

# Chinwag



Winter 2024

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

## End of Financial Year Appeal

## A Year in Rescue

### The reality of WA's homeless hounds crisis

We want to start by saying thank you for being a dog lover and for supporting the Dogs' Refuge Home as we battle through one of our toughest years ever when it comes to the volume of dogs needing our help.

The WA homeless dog crisis is out of control, rescues are struggling under crippling intake requests. Countless times this year, Perth's smaller rescue groups have had to close their doors entirely to intake, this is not a long-term solution because if the rescues are full, then the pounds are full, where do the homeless dogs go?

Last month, in two weeks alone we took in 36 dogs from one single pound. To give some context, we accept dogs from around 40 different metro and regional pounds, plus private surrenders, and our usual intake is around 28 dogs per week.

**We currently have 170 dogs in care, on the same day in April 2022 there were 136 dogs under the Home's ownership, in April 2021 that number was 106, and in April 2020, just 76.**

We cannot keep building kennels, and need the communities help to address this issue.

We are so incredibly lucky to have the 15-year support of Subiaco Veterinary Hospital and their team of dedicated vets, but even with their remarkable generous rates, our vet bills are set to top \$400,000 this financial year. In the past months we have battled alongside dogs suffering with pneumonia, ectopic urethras, cruciate ruptures, cancers and so much more. Parvo virus once again runs rampant in the community, and we do our best to save every little life we can, but it comes at an enormous cost. With your generous support, we can continue our policy of never declining the intake of a dog based on medical grounds.

**So how can we break this cycle of dogs needing our help? There is a distant light at the end of the currently very dark tunnel.**

The first major positive changes we hope to see are from the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024. With so many dogs needing our help, it is devastating for us to have to try and find homes for dogs that already have loving homes, families who have had to give them up because they are unable to find

a rental property willing to allow pets.

The changes, set to come into effect early in the new financial year, will mean in most cases pets are allowed, with permission, and landlords and agents cannot refuse without 'good reason'.

We are also heavily relying on the community to spread the word about vaccination and sterilisation. In the past years, our sterilised vs unsterilised intake statistic has risen from 50/50 to 75% unsterilised. Responsibly bred dogs will not be found on Facebook, Gumtree or in a pet shop.

**There are too many dogs in WA, and anyone irresponsibly backyard breeding, or purchasing dogs from these 'breeders' is adding to the problem.**

There are more grants every year targeted at this issue, offering low cost or cost free desexing for those who need it most. Whenever we have a litter of pups surrendered, we offer to desex mum cost free even if the owner does not wish to surrender her to do our part in ending the cycle of accidental litters.

Despite the challenges of the past year, our team remain dedicated to our mission to be a safe place for WA's vulnerable dogs until the time comes that we are no longer needed. Whether staff or volunteer, our amazing team put their heart and soul into our mission every single day. Thank you for being with us for the journey, for supporting our Home and giving your love to our precious dogs.

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### Please help us continue to care

If you are ready to welcome a new furry family member, please consider adoption first- and if not, please help our Home by donating, fostering, volunteering or of course, advocating.

<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2024>



Juliet



1147  
Adoptions  
July '23 - April '24



**Brisket**

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# President's Message

**As we look at the stats for the end of the financial year and reflect on the last six months it's the support we've had from our dog loving community that once again I find so overwhelmingly inspiring.**

Whether it's the incredibly generous donation from the Chang Family and generous bequests that have enabled us to build our new kennels, to our volunteers painting, planting, mulching to ensure our grounds are beautiful for our dogs, to support at our fundraising events and even a live cross from our Home by ABC radio.

Rescue is hard work - it's not something any individual can do on their own, it takes a community to achieve what we do but it's the individuals within our community who give us the strength to keep going, especially after seeing some of the heartbreaking sights we do.

Our volunteers turn up every day to walk our dogs, answer the phones, help maintain our grounds, foster our dogs and drive to collect dogs from rural areas. We were lucky to have just a few of those volunteers interviewed by Michael Tetlow from the ABC when they broadcasted live from our Home.

For the first time since I can remember we have more dogs in foster than in our kennels. That would normally be something for us to celebrate as you'd hope that would mean fewer dogs in kennels but for us it just means we have more dogs than ever in our care.

The number of pregnant mums and unwanted litters continues, and our amazing Lynne Milligan is working harder than ever to find homes for the never-ending number of pups in our care.

Thanks once again to our GM Robyn for always going above and beyond and after very long days is always the first to take sick puppies' home to care for them.

A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our staff members, volunteers, supporters and businesses who support us daily - you make our work possible and you give us the motivation and encouragement to continue.

