

90th Anniversary  
SPECIAL EDITION

# Chinwag



Summer 2025

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



Tate Family  
Foundation

Supporting Your Vision

## In the Doghouse

Our incredibly generous supporters, **Tate Family Foundation**, will once again be going **In the Doghouse** on **Sunday 30th November**, joining a group of passionate dog lovers to raise vital funds for our four-legged friends.

This much-loved annual event sees participants spending the day living alongside our dogs to experience what life is like for a shelter dog all while fundraising for their care and wellbeing. Thanks to **Tate Family Foundation's** amazing dollar-for-dollar match, every donation will be doubled up to **\$30,000**, meaning your support goes twice as far in helping dogs find their forever homes.

## \$90 for 90 Years Campaign

As we head into the festive season, we're celebrating a huge milestone, **90 years of caring for dogs in need!**

To mark the occasion, we've launched our special \$90 for 90 Years fundraising campaign.

**Your \$90 donation can provide a full health check, vaccination, flea and worm treatment, and microchipping for a new arrival at the Refuge.**

Plus, as a token of our gratitude, all donors who contribute \$90 or more will receive a **limited-edition commemorative pin** in the mail, our way of saying thank you for being part of the Dogs' Refuge Home's incredible journey.



1329  
Adoptions  
Jan '25 - Oct '25

Show your support here:



<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/90-for-90-fundraiser>



## Who You're Helping

In the last financial year alone, we welcomed **950 adult dogs and 662 puppies under six months old** into our care.

This rising number is a stark reminder of the growing challenges facing animal welfare across Western Australia. With your continued support, we can keep giving every dog the second chance they deserve.



Follow us on: Facebook Instagram Twitter

Summer 2025

# President's Message

What a busy year it has been and what a way to celebrate our 90th Anniversary.

In between saving more dogs and puppies than ever we've also had our construction hats on as we worked towards the final stages of our Masterplan and having our Heritage Centre ready for its opening to celebrate us officially having been operating for 90 years.

Huge thanks to **Lotterywest** for supporting our grant application and to all those who made it happen, **JMB Coastal, Fleetwood Homes, Landscape Australia, Enviroplumb, DPRID, Evoke Media** and the **Chang Family**. And of course, remembering with awe our founder **Constance Horrocks**.

Following in her footsteps our **GM Robyn Slater** is equally inspiring making sure she is involved in every department to ensure it operates to maximum efficiency. Robyn writes grants and rescues puppies on her days off and prepared the artwork and design for the Heritage Centre which captures our past, today and our future. We are very lucky to have Robyn leading our team and we couldn't find a bigger dog lover either.

I'd also like to acknowledge **Vice President Lynne Milligan** who somehow manages more puppies that we have ever had finds them all loving homes.

Our Home Open was extra special and extra busy! We loved seeing our dog loving community visit us and every stall was as interesting as the next and it ran

so incredibly smoothly thanks to **Hollie and Georgia** who never stopped for two weeks straight.

As we prepare for our next event 'In the Doghouse' I encourage you to please support those spending the day in kennel with our special dogs. Once again **Jarrad Tate** and his adorable kids will be in there as will many of our devoted volunteers and the incredibly generous **Tate Family Foundation** will be matching donations up to \$30K!

I promise you a visit to our Home is definitely worth it to see for yourself all the amazing changes that have been happening over these last 12 months and the perfect day is Sunday 30th November as there will be dogs and people in kennels to chat to and there is so much to see in our Heritage Centre.

And just when we thought the development was over, we decided we needed a new project to keep us on our toes so are currently renovating our clinic building and, effective the end of November, we will be operating our very own veterinary clinic. This is only possible thanks to two very generous donors who covered the cost of the brand-new equipment and the renovations – there's definitely something about Mary as both donors are called Mary and both incredible dog lovers.

With the number of puppies entering our care in 2025 sadly reaching an all-time high and

more and more dogs arriving requiring substantial veterinary care it made sense to finally operate our own clinic. This will help to reduce external costs, reduce the stress of transporting dogs and ensure we can prioritise those dogs who require immediate medical attention.

As always thank you to everyone who has adopted, donated or volunteered and special thanks to our foster carers who are enabling us to save more dogs and pups than ever as we only have so many kennels.

As I reflect on the past year it's a reminder of how we've managed over the last 90 years. Too many dogs needing saving, too much to do and too little time but with the support we receive from everyone reading this newsletter and everyone who shares our passion and our values we make it work.

