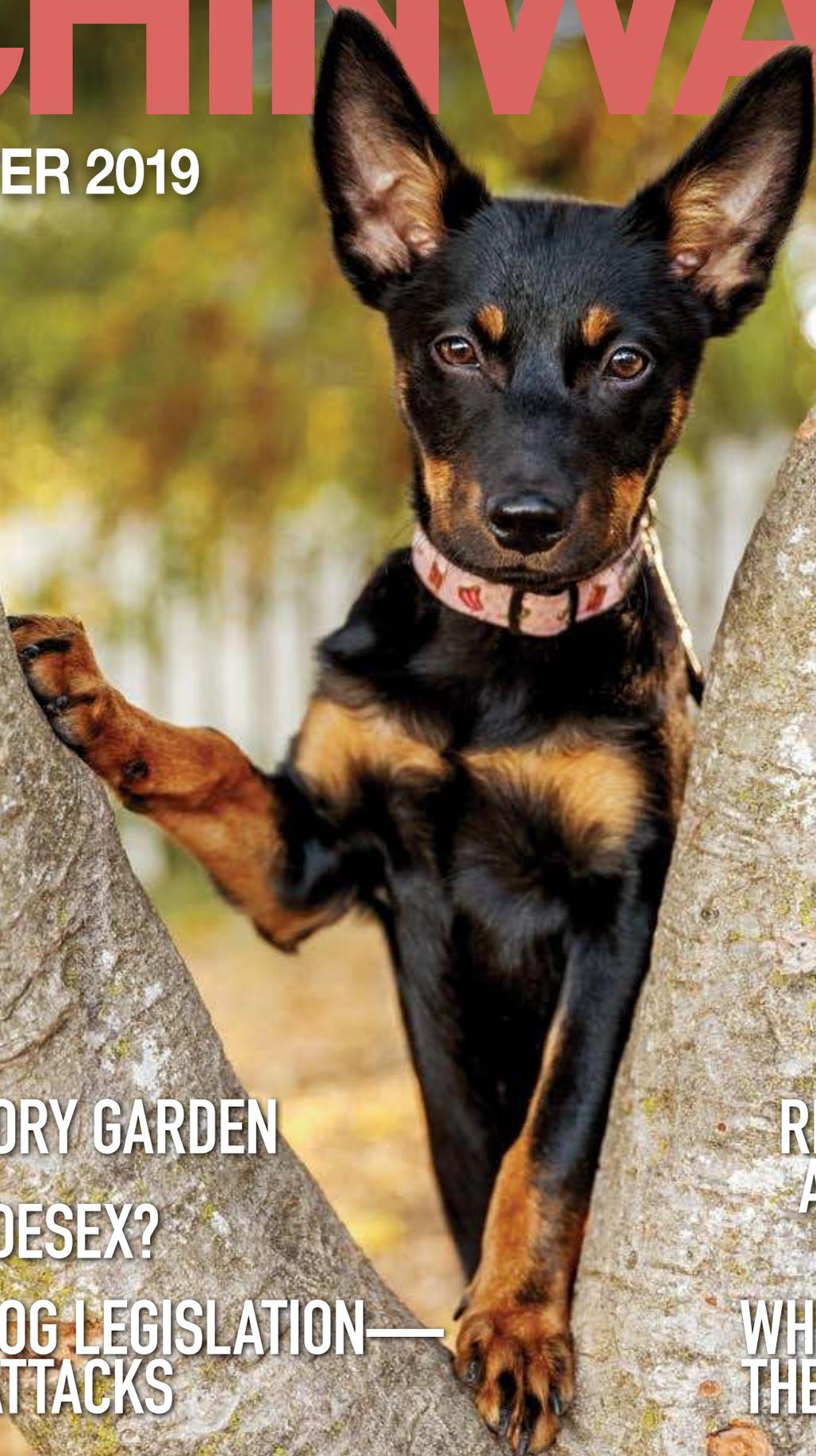


ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

WINTER 2019



SENSORY GARDEN

WHY DESEX?

**ACT DOG LEGISLATION—
DOG ATTACKS**

**RECENTLY
ADOPTED**

**WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?**



ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

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fosterdogs.org



ABOUT ARF

ARF is an incorporated association of people in the ACT and surrounding NSW region who rescue dogs from euthanasia and foster them in their own homes for as long as it takes to find them loving permanent homes. All dogs are de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed and micro-chipped before going to their new homes.

IN THIS ISSUE

Why Desex your Dog.....	2
Book Reviews	4
Where Are They Now?	5
Events, Happenings and Donations	6
Create a Sensory Garden	8
Recently Adopted	10
ACT Dog Legislation—Dog Attacks.....	16
Rainbow Bridge	17
A Dog’s Life—What Should it be?	18
ARF Business Directory	20

COVER: SHAKER

Our cover girl for this issue is **Shaker!**

Shaker is a beautiful little Kelpie who came into care as a four week old pup in 2018 and is our 2019 Miss September calendar star. She is now living, and loving, life with her forever family.

