

# Chinwag



Winter 2025

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

## End of Financial Year Appeal

## A whirlwind start... ...to a very special year!

As we rush towards our 90th Anniversary this October, it's already been a very exciting start to the year for us at the Dogs' Refuge Home. With every low there's been a high to match, and we are focussed on moving forward to create a better future not just for dogs in our care, but dogs across WA.

We are so enormously grateful to have received a generous grant from Lotterywest to support our huge redevelopment project which you can read about on page 3, but we also wanted to take a moment to share a few stories with you to show where your donations go- directly to the care of our dogs. Without you, we would not be able to say 'yes' to these cases without hesitation, and so many dogs would be left without hope. We are anticipating our vet fees to surpass \$500,000 this financial year, and that's with the incredibly generous, reduced rates provide to us by our friends at **Subiaco Veterinary Hospital**.

### Meet a few of our very special cases

At just 4 months old, little **Annie** (*main pic.*) was purchased from a pet shop on the Sunday, broke her leg on the Monday, and arrived into our care on the Tuesday as her owners could not afford surgery.

**She needed emergency surgery to save her leg, costing over \$5000.**

This sweet and brave little girl is recovering amazingly in foster care and will be looking for a forever home soon.

At 7 months old, timid **Bunnie** (*below*) arrived into our care from a local pound with a worrying, painful looking congenital defect. After multiple x-rays and exploring all options, it was decided amputation was in this darling girl's best interest to live a happy, pain free life. Bunnie entered our foster care program where she will spend her recovery before being made available to adopt. Her care will cost several thousands of dollars, but will be worth every cent to change her life for the better.

**Maggie** (*right*) arrived at the Dogs' Refuge Home heavily pregnant from a regional pound. As the Ranger's noted she was from a multi dog household, we were immediately concerned that this little lady may have an XL size baby daddy, which would make delivery extremely dangerous. Unfortunately, our suspicions were

correct, and an ultrasound revealed three enormous puppies. If she had been left to deliver naturally, neither she nor the pups would have made it. As soon as she started showing signs of early labour, she was rushed for an emergency caesarean, where we welcomed three beautiful, healthy, very large puppies! This life saving procedure came in at over \$4500, a cost which is well over the eventual combined adoption fees for the whole family, even before we start thinking about vaccinations, microchipping, food and sterilisations.

**Heartbreakingly, we are seeing an increase of neglect cases, with many dogs requiring immediate veterinary attention upon arrival.**

From severe skin conditions to untreated traumas and emaciated bodies, these dogs are the silent victims of irresponsible backyard over-breeding and increasing cost-of-living pressures.

**Whilst it can be depressing to see dogs suffering, we have to remember that these are the lucky ones, and that once they are in our care, they are safe. We couldn't do this important work without your support.**

**Every dollar makes a difference and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible! Please donate here:**

<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/DRHWinterAppeal2025>

## We're turning 90!

This October the Refuge will celebrate 90 years of rescuing and rehoming WAs homeless hounds. We are looking for stories and photos from the 1950s-1990s to add to our archives. Please email: [denisecheir@gmail.com](mailto:denisecheir@gmail.com)



**1243**  
Adoptions  
July '24 - April '25

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# President's Message

As I write this, our two latest buildings, thanks to an incredibly generous grant from Lotterywest, is undergoing the finishing stages. We quickly reflect on the stunning new Playground for our dogs which was opened in February and then look to the next building that's planned.

We never have time to rest, but thanks to the support of our amazing team and knowing we're doing it all for the dogs, it gives us the energy and enthusiasm to continue.

The final development will be our new heritage centre which is a renovation because we wanted to keep an old building to reflect our pride of the past. There will be much of our rich history shared and displayed but we're always looking for more, so I urge anyone reading this newsletter who has photos or memorabilia from the past to please bring it in.