**Once again, I wish all our supporters the most wonderful Christmas filled with lots of love and doggie kisses – you deserve them.**

*Karen & Charli*



Mel

**President:**

Karen Rhodes

**Vice President:**

Lynne Milligan

**Secretary:**

Chris Osborn

**Treasurer:**

Megan Scholz

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Denise Chair  
Leanne Copping  
Marsha Sullivan  
Alex Gillespie

**General Manager**

Robyn Slater

**Veterinarian:**

Subiaco Vet

**Trustees:**

Ruth Gourley  
Judy Flanagan  
Sarah Murphy  
Phillip Golding

**Patrons:**

Melanie Greensmith  
Peter Collier MLC  
Nelson Woss

**Graphic Design:**

Melanie Moore Design

Supported by:



The Doghouse Team with Santa



Lynne Milligan



The Heritage Centre

# 90th Celebrations



**On 20th October 1935 our amazing Home was officially opened by Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell (the Home's first Patron). In his speech President Henry Denison paid special tribute to Constance Horrocks the Home's founder and our inspiration to this day.**

On Wednesday 22nd October 2025 we officially opened our Heritage Centre and celebrated the completion of some of the final stages of our Masterplan and having served our community for 90 years.

**A very generous grant from Lotterywest enabled this mammoth development and we were delighted that Lotterywest CEO Karen Brown and the honourable Hannah Beazley MLA were there to cut the ribbon to our Heritage Centre.**

Our two long serving Patrons (over 20 years) **Melanie Greensmith (Wheels & Dollbaby)** and **Peter Collier MLC** were there to cut the cakes and we had plenty of special guests including those who made it all possible. Together we made it happen, and we did it all for the dogs who need us, those who have been abandoned and abused and those whose owners are no longer able to care for them.

We were delighted to see volunteers from over 30 years ago, donors who have been supporting us for over 20 years, and lots of volunteers, staff, dog lovers and generous trades who made it all happen on time

and on budget. Dedication and commitment is what has made the Dogs' Refuge Home what it is today and we are determined that will continue in the future.

Special thanks to **Zane** from **Evoke Media** for working day and night to make our Heritage centre as beautiful as possible and generously donating all his time and materials including two fabulous screens where our history is brought to life.

Our dog kitchen would make many chefs jealous, our laundry is now like a laundrette, our Playground wouldn't be out of place next to Kings Park, our staff and volleys want to share the decompression area with our dogs it's so relaxing and our puppy centre is superb (and sadly constantly full).

**So, 90 years after we opened, we are still operating and providing the very best level of care. We are proud to say our dogs are incredibly well looked after and live in the most beautiful environment possible, while they wait for their forever home.**



# Celebrating 90 Years with Grand Opening of Landmark Redevelopment



## The new facilities



If you haven't paid a visit to the Refuge in a little while, you might not recognise the place!

On the 22nd October we proudly celebrated our 90th anniversary with the official opening of our transformative redevelopment project. The major redevelopment, spanning five key areas, marks an exciting new chapter for the Refuge while honouring our remarkable history of rescuing and rehoming dogs since 1935.

The redevelopment made possible through the generous support of Lotterywest, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and some amazing private donors. As an almost entirely self-funded organisation, every dollar counts, and we were thrilled to receive support for this project.

This milestone comes during a record-breaking financial year (2024/25), where we rehomed more dogs than ever before, demonstrating the ongoing need for and impact of our lifesaving work. For 90 years, the Dogs' Refuge Home has been a safe haven for

thousands of dogs, thanks to the compassion of the WA community. This redevelopment will not only enrich the lives of the dogs in our care today, but ensure the Refuge remains at the heart of animal welfare in WA for generations to come.

Huge thanks to JMB Coastal, Landscape Australia, Fleetwood, Enviroplumb, Evoke Media, Go Graphics, Impressive Concrete and Nateis for their work on this special project.

Please consider paying us a visit to see the new improvements for yourself, and of course, say hello to the doggies

### Out with the old, and in with the new!



**Heritage Centre** – Showcasing the Refuge's rich 90-year history and its enduring place in the WA community.



**Agility & Enrichment Yard** – A dedicated space for exercise, training, and play, as well as an indoor 'sniffspace' for our dogs to explore and use their noses!



**Decompression Kennels** – Designed to reduce stress and provide calm, quiet spaces for dogs in need.



**Puppy & Clinic Centre** – Providing specialised care for the youngest and most vulnerable dogs. The Puppy Centre couldn't have come at a more crucial time, as we are being inundated with young puppies and mothers with litters.



**Services Building with Cat Meet Lounge** – A new kitchen, laundry, storage and a unique meeting area for dogs to be gently introduced to potential feline siblings.