To see all dogs available for adoption go to: fosterdogs.org/available-dogs-gallery

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If you would like to advertise your business in our magazine please contact communication@fosterdogs.org for information and rates.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our Winter *ChinWag*!

In this edition, our very popular magazine will look at the issue of desexing your dog and why it is important to the community; we'll talk about creating a sensory garden for your dog and of course our regular features on events, recently adopted dogs, a catch-up with dogs adopted in Where Are They Now, plus book reviews.

ARF has received some extremely generous donations in the first six months of 2019 and we'd like to make special mention of Savourlife and Petbarn, whose donations will be a big help to us for foster dogs needing high cost veterinary care.

After eight years at the helm of *ChinWag* our current editor, Aine Dowling, is stepping down. If you are a keen writer, copywriter, or editor/proofreader, love dogs, and are interested in helping ARF through its pages of our glossy magazine and want to join a great team, contact chinwag@fosterdogs.org for more info. Or email me at president@fosterdogs.org

Meanwhile, stay warm!

Wendy Parsons

President, ACT Rescue and Foster



WE WELCOME COMMENT
AND FEEDBACK ON *CHINWAG*
INCLUDING SUBMISSION
OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES,
ADOPTION UPDATES, AND
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS.
CONTACT OUR EDITOR AT:
CHINWAG@FOSTERDOGS.ORG



TO DESEX OR NOT TO DESEX

A Debate

By Adele Morton

This article has been written following consultation with local veterinarians, the RSPCA, and includes references from numerous publications on the debate of desexing your dog.

Welcoming a new puppy or dog into our household is an exciting and joyous occasion. However, there are lots of decisions to be made regarding the care of your new dog to ensure it has a long, healthy, and happy life such as diet, exercise, training, and desexing.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE MY DOG DESEXED?

In the ACT it is an offence under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (section 74) to own a dog, over the age of six (6) months, which has not been desexed unless the keeper of the dog holds a sexually entire permit issued by the Registrar of Domestic Animal Services, or a vet certifies in writing that desexing the dog would pose a serious health risk to the animal.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF DESEXING MY DOG?

Behaviour

There are a number of myths surrounding the desexing of dogs, one for example being that in order for a female dog to develop she should have at least one litter of puppies. Evidence from various sources has not found this to be the case. Another myth circulating is that having your male dog desexed

“

THE UNDESEXED FEMALE DOG IS MORE AT RISK OF DEVELOPING MAMMARY TUMOURS AND HERNIAS THAN A DESEXED FEMALE, WHO HAS NO RISK OF OVARIAN CYSTS OR TUMOURS

”

will somehow affect his personality and cause him to become timid, however, there has been no evidence here either that desexing will alter a dog's personality, and in fact, it may help to stop unwanted behaviours such as aggression, dominance, and leg mounting (humping). Studies do suggest, however, that while desexing does help some forms of aggression, it is not a cure-all for all unwanted behaviours.

Health

The undesexed female dog is more at risk of developing mammary tumours and hernias than a desexed female, who has no risk of ovarian cysts or tumours. Desexed males also have a lower risk of developing prostate disease and hernias, with no risk of developing testicular cancers compared to an undesexed dog.

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD I HAVE MY DOG DESEXED?

It has been a tradition to have our dogs desexed by around six months. However, over the past decade Early Animal Desexing (EAD) between the ages of eight to twelve weeks has become more common. EAD is now considered to be safe and even beneficial, based on a number of scientific studies including from the RSPCA. One of the claimed benefits is that during the surgery the risks associated with anaesthesia are lower, there is minimal blood loss, and the recovery times are shorter than for older dogs.

In contrary however, there is still debate about the best age to desex dogs, with some views being that the young female dog should develop more fully before undergoing surgical procedures. However, while

early age desexing is convenient for shelters and rescues, it is not necessarily appropriate for larger dogs/breeds prone to hip dysplasia and cruciate disease, or leaky females, and in general, the bigger the dog, the greater the advantage of leaving de-sexing till later. The RSPCA itself notes that, in relation to privately owned dogs, further research is required to determine the optimal age for de-sexing of female dogs.

Some breeds of female dogs can have their first litter as young as four months old. An obvious benefit of EAD is to prevent unwanted litters, as well as potential issues and costs of a difficult or life threatening pregnancy for your female dog. Early desexing in male dogs means owners don't need to deal with their amorous male escaping and running round the streets at risk of serious accident or incident simply because he can smell a female dog on heat over four kilometres away!