**I'd love to meet with anyone who has any old calendars or photographs or paper clippings. We are so proud of our history and want to celebrate all we've achieved in the 90 years since we were established in 1935.**

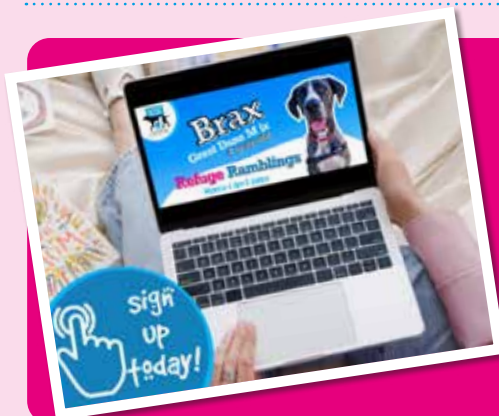
We will be opening this in October on our Anniversary so please contact us if you're able to help.

I feel like a broken record saying it, but we have more dogs than ever before and more pups than I've ever seen. We always want to focus on getting our adult dogs adopted and out of kennel, but the sweet innocent faces of the many adorable pups melt our hearts and also the hearts of our dog loving community, so we can never say no when they need saving

If you can make a tax-deductible donation before the end of the financial year, please do so – I promise we will spend it wisely and all on our dogs. But our main priority given the number of dogs in our care is adoptions and finding new foster carers so we can say yes to the hundreds of dogs at risk of being euthanised every month.

**Thank you as always to our amazing team of staff, vollies and foster carers and to our inspiring community who enable us to continue our work – you will never know how much we appreciate you.**

Karen



## 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 Update



We were overjoyed to have received a \$2,287,440.00 support pledge from Lotterywest last year which will allow for major redevelopment to 5 key areas of our Home, and we are full steam ahead with the progress with a completion goal of our 90th Anniversary this October.

1	Engaging Enrichment and Agility Training Yard	COMPLETE
2	Puppy Education and Adoption Centre	IN PROGRESS
3	Adoption Meeting Lounge combined with functional staff and volunteer support area	IN PROGRESS
4	Visitors Centre showcasing the Dogs' Refuge Home's rich, 90 year history as part of the WA community	WORK COMMENCING JUNE 2025
5	Decompression Kennels and Yards	WORK COMMENCING JULY 2025

A \$50,000 portion of the Decompression Kennels will also be supported by the Animal Welfare Grant Program, administered by the of Primary Industries and Regional Development, along with a \$50,000 donation towards our exercise yard from our long-term volunteers, adopters and supporters, the Chang family.

The first portion of the project to be complete was 'The Playground'-our amazing, enriching Agility yard which the dogs are loving. This was opened on Valentine's Day with a special musical event.

**Huge thanks to the Landscape Australia team, especially Erez and Aaron, for their patience and dedication to listening to our every desire on this bespoke project.**

The yard also features custom water fountains by our long term supporters Envrioplumb, and recycled agility equipment to keep the dogs brains and bodies busy.

Fleetwood have been hard at work creating our pre-fabricated buildings for the next stages of the redevelopment, and it was an exciting few days in April when an enormous crane airlifted our new dog kitchen, storage, laundry and adoption centre clean over our kennel blocks into their central position.

**Thanks to long-term supporter Greg Tate for his support of the design and execution. Huge thanks to all of the foster carers and volunteers who took a doggie home for a few nights so we could safely complete this work without having to sacrifice on our dog intake commitments.**



The Changs



The Playground



## Clinic Facelift

The work never stops at the Dogs' Refuge Home, and we are thrilled to announce that we will be completing an upgrade to our in house Clinic facilities this year. This is all thanks to an incredibly generous donation from M-J Wallace. With this funding, we will be able to perform in house pathology, x-rays and ultrasounds, and give our amazing veterinary partners and clinic staff a work environment and equipment that reflects the level of care we give to each of our dogs.