*Karen*



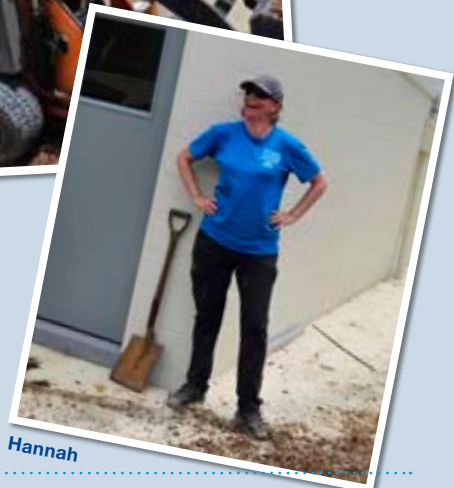
**Robyn on ABC Radio**



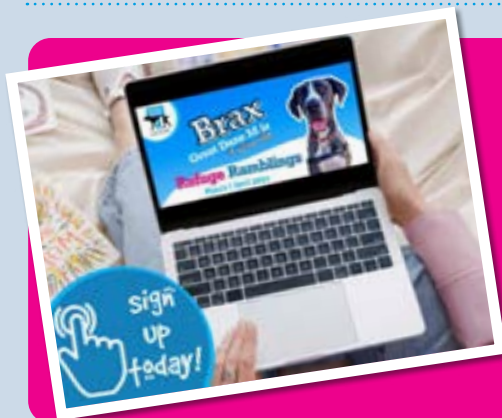
**Barb & Linda**



**Keith**



**Hannah**



## 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

**Just before Christmas we celebrated the opening of two brand new kennel blocks including Freddie's Lodge. A key focus for our team here has been to improve the living conditions for our precious residents while they wait for their forever home.**

We can proudly say these new kennels are very comfortable, they have underground heating and cooling, have relaxing music playing during the day and the dog's outlook is beautiful trees, manicured lawns and even a beach mural.

**Our dogs are safe and loved and sadly for a lot of them, it's a huge improvement from the place they came from.**

Freddie's Lodge was only possible thanks to the outstanding generosity of the Chang Family. Pat has been a dog walking volunteer with us for over twenty years and has adopted 10 dogs, many of which have been long-term residents. Pat has recently recruited her husband Jimmy to help with maintenance and this amazing couple donated enough to cover the cost of building one whole kennel block! We are over-whelmed by their generosity and filled with gratitude.

The second kennel block has been funded by bequests left to us by many generous souls. With our operating costs at an all-time high due to large numbers of dogs in our care, and vet fees rising due to more dogs requiring sterilisations, we would not be able to undertake large projects like these without bequests and large donations.

A big thank you to the Chang family and to everyone who has donated or remembered us in their will.

The next stage of our redevelopment planning is underway – keep your fingers crossed! We're hoping to have some more exciting news before the end of the year.





# 2024 Events

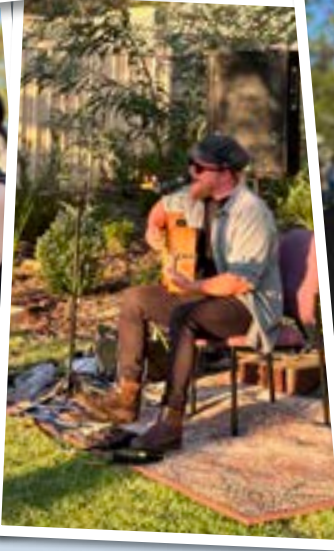
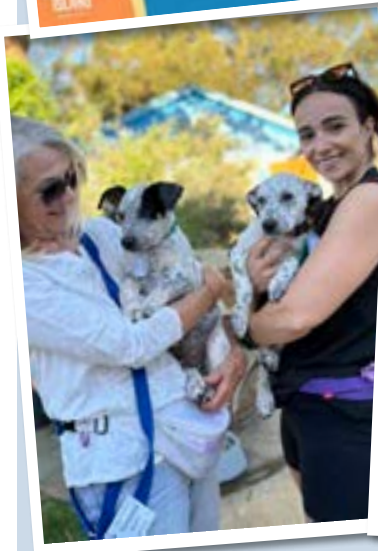


## WOOFSTOCK

In March we hosted our first annual Woofstock event.

As the sun set, the sounds of Ricky Green, Dylan Hutchins and Pack floated across the refuge as the dogs settled in to enjoy the tunes and extra company for the night. Beverages kindly provided by Boundary Island Brewing kept guests hydrated and Freo Pizza made the most delicious wood fired pizzas for everyone to enjoy. The night was a huge success and raised over \$6000 for the dogs.