If you have any doubts about when you should have your dog desexed, or possible health risks incurred from this procedure, discuss this with your vet as soon as possible. They will be able to advise and guide you on the best course of action for your dog, taking into account the dog's breed, size, and age.

WHAT IF I CHOOSE NOT TO DESEX MY DOG?

Importantly, we should not simply equate a choice of not to desex (or not desex at an early age) as a factor in irresponsible dog ownership. Some people have entire dogs, register them appropriately, keep them successfully contained, and manage their packs effectively—

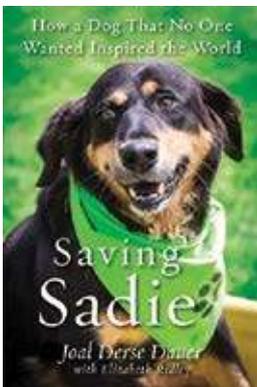
some don't. Other people have desexed dogs but don't register or chip them, allow them to roam, and can't manage their dog's behaviour effectively; others are exemplary in every regard. Responsible ownership including training, keeping your dog contained and on a lead, where indicated, when out and about, and following and complying with local legislation, are major factors in owning a dog—whether the dog is desexed or not.

Editor footnote: Either knowingly or unknowingly, there are a number of people who leave their female dog at a local pound or shelter when the dog is pregnant. A number of dogs in this condition come into ARF care on regular basis and we care for the mother dog and puppies and find homes for them when the pups reach eight to nine weeks of age. Sometimes the ARF carer may adopt the mother dog or one of the pups. Some litters are also left at rural pounds at a very young age and come into foster care with ARF or another rescue group. In 2018 we had over 20 young puppies in ARF that were either born in care or came from a rural pound. While this is part and parcel of rescue work, it puts a huge load on many small rescue groups, and young puppy rearing is a specific role in rescue—in ARF the carer must undergo puppy training sessions before they can care for a very young pup. The litters that come into ARF are usually split into pairs so they can continue their socialisation and development with a litter mate. All young puppies leave ARF care vaccinated, wormed, vet checked, and with a desexing voucher. For more information visit our website at www.fosterdogs.org

BOOK REVIEWS

By Aine Dowling

It's winter—time to curl up by the heater with a good book. This issue we look at dogs lost and found, on being a 'good' dog, and dog rescue ... the one book that could have been written about (or by) one of our many foster carers! Not for young children, but for older teens and adults who want a good read and perhaps a few 'dog' lessons along the way.

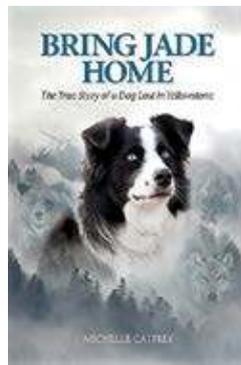


SAVING SADIE

Joal Derse Dauer

This book could have been written about some of our ARF foster carers! This is a true story of dog rescue, and a woman's determination to save the life of an abused and terrified dog. The book details Sadie's road to rehabilitation, the difficulties and joys, the set-backs and milestones of her recovery, as well as the care given Sadie by veterinarians and specialists in their effort to offer her a normal, happy life. Using patience and persistence, the author builds a network to bring attention to Sadie's plight, as well as other abused animals and their rehabilitation.

***Saving Sadie** by Joal Derse Dauer. Published by Citadel 2017, and available in Kindle, Audio CD, and Paperback*

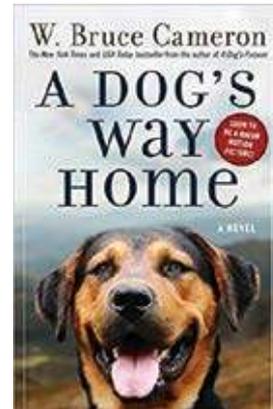


BRING JADE HOME

Michelle Caffrey

Bring Jade Home is the true story of Jade, a young Australian Shepherd, who disappears into Yellowstone's wilderness after a car accident. Despite their injuries and against doctor's orders, her owners begin a desperate search. Jade is lost in the wilds of Yellowstone National Park, surrounded by wolves and grizzly bears, predators, and cold nights. Working together with locals, park employees, and visitors to the park, will her owners' efforts bring Jade home. This story will renew your faith in dogs ... and people!

***Bring Jade Home** by Michelle Caffrey. Published by FarCountry Press (2nd edition, 2018), and available in Kindle and Paperback.*



A DOG'S WAY HOME

Bruce Cameron

This book is written from the dog's point of view. Pit Bull mix, Bella, wants to be a 'good' dog, but unfortunately her breed makes her a target in the town where she lives, as she is legally banned. Her person does everything he can to keep her but somehow she gets lost. In trying to find her way home she helps others, gives comfort, and shows she is a 'good' dog. She tries very hard so everyone will not say she is a 'bad' dog. This book works hard to remove the stigma of Pit Bulls and other 'dangerous' breeds; showing that it's not the breed, but the deed and the owner (or others) who place the stigma around certain breeds. Bella is a Good Dog!