**We look forward to sharing more details of this project with you in the next edition of Chinwag!**



Winter 2025



# 2025 Events



## DATE WITH THE DOGS

**Romance filled the air as we opened the gates to our brand new yard.**

The Playground, which hosted our second ever Valentine's Day event – Date With The Dogs. Ricky Green and Nate Lansdell serenaded the almost 100 person crowd with their acoustic tunes. As the sun set, guests laid out their picnic blankets, enjoyed a beverage from the bar and soaked up the love. We had some very special guest drop by to give cuddles and kisses as well.

**The night was a huge success and raised over \$6000 for the dogs.**



## Puppy Pilates

**Raven's gorgeous wrinkly pups did an amazing job representing the refuge at our very first Pups & Pilates fundraiser at Bridges Café.**

Naomi and the team from Bridges did a wonderful job setting up a fundraising market and donated 50% of coffee sales and the puppy pilates class proceeds to us which raised over **\$1300!** We and the puppies had an amazing time and hope to be back again soon.



## Street Appeal

**Once again we took it to the streets for our annual Street Appeal! It ran from 9 - 13 April**

We managed to raise over **\$28,000** through our online platform and community visits! We launched the appeal at SlowDaze Coffee in West Leederville which is owned by ex-DRH dog Sandy (now Kinglsey) and his amazingly generous parents! Our wonderful vollies also visited Bunnings HomeBase Subiaco with puppy Desi and we ended things off at Floreat Forum who are always so supportive of us. Thank you to everyone who donated!



## Still to Come...

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

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>5 July</b>        | <b>Quiz Night</b>                        |
| <b>August</b>        | <b>Tattoos for Tails</b>                 |
| <b>September</b>     | <b>\$10,000 cash raffle</b>              |
| <b>20 October</b>    | <b>90th Birthday Celebration</b>         |
| <b>25/26 October</b> | <b>Home Open</b>                         |
| <b>30 November</b>   | <b>Santa Paws &amp; In The Dog House</b> |

**Please keep an eye on our socials for more details**



## **BREEDING FOR GREED:** When there are no buyers, who pays the price?

Every edition of Chinwag we seem to give a puppy update that gets more and more unbelievable.

Below is a table which highlights just how rapidly puppy intake has grown over the past four years. This year we are on track to match or likely exceed the huge 2024 total.

Calendar Year	No. of Pups Under 6 months
2021	238
2022	413
2023	463
2024	673

This is a sad illustration that the situation for WAs homeless hounds is set to get worse before it gets better, as more and more people choose not to sterilise family pets and continue to backyard breed.

**Breeding is no longer a reliable income stream, gone are the days where you can make a tidy sum selling a litter of ten pups for a few thousand dollars each.**

The market is oversaturated with irresponsible, careless individuals breeding for greed and time and time again we receive calls from people with litters of pups, now six or eight months old, who have never been socialised, never seen a vet and now they need our help. Puppies are arriving into our care emaciated or with serious medical conditions. Pictured is William, who arrived with a severely infected eye which could not be saved, and Mui Mui, who arrived with just one ear canal and ¼ of the size of her brother.

We are seeing a huge rise in the amount of heavily pregnant mums entering the pound system. Where we used to see three or four a year, now we are often taking in several pregnant dogs a month. Some of these poor girls are arriving in states of neglect that are difficult to see. Pictured are Candy, who arrived to us with her two young pups earlier this month in an emaciated condition, and **Cream**, whose story you can read below.



Candy



## Why our foster carers mean so much to us

**Kennels are no place for pregnant mums and young puppies.**

While we pride ourselves on making our kennels as calm as possible, they are still incredibly noisy and stressful for hormonal mums and developing little brains. Without our foster carers, we would never be able to say yes to so many puppies, and the loving mums who raise them. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, please complete the application here:

[www.dogshome.org.au/foster-carer-application/](http://www.dogshome.org.au/foster-carer-application/)

If you have previously applied or fostered and want to help, please email: [foster@dogshome.org.au](mailto:foster@dogshome.org.au)



## Cream's Story

**Darling Cream arrived into a regional pound heavily pregnant at 9 years old.**

Knowing that she would struggle significantly with birth and motherhood due to her age, we discussed termination with our veterinary team, but the pregnancy was too advanced to terminate without significant risk of complication. She had hardly any teeth left due to calcium loss with pregnancy after pregnancy but had the most beautiful gummy smile. With the help of the amazing team at **Subiaco Vet** hospital who

performed an emergency caesarean as Cream's labour became stressed, Cream became a mother for the final time to three beautiful puppies.