**Hydrobath** – A calm and quiet purpose-built space for our dogs to receive a soothing bath and freshen up!

Top to bottom: Kitchen, Laundry & Decompression Kennels

# Dogs' Refuge Home Welfare Veterinary Clinic - COMING SOON!

As we come to the end of another very exciting year, we are certainly not slowing down!

With vet bills continuing to increase, and demand for vet care higher than ever, we have made the exciting and ground-breaking decision to open our own **Dogs' Refuge Home Veterinary Clinic**, to provide care to our dogs, and hopefully other rescues, too.

**For the first time we will have veterinarians on our staff and will be able to provide a much higher level of care for our darling dogs.**

In line with our proud training philosophy, we intend to employ a fear free approach to cooperative care.

We would not have been able to even consider this amazing step without the support of two truly amazing ladies. We have been able to purchase state of the art equipment thanks to a generous donation from **M-J Wallace**, and refurbish our whole clinic thanks to the generosity of **Mary Tudor**.

We want to extend a huge thanks to **Dr Greg Wilkinson** who supported our home for over 20 years while he owned Subiaco Veterinary Hospital, and continues to offer us guidance and support in this very exciting new chapter.



M-J Wallace



Mary Tudor



Dr Greg Wilkinson

The old



In progress



The plan



# Our Pawesome Year 2024-25

**DOGS ENTERING SHELTER**



**1612**

662 Puppies

950 Dogs



**ADOPTIONS**

**1527**



**Where Our Dogs Come From**

	2024/25
Pound Rescue	905
Owner Surrender	359
Council	25
Dogs Returned	141
Shelter Offspring	162

*Dogs Returned: The Home accepts 'returns' of adopted dogs regardless of when they were adopted. Sometimes the fit is just not right, but often circumstances within the household change and dogs are surrendered back into our care.*

**521**

**Saved from Metro Pounds**

We visit pounds across the metro area. Our key partners are Gosnells (84 dogs), Stirling (54 dogs), Armadale (58 dogs) with another 197 dogs coming from Wanneroo, Bayswater, Canning, Kalamunda, Cockburn and South Perth.



**386**

**Saved from Regional Pounds**

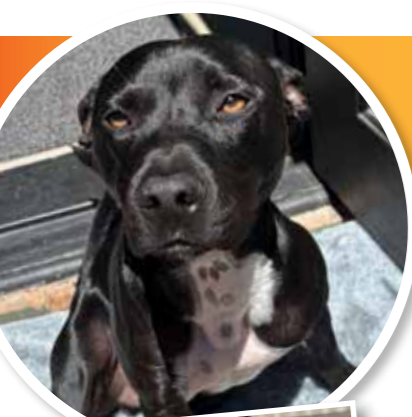
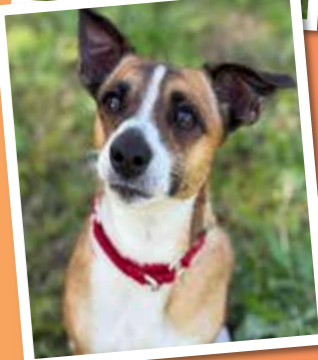
Another busy year with more and more dogs arriving from regional communities. The 386 dogs saved includes dogs entering our care from regional pounds and other rescue groups. With intake requests at an all time high, we make great efforts to travel to regional areas and save at risk dogs. This financial year 271 dogs arrived from Geraldton, 10 arrived from Derby, 14 from Narrogin, 9 from Kalgoorlie and 23 dogs from the South West.



**899**

**Foster Dogs**

Another huge year for our foster team with 899 dogs (including 569 puppies) spend time with one of 682 foster carers during the past year. We can't thank all our foster carers enough for their compassion and dedication in providing a home-away-from-home for our dogs. A huge thanks to our brilliant Foster Coordinators for all their amazing work placing dogs and puppies into temporary homes.



## PUPDATE! Titan happily ever after

**"It's hard to believe it's been almost six months since we adopted our beautiful, bouncy boy Titan. He has truly become the light of our lives."**

Every morning, I treasure the moment he wiggles out from under the covers, smelling like warm puppy and showering us with kisses. Some of his favourite things include cuddles, the beach, basking in the sun, destroying toys at record speed, and making friends (both human and dog alike). He makes every day brighter and constantly reminds us what really matters.

The saying "shelter dogs are hard work" has always rubbed me the wrong way. All dogs require time, patience, and commitment, whether they're a shelter bully or a puppy mill doodle. No matter where a dog comes from, they'll have their own

quirks and challenges at some point, and it's our job to work through those moments with love and consistency.