***A Dog's Way Home** by Bruce Cameron. Published by Forge Trade (reprint 2018), and available in Kindle, Hard cover, Paperback, and Audio CD.*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Compiled by Lauren Canellis

HAVE YOU ADOPTED AN ARFER?

Where are they now? is about ex-ARFers who have been adopted into their forever homes. This is a regular inclusion in *ChinWag* and we would love to hear from ARF owners wherever you are—in Australia or overseas—to let us know how your new best friend is getting on. They could have been adopted last month or some years ago—we don't mind! For more information contact chinwag@fosterdogs.org



LULU (FORMERLY HEIDI) FROM NADIA

We adopted a little Cavalier cross in December 2018 from Raelene. At first we were slightly nervous about how Chewie, our Jack Russell Terrier, would react to a new family member as he was an 'only child' for the best part of four years but Lulu won his heart very quickly and they are now best friends!

We cannot be happier with our decision to adopt this gorgeous little girl and cannot imagine life without her. She is the most precious little thing and loves cuddles with her humans and brother Chewie. She also enjoys the occasional visit from our neighbour, Fox, who comes for play dates and sleep overs from time to time.



BILLIE FROM NATASHA

When we went to adopt four year old Billie, we were told that she was basically in the dog equivalent of witness protection because of the nature of her previous home. When we initially met her you could definitely sense her hesitation and caution around new people. She stuck to her foster mum and wasn't the most cuddly of dogs. Despite her hesitation we instantly fell in love with her. She quickly became the most spoiled dog in the ACT as every family member flocked to come meet her. Poor Billie didn't know what to do with herself! She'd never received so much love from so many people in such a short amount of time.

It didn't take long for Billie to get comfortable with the endless supply of cuddles, walks and top market doggie treats. She started off relatively distant, keeping to herself and snoozing alone, to being the stickiest Velcro dog in the world. You better believe that if you're going anywhere Billie is going with you (bathroom included). Our sweet girl has no sense of personal boundaries but we wouldn't have it any other way. She is now a chief cuddle consultant and enjoys her days lying in the sun, chasing the birds and getting spoiled rotten!

ROSIE FROM EMMA

Our family had recently lost both our dogs which were part of our family for over 11 years and the house had become quiet. We were on the lookout for another dog to become a part of our active family.

I had been looking on ARF for a few weeks when I spotted Rosie a wolfhound mix. I have always wanted a wolfhound and when we saw her lovely face we wanted to meet her. We had a meet and greet in February and she made herself right at home straight away sniffing in and outside of the house. We were thrilled to adopt her a few weeks later!

Rosie has us in stitches most of the time with her crazy antics, playing with her favourite toys, which is usually anything she can throw in the air and chew. She sleeps outside our bedroom on a large bed with a great big doona and you can often find her napping there throughout the day. Rosie has already taken a few beach trips with us and loves the sand, surf and meeting other dogs. We couldn't think about life without her.



EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND DONATIONS



RSPCA MILLION PAWS WALK

19 MAY 2019

A huge thank you to the ARF Stalls Team at Million Paws Walk! To Denise, Giselle, Sue and David who did a great job and brought their doggos as well, and to everyone who donated and/or bought something from our stall. We made a total of **\$506.25** in sales and donations.

SAVOUR LIFE CAMPAIGN

Little Squeak was at Petbarn Tuggeranong in February as ARF's SavourLife Canberra Ambassador where donations went to help with his heart surgery, and ARF received **\$7,500** towards Squeak! Thank you to SavourLife for choosing ARF and to Petbarn for their cooperation.



GRILL'D WODEN

Grill'd Local Matters Buy a Burger and Donate event was held during the month of April. Anyone who bought a burger from Grill'd Woden was given a token to place in a jar and ARF came first with the most tokens!

A huge thank you to Grill'd Woden for choosing us, and a huge thank you to all their customers who donated a total of **\$300** to ARF.

IMAGE: From Grill'd

WALT & BURLEY

Walt & Burley on the Kingston Foreshore ran a three month campaign supporting ARF. For each Wednesday Happy Hour over three months from March, customers donated an amount to ARF to pay for their beers. It may seem a little complicated... but, we received a total of **\$650!** Thank you Walt & Burley!



NEWS FLASH

Dog-friendly Walt & Burley is also the venue for the launch of our 2020 ARF Calendar in September. More details to come on our FB page, so check us out!