**Her pups have all since been adopted, but darling Cream is on the hunt for her perfect retirement home.**





# PUPDATE!



## Max

**Sweet, shy Max was dumped at the refuge with his brother Cowboy and we could immediately see what a sensitive soul he was.**

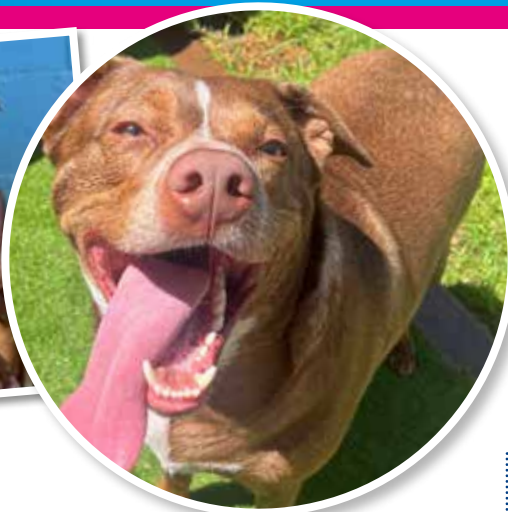
Terrified in the kennels and unsure of new people, we knew Max needed to find a loving home where he could flourish and he truly found the most perfect family to call his own.

"My three teenagers and I adopted Max last July, who you probably remember, as he was inconsolable after getting abandoned right there in your office with his brother Cowboy.

**I just stumbled across his old photo that was up on the website. I barely recognised him.**

He was the world's saddest dog, he was even a different colour. I just had to show you him now 9 months later. He is the happiest boy and literally can't wipe the grin off his face, or keep his tongue in his mouth!

He looks like a completely different dog! His confidence is



through the roof. He no longer cowers and he walks tall and proud. He has become very vocal, loves doing tricks, loves toys, playing with the hose and loves to sing. Miley Cyrus seems to be his favourite, especially Wrecking Ball.

We have had our challenges, he is not a fan of other dogs or other people, but has improved greatly. Recently he even let a few friends and family members pat him for the 1st time! Which was a huge deal for him and made us all emotional.

Overall he has brought nothing but pure joy to our family and I don't know how we ever lived a day without him. He has also given our 13 year old kelpie Layla a new lease on life and they are best friends.

Thank you for taking care of our boy until we found him."



## Ella

**Beautiful girl Ella was very stressed in the kennel environment and was really struggling.**

We were hoping for a wonderful family for this girl but we couldn't have imagined just how amazing her new home would be!

**"Ella came home with us in October, a ball-obsessed bundle of anxiety and nerves. I was a bit nervous too..."**

By that time, she was in a pound and the DRC shelter for over 5 months and not coping well. The first night, I got up every 2 hours to check on her like a little newborn. She was not aggressive at all, but rather aloof and scared. As if she was wondering how long this will last.

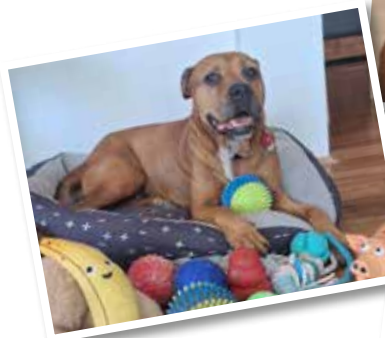
Bit by bit, day by day we gave her love, attention and encouragement. And lots of space when she retreated. But within a week or two, she became my shadow, even sticking her head in the washing machine to inspect the laundry! Within a month or so she stopped digging in the

garden, her ball obsession was quickly waning, and she started greeting us at the door with a proper wagging-tail-puppy-dance when we came home. Her new favourite game now is tug-of-war.