Purebred does not equal problem-free.

**Adopt, don't shop.**

**You might just find your best friend waiting for you, just like we did!"**

**Share your adoption story**

If you'd like to share your adoption story please email us at [communications@dogs.home.au](mailto:communications@dogs.home.au)



# Home Open 2025

# Christmas Cards & Calendars



## Thank you to those who attended our 2025 Home Open!

This one was extra special as we invited everyone to come along to celebrate our 90th Anniversary and check out the completion of our Master Plan, including our brand new Heritage Centre and Playground agility yard which doubled as the venue for our puppy kissing booth.

We had all of the usual fun that our supporters have come to expect at our Home Open – a fantastic jumble sale, incredible plant jungle, sausage sizzle, cake stall and coffee from **Muzz Buzz**. Plus we served up some special birthday fun this year with hand spun fairy floss, party bags, face painting and giant bubbles for the kids!



The Home Open is one of our major fundraisers for the year and is only possible thanks to the support of our dog-loving community. From those who bake for our cake stall, propagate seedlings to sell in our plant

jungle and donate items to sell in our jumble sale, we couldn't do it without you!

But it's our dedicated volunteers deserve the biggest thank you of all – countless hours go into making this event a success and we are so grateful to all of you who give up your time to raise money for our dogs.

**In the months leading up to this furry fundraiser, we had over 85 puppies in our care – some born to mums who were pregnant when they came to us and some orphaned puppies without mums brought to us so they could receive the round the clock care they need.**

If you donated something for the Home Open or came along and purchased something, we want you to know this is where the funds go – straight to saving tiny lives and giving them hope for a brighter future. Continued support of our fundraisers ensures we have the vital funds needed to keep saving and rehoming dogs across WA.

**We would like to say a special thanks to our friends at Muzz Buzz for providing us with amazing coffee all weekend and Bakers Delight Wembley/ Subiaco for their ongoing support of our Sausage Sizzle.**

## Searching for the pawfect Christmas gift for that special dog lover in your life? Look no further, our Christmas cards and 2026 calendars are available NOW!

**At just \$10** and with **100% proceeds** going to our dogs, they are a major fundraiser for our Home.

With images of our pooches all around the refuge, our 2026 calendar perfectly showcases the new and improved facilities! Each Christmas card pack contains 12 cards featuring 6 of our beautiful doggies.

HUGE thanks to our sponsors this year; **Evoke Media, Skin Box, SafeStyle, Little Pink Typewriter,** and **Diversifi Pty Ltd.** Another special thanks to the team at **Quality Press Australia.**

**Shop at the Refuge or online at [www.dogshome.org.au](http://www.dogshome.org.au)**



**Purchase a book for \$15, a plush for \$20 or grab both for ONLY \$30!**

## 'HORACE FINDS A HOME'

**Get your paws on our special 90th Anniversary children's book and plushie!**

'Meet **Horace** – a little dog with a very big heart. Horace loves his friends at the Dogs' Refuge Home, but dreams of something more... a family to call his own. Follow Horace on his journey from the kennel to the cosiest home where endless love and belly rubs await. Along the way, you'll discover the joy of kindness, the beauty of second chances and the magic of a dog finding their forever home.'

**Written by The Dogs' Refuge Home and Illustrated by Caitlin Chapman**

## Kennel Sponsors

Thanks to the following individuals and businesses who have sponsored or renewed their kennel sponsorship since June 2025

Sue and Peter Sumner

The Cobalt Foundation

The Middlemas Foundation

The Balmoral Hotel

Boutique Realty

Justine Winston-Smith

Jasmine Chai

*in loving memory of Ollie*

Connect Mortgages

Cassandra Lajeunie

*for Juniper*

Jackie Chin

*in memory of Pippin*

Gail Archer SC

May Day Dog Rescue Club

Junko & Ben Farrugia

*in loving memory of Jett*

Winnie's Pet Doors

Denise Hilsz & Alan Pittman

*in memory of Daisy*

Chuen Law for Obe & Oreo

John Long for Pippen

Floreat Forum

Ros Stynes

Hale School – Meade House

Lynda & John Hancy

Swan Urology

Mobilise Travel

Absolute Cosmetic Medicine

Craig Gumley

*in memory of Buddy Boy*

Robert Frost

Tattoos for Tails (*pic above*)

Charlie & Sean Merry

*for Riggs & Bob*

Pat & Jimmy Chang

**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)**