THE PETBARN FOUNDATION TREE OF HOPE APPEAL

Recognises that the work of ARF in the local area has been vital to improving the lives of animals and pets. The local Petbarn stores across Canberra nominated ARF to be the beneficiary of 20 per cent of their fundraising effort over the Christmas period, and an amount of **\$8,782** was donated!! WOW!! Thank you Petbarn!

The Tree of Hope Appeal is an annual fundraising event dedicated to providing support for pet related charities across Australia.

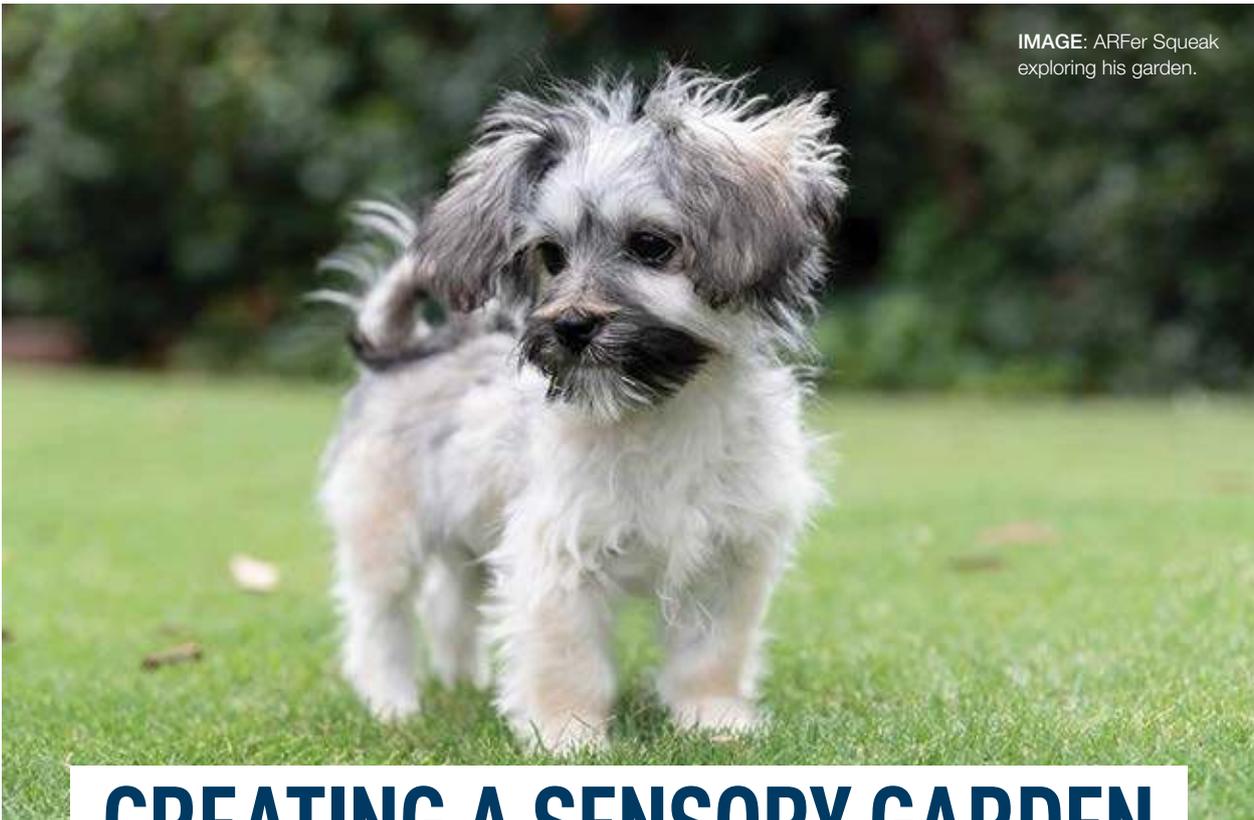
COMMONWEALTH BANK ANU

A BIG thank you to the Australian National University branch of the Commonwealth Bank, which has donated **\$500** to ARF from its Community Program Funds.

Wendy, Tess, Stella the pooch, picked up the cheque from Fahad and his lovely staff, who fell in love with our Stella.



IMAGE: ARFer Squeak exploring his garden.



CREATING A SENSORY GARDEN

for your Dog

By Fiona De Rosa for Australian Dog Lover and reprinted with permission of the author.

We always seem to focus on what's dangerous for dogs in our gardens but what if we decided to use these spaces to enrich their lives instead?

Fiona De Rosa, an Adelaide-based urban planner who combined her unique skills and experience in urban planning and dog behaviour to plan and design spaces for dogs and their owners.