Walking calmly on a lead on outings took a bit longer, but now it's a favourite daily activity. Ella is still not keen on all types of dogs and we're still figuring it out. But she LOVES people. Luckily she now (mostly) ignores bikes, bicycles, crows and other fast moving and noisy objects.

I never knew I had an Ella-shaped hole in my heart, but I'm so glad she came to fill it...

And I think she's glad too. After all, all she wanted was a family of her own."





# 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.



## Ferris (waited 41 months)

Our sweet, sensitive Ferris arrived at the refuge back in 2021. Scared of new people, he spent a majority of his time out in a foster home. When he had to come back to the refuge at the start of 2025 we knew he really needed to find his forever family. He went out on foster with a view to adopt with a lovely couple who, after 2 weeks, decided to make Ferris an official member of the family.



## Aragog

(waited 8 months)

Aragog spent a majority of his time with us in our clinic office where he captured the hearts of so many of our staff but especially our clinic nurses who would take him home for sleepovers. He waited so patiently for his happily ever after and finally found it with his new dad.



## Diesel (waited almost 16 months)

Diesel was surrendered to the refuge two weeks after being purchased off of Gumtree. This happy boy bounced around between our finance office and different foster homes for his time in our care before finally going out on foster with an amazing family who just knew it was meant to be.



## Gideon (waited 13 months)

Gideon arrived into our care with his brother Gordon at just 6 months old. His brother was adopted quickly and poor Gideon was scared in the kennels and had some insecurities to overcome. That's when our amazing volunteer Cass stepped up and took him out on foster. After 6 months of hard work and plenty of bonding time, Cass and her partner (and their other ex DRH resident Juniper) decided that Gideon had already found his forever home and they officially adopted him.

## Sheela

(waited 21 months)

Sheela first came into our care all the way back in 2020 and was adopted and returned on two occasions. This gorgeous girl was lucky enough to spend plenty of time in loving foster homes before one of her foster carers finally decided she wasn't going anywhere.



## Snoop

(waited 13 months)

Snoop came into our care with his brother Knuckles and was very scared in the kennel environment and urgently needed to get out into a foster home. His parents fostered him on and off before finally deciding that Snoop was right where he was meant to be.



## QUIZ NIGHT!

In honour of our 90th year, our 2025 Quiz Night will be themed everything 90's!

The venue has changed this year but will still be close by to the refuge at John Twenty Third College in Mt Claremont. The venue is a little smaller so it will be tables of 8 this year, so grab your 7 smartest, dog-loving friends and come along for the best night of the year!

Tickets on sale Tues 3 June, please keep an eye on our socials for more details.

## Kennel Sponsors

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who have sponsored a kennel or renewed their sponsorship since December 2024. Your support is very much appreciated.

**Eileen Simms** In memory of Kevin Simms & Frankie  
**Gemma Sharp** In memory of Jimmy Toms  
**Desk Bandit**  
**Berend Timmerman**  
**Taz's Pet Doors**  
**Daniela Fischer** In Memory of Hoogie  
**Maurice Mead**  
**Nicolee Collica**  
**Altona Sound System**  
**Pomsky Maverick Irvine & Family**  
**Brighten**  
**BrewDog Perth**  
**McQuire-Wilson Family**  
**Hickey Constructions**  
**Pacific Automation**  
**Linda & Rod Sproule** for the Goldies  
**Peanut Hill & Family** In memory of Snoopy Hill  
**Tanya & Peter Sarich** In memory of Rocky

**Raymond Colson & Sue Dubow**  
**Mecs Electrical**  
**Banhams WA**  
**Jimbo & Daisy**  
**Sue and Peter Sumner** In memory of Stanley  
**Cobalt Foundation**  
**Jamey & Charlie Lye**  
**Edward Law** for Obe & Oreo



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.