in the Refuge, her gorgeous face was breaking our hearts but once she went on foster with Brendan, everything changed! What started off as a weekend sleepover, turned into weekly stays, then a month, is now forever!



Kennel Sponsors

We are so incredibly grateful to each family, individual and business who sponsor a kennel which funds the basic care needs of the dogs who spend time in there throughout the year.

Thanks to these generous people and businesses who have sponsored a kennel since December 2022:

Pacific Automation
St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls

Robin and Helen Hill
In Memory of Snoopy Hill

Daniela Fischer
In memory of Hoogie

The McQuire-Wilson Family

John Batten
In memory of Mugavin

Linda Sproule
Dedicated to her Goldies

Martin Bayly
In memory of Rusty

Taz's Pet Door Services

Tanya & Peter Sarich
In memory of Rocky

Simone Irvine

Sue & Peter Sumner

North Beach Gourmet Butcher

Ben & Junko Farrugia
In memory of Jett

Big W

Alpha Omega Wealth Management

Taz's Pet Door Services

Shifted Designs Engineering

Jasmine Chai
In memory of Ollie

Connect Mortgages

Nancy Vilardi



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

How to Help



Donate Donate to our Winter Tax Appeal via:
<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2023>

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.



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.



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.

@dogsrefugehome