“Let me tell you my story of creating a sensory garden for my dog, Eb. I lived with Eb, a Kelpie cross, on a small suburban block in Adelaide for 15 years. Instead of buying her lots of toys for entertainment, I wanted to create a garden to enrich her everyday experiences. I wanted a garden where she could sniff, explore and linger during the day and night, and I looked to nature for inspiration.

“The garden was her sanctuary. A place where she could smell,

“
I WANTED A GARDEN
WHERE SHE COULD
SNIFF, EXPLORE AND
LINGER DURING THE
DAY AND NIGHT, AND I
LOOKED TO NATURE FOR
INSPIRATION.
”

explore and heal. I wasn't much of a gardener but having a dog made me see the garden differently - through a pet lens. I continued to develop different spaces within my garden for her to experience, from lush grasses to cool spots under ferns. Eb is no longer with me, but she lives on in the garden.”

WHAT IS A SENSORY GARDEN?

A sensory garden is designed to stimulate or heighten the user's senses through the garden and should include smell, sight, sound, taste, and touch. There are many types of sensory gardens for children to learn, or in aged care for people with dementia.

CREATING A SENSORY GARDEN FOR DOGS

You don't need a big backyard or a big budget but you do need to design the garden with your pet in mind. Start small and let it evolve. Sensory gardens and trails for dogs can be created in a range of public and private settings such as back and front yards, apartment balconies, quiet streetscapes, fenced dog parks, and rescue shelters.



.....
IMAGE: Ex-ARFer Baxter enjoying the flowers.

HOW DO YOU START?

Observation

Start by observing how your dog uses the backyard. I wanted to see where she would go to capture the sun, the shade and the places she liked to explore. She had a morning ritual where she traversed her nest, and then headed to the back of the garden to explore the plants and smells that may have come in during the night. She was a digger and liked to hide in the garden, sit on top of tussocky plants, and make nests in the garden. The nesting areas were where she would go to hide, be alone and heal. In the last two weeks of her life, she spent most of her time in her favourite nest.

These insights helped me create a garden with her behaviours in mind. I wanted to give her special spaces to explore, sensory trails through plants and natural places to linger.

Plants, Features and Ephemeral objects

Experiment with different plants and herbs including thyme, catnip, chamomile, wheat grass, marigolds, violets and rosemary. Wheatgrass was Eb's favourite: she would sniff the plant, stick her nose in the middle, and graze on the grass which became part of her morning ritual. One of Eb's favourite spots for sniffing, digging and exploring was the bamboo forest. She liked the bamboo leaves resting on her face.

Collect objects for the garden such as seaweed, feathers, and pine cones and change the elements over time so your dog can interact with different things.

Some simple tips and ideas for your garden

If you want to create an enriching and sensory garden for your dog, here are some simple tips and ideas to get you started.

Design with your pet in mind—observe, provide opportunities to run around such as paths and trails, and different surfaces such as sand, mulch and a variety of textures.

Think about your setting—no matter where you live there are opportunities to create sensory spaces, and if you don't have a backyard use tubs to house a variety of plants and herbs, and use different ground textures.

Use a combination of plants including scented plants and herbs, and space them so they're not overpowering in one area of the garden, and if you have a no-go area consider using raised beds or hedges to direct the dog away, and place delicate plants in pots or recycled tyres for protection. It goes without saying that you should avoid plants that are poisonous or toxic to dogs. You can seek advice from your vet, or local nursery, to select suitable plants and herbs.

Remember, you don't need a big backyard or a big budget. But you do need to design the garden with your pet in mind. Give your dog choices and let them smell, explore and linger. Start small and let it evolve. My sensory garden still develops although Eb died on 22 October 2018. In memory of her, I still maintain her favourite nest and tracks in the garden. My journey continues in the design of sensory gardens for dogs. Why not start planning yours today?

This article was written by Fiona De Rosa, December 2018 for Australian Dog Lover and reprinted with permission of the author.

About the author

Fiona De Rosa is an Adelaide based urban planner and dog trainer. She has her own business - Balancing Act Adelaide. Fiona blends her unique skills in urban planning and dog behaviour to plan and design spaces for dogs and their owners. She has an Urban Planning Degree (Hons) from the University of NSW, a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Adelaide, and a Diploma in Canine Behaviour and Science Technology from the Companion Animal Sciences Institute.

RECENTLY ADOPTED

Compiled by Joh Dunn



DANTE

Gorgeous Hyena mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 21 December 2018
Adopted: 15 January 2019

ARF has a variety of dogs currently in care from young pups to oldies. If you are interested in adopting an ARF dog please go to fosterdogs.org/available-dogs-gallery and contact the carer directly. If you would like to become a foster carer for ARF please contact carer.recruitment@fosterdogs.org. We also work closely with other rescue groups and pounds in the Canberra region and NSW, so if you're after a particular breed/size or age of dog please complete a Dog Wanted form from our website and we may be able to assist you in your search.