We're already looking forward to Woofstock 2025!



## Street Appeal

We once again took it to the streets for our annual Street Appeal.

Running from April 16 – 21, we managed to raise an amazing **\$27,500** through our online platform and community visits. The A puppies did wonderfully well joining our volunteers on the road to raise funds visiting Bark Subiaco, Karrinyup Shopping Centre and Aspire Gym for pups and pilates.



## Still to Come...

Our events calendar is full of fun for the remainder of the year with the following events still to come:

**June Quiz Night**

**July \$10,000 Cash Raffle**

**August Bingo with Beau**

**October Home Open**

**December In the Dog House**

Please keep an eye on our socials for more details



## Little Lady's Story

The moment I met Little Lady, I knew she couldn't stay here in a kennel. She was no heavier than 5kg and had tumors hanging from her belly, the largest was almost touching the ground.

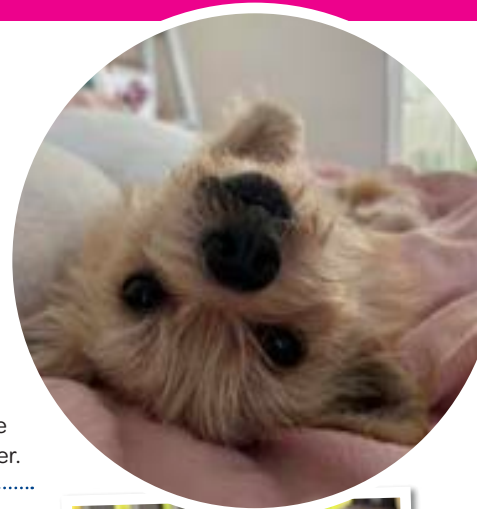
Subiaco vet clinic performed surgery soon after she arrived in the care of DRH. As she was 11 years old and in an awful condition, we assumed she'd be a palliative care foster dog. Our goal was to make her comfortable and just enjoy however much time we had together.

**After two major surgeries, a bilateral mammary chain removal, multiple tumor removal, sterilisation, a prolapse, and teeth removal, Little Lady is like a brand new dog.**

Little Lady was found dumped in bushland by rangers, though it seemed as though she'd never been outside the four walls of a backyard, everything was new for her. Walking on a lead was foreign and seeing people and other dogs is still quite triggering for her.

Whilst she isn't interested in making new doggy friends, she quickly took to Iver, her doggy brother and my two cats, Frank and George.

Little Lady is the most perfect dog in my eyes. Every day I am filled with gratitude that I could be so lucky to love her. To share my life with this fiery, little Chihuahua who consistently surprises me with her larger than life personality and hunger for life is simply the best.



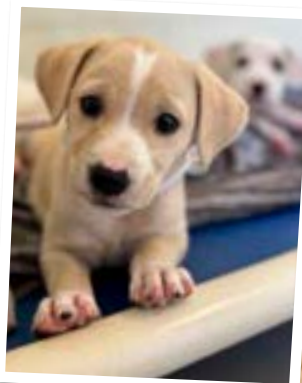
## It continues to **RAIN** puppies at the Dogs' Refuge Home

In our 2023 winter Chinwag we reported that we had rescued 174 puppies, up 34% from the same period in 2022.

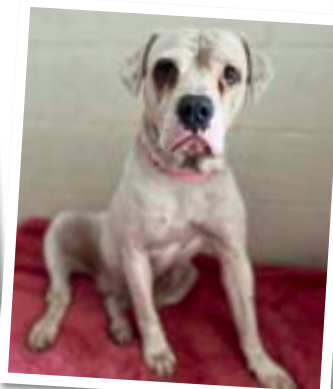
Well, guess what? This year we've taken in even **MORE**, 189 pups have come through our gate, another 8.6%, and that not counting those in the tummies of our two current pregnant mums.

Once again, despite our best efforts at educating and spreading the importance of desexing family pets, we have experienced more surrender applications of pregnant dogs and puppies than ever before.