STITCH

Border Collie cattle dog mix | 11 weeks
Rescued: 27 March 2019
Adopted: 20 April 2019



RIPLEY

Kelpie mix | 12 weeks
Rescued: 14 December 2018
Adopted: 12 January 2019



BAXTER

Goulburn special mix | 11-12 weeks
Rescued: 28 September 2018
Adopted: 30 January 2019



BRODY

Kelpie Staghound mix | 11 weeks
Rescued: 29 January 2019
Adopted: 20 February 2019



SUMMER

Frumpy Bullcat Chubbawubba | 11 weeks
Rescued: 14 January 2019
Adopted: 27 February 2019



ROVER

Frumpy Bullcat Chubbawubba
Rescued: 14 January 2019
Adopted: 19 February 2019



ANGEL

Frumpy Bullcat Chubbawubba
Rescued: 14 January 2019
Adopted: 13 March 2019



VIOLET

Frumpy Bullcat Chubbawubba
Rescued: 14 January 2019
Adopted: 8 February 2019



PAULINE

Frumpy Bullcat Chubbawubba
Rescued: 14 January 2019
Adopted: 8 February 2019



LILO

Staffy mix something lankier | 12 weeks
Rescued: 27 March 2019
Adopted: 20 April 2019



KEIRA

Labrador mix | 16 weeks
Rescued: 16 October 2018
Adopted: 16 November 2018



HAMILTON (NOW BAXTER)

Yass special mix | 18 weeks
Rescued: 8 February 2019
Adopted: 8 March 2019



POPPY

Labrador mix | 20 weeks
Rescued: 3 November 2018
Adopted: 14 December 2018



RIPPLE

Kelpie | 4-5 months
Rescued: 29 November 2018
Adopted: 19 December 2018



CINO

Queanbeyan special blend | 5 months
Rescued: 15 December 2018
Adopted: 14 January 2019



LUA

Scruffster | 6 months
Rescued: 13 October 2018
Adopted: 19 December 2018



OKA

Canberra premium blend | 10 months
Rescued: 26 November 2018
Adopted: 16 December 2018



BOWIE

Maltese Shih Tzu mix | 10 months
Rescued: 27 July 2018
Adopted: 17 February 2019



CADO

Kelpie German Shepherd mix
8 months
Rescued: 7 January 2019
Adopted: 17 February 2019



KIRA

Magnificent spotted pupperoni
Catahoula mix | 8 months
Rescued: 9 January 2019
Adopted: 10 April 2019



FELIX

Mixture | 1 year
Rescued: 24 November 2018
Adopted: 12 March 2019



NANO

crossbreed, probably Teddy Bear mix
1 year
Rescued: 22 December 2018
Adopted: 13 January 2019



HENDRIX

Staffy mix | 18 months
Rescued: 24 April 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2019



CHARLIE

Kelpie x | 18 months
Rescued: 27 May 2017
Adopted: 11 December 2018



HEIDI

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x
1-2 years
Rescued: 15 December 2018
Adopted: 29 December 2018



BAILEY

Staffy mix | 18 months
Rescued: 18 January 2019
Adopted: 3 February 2019



KODA

Staffy mix | 2 years
Rescued: 2 February 2019
Adopted: 23 February 2019



LOLLY

Australian cattle dog mix | 2 years
Rescued: 4 May 2018
Adopted: 18 November 2018



ROSIE

Wonder Wolfie mix | 2 years
Rescued: 7 January 2019
Adopted: 16 February 2019



ZIP

Kelpie mix | 2-3 years
Rescued: 4 November 2018
Adopted: 24 November 2018



LOUI

Cavoodle | 2.5 years
Rescued: 11 December 2018
Adopted: 4 February 2019



SANSA

German Shepherd Malamute mix
3-4 years
Rescued: 11 July 2018
Adopted: 18 November 2018



AUSSIE

Chihuahua | 3 years
Rescued: 16 January 2019
Adopted: 3 March 2019



REGGIE (NOW LOUIE)

Terrier/Chihuahua mix | 3-4 years
Rescued: 27 February 2019
Adopted: 16 March 2019



BILLIE

Bull Arab mix | 3 years
Rescued: 23 February 2019
Adopted: 30 March 2019



HARPER

Boston Terrier x Frenchie | 3-4 years
Rescued: 16 June 2018
Adopted: 1 November 2018



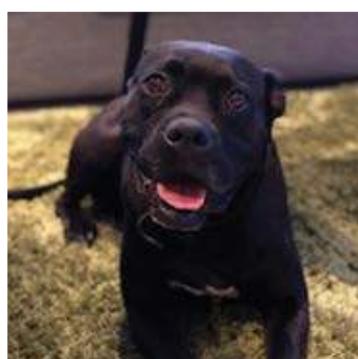
HENRY

Staffy x | 3 years
Rescued: 27 December 2018
Adopted: 15 February 2019



BEAN

Australian cattle dog mix | 3-4 years
Rescued: 11 July 2017
Adopted: 30 March 2019



SASHA

Boxer mix | 5 years
Rescued: 5 May 2018
Adopted: 17 March 2019



RICO

Staffy Corgi X | 5-6 years
Rescued: 4 January 2019
Adopted: 3 February 2019



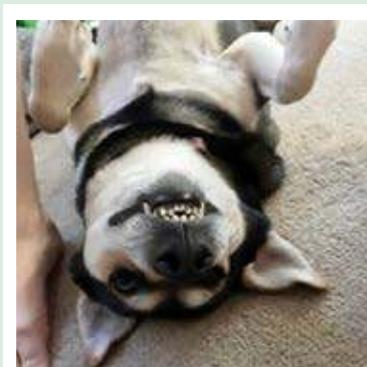
KIKI

French Bulldog | 4-5 years
Rescued: 16 June 2018
Adopted: ??



FEY

Kelpie Border Collie mix | 4-5 years
Rescued: 7 February 2019
Adopted: 31 March 2019



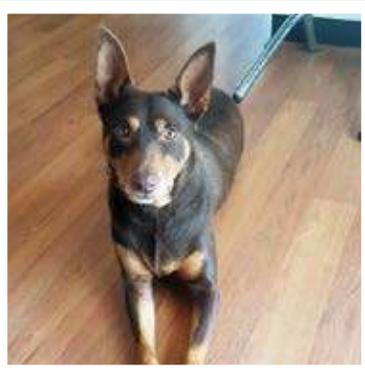
DENZEL

Labrador Kelpie mix | 5 years
Rescued: 15 December 2018
Adopted: 8 February 2019



CHARLIE

Jack Russell X
Rescued: 19 October 2018
Adopted: 15 November 2018



SEVEN

Kelpie | 5 years
Rescued: 29 November 2018
Adopted: 13 January 2019



TOBY

Dachshund mix of awesome | 6 years
Rescued: 27 March 2019
Adopted: 20 April 2019



COBBER

Kelpie | 7-8 years
Rescued: 21 January 2019
Adopted: 29 January 2019



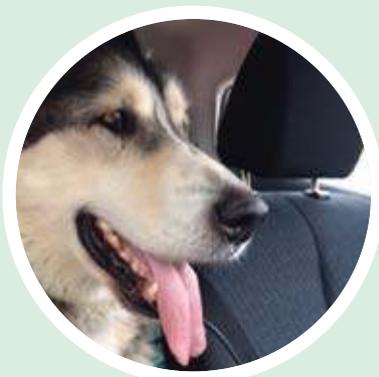
LUCKY

Staffy mix | 7 years
Rescued: 28 January 2018
Adopted: 28 January 2019



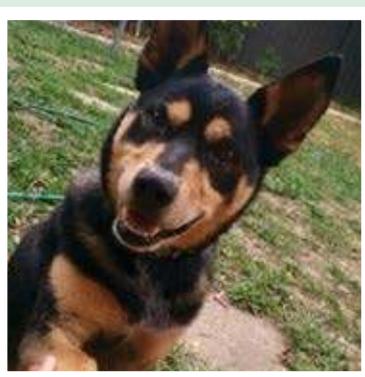
SOOTY

Poodle mix | 7-8 years
Rescued: 4 October 2018
Adopted: 25 January 2019



UKI

Mostly Malamute | 8-10 years
Rescued: 6 September 2018
Adopted: 30 November 2018



ALFIE

Kelpie | 10.5 years
Rescued: 27 March 2019
Adopted: 17 April 20



TOBY

Cocker Spaniel/Border Collie x | 11 years
Rescued: 26 February 2019
Adopted: 8 April 2019

DOG ATTACKS—LEGISLATION ALONE WON'T FIX THIS PROBLEM



A letter from ARF to the Canberra Times on new ACT dog laws. Written by ARF President Wendy Parsons and Committee Member Di Johnstone.

Government legislation on dog attacks will have little effect unless it is underpinned by systematic, long term, well-resourced and targeted community education in responsible dog ownership, particularly in ACT schools. Recent reports of increasing dog attacks have put the spotlight on the importance of responsible dog ownership by all Canberra dog owners.

A small number of owners are irresponsible and it's important to have severe financial and other penalties to both penalise and deter irresponsible owners. Enforcement is required too, and more rangers to undertake