**Please help us spread the word that backyard breeding is TOTALLY irresponsible!**



Amber about to give birth



Tawny heavily pregnant

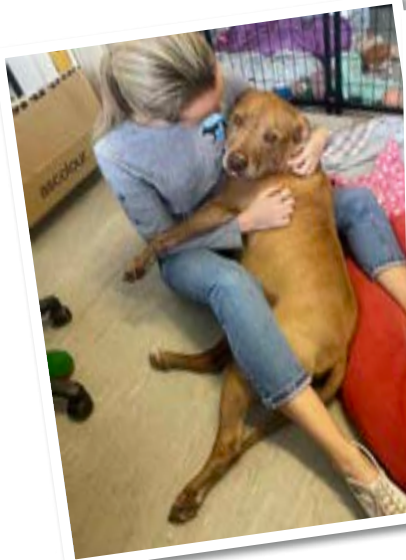




# Meet Our Team

## Staff

We are SO incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated team looking after our precious pooches. From Kennels to Foster to Finance, Fundraising and Maintenance no matter the department, you'll find a dog lover, and no matter the office, you'll find a resident dog!



Toni & Harlow



## Volunteers

Without our 350+ dedicated volunteers, the wheels of DRH simply would not turn. From dog walking to answering phones, conducting adoption interviews, gardening, driving and so much more -there is nothing this group of canine enthusiasts won't turn their hand to to help the dogs!





# 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.



## Hoover

(waited 17 months)

Long termer Hoover could not believe his luck to be adopted, finally it was his turn to be chosen! We will miss our office buddy but Hoover is absolutely loving his new home and we've never seen him so happy. Thanks so much to his previous foster carers.



## Spike

(waited 14 months)

Spike waited a very long year in the kennel with very little interest, he did enjoy some kennel respite with one of our foster carers but nothing is as good as a forever home. When his gorgeous new family chose him, we couldn't contain our excitement!



## Tank

(waited 14 months)

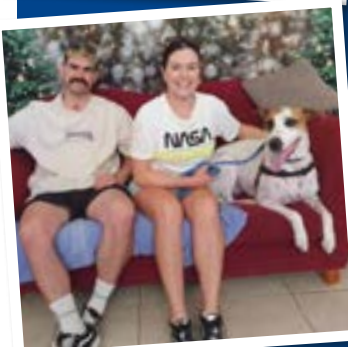
Tank first arrived in our care in January 2023, from a local pound, he waited very patiently in a beautiful foster home. It was all worth it when he found his DREAM home with very experienced owners and a Blue Staffy sister!



## Darla

(waited 13 months)

Darla stole many hearts here at the Refuge, our big, goofy and sweet girl was 'too big' for most families but PERFECT for her new Dad. Darla is living the life of luxury with plenty of space to roam and a best friend for life.



## Poida

(waited 13 months)

Bouncy boy Poida has totally landed on all 4 paws! A big thank you to Andrew who took this cheeky monkey for kennel respite which allowed Poida to show his true personality and helped our team find his perfect match.



## JellyBean

(waited 9 months)

We had no idea why fan favourite, JellyBean waited 9 months to be adopted. She was dog friendly, had passed a cat test and was the most loveable girl! It all made sense when her perfect owner walked through the gates looking for a dog just like JellyBean.

## Still Patiently Waiting:



Cali (2 yrs waiting)



Cooee (2.5 yrs waiting)



Lucielle (1yr waiting)



Mobey (1 yr waiting)

## Foster Fail

### Cleo

Cleo hit the jackpot going home with trainer Natalie's family, it was only ever meant to be for a foster period but after falling very much in love they decided to make it official and keep Cleo forever!







## Kennel Sponsors

We are so lucky to be supported by a community of generous dog-lovers and local businesses who sponsor our kennels, providing us with vitally important funds.

Thanks to the following kennel sponsors who have renewed or have come on board since December 2023:

<b>Evoke Media</b> on behalf of <b>The Brand Agency</b>	<b>Sue &amp; Peter Sumner</b> In loving memory of Stanley Savage
<b>Daniela Fischer</b> In Memory of Hoogie	<b>Tanya &amp; Peter Sarich</b> In memory of Rocky
<b>Desk Bandit</b>	<b>Pomsky Maverick Irvine &amp; Family</b>
<b>Acknowledge This!</b>	<b>MECS Electrical</b>
<b>Harry Davies Bellcourt</b>	<b>Hickey Constructions</b>
<b>Pat, Ellie &amp; Kenzie</b>	
<b>Berend Timmerman</b>	
<b>Maurice Meade</b>	
<b>Taz's Pet Doors</b>	
<b>Banhams WA</b>	
<b>Pacific Automation</b>	
<b>Robin &amp; Caroline Hill</b> In Memory of Snoopy & Peanut	
<b>McQuire-Wilson Family</b>	
<b>Linda &amp; Rod Sproule</b> For the Goldies	
<b>Raymond &amp; Sue</b> In Memory of Ponnice	



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)

## How to Help



**Donate** via:

<https://www.dogshome.org.au/donate/>

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.

@dogsrefugehome



**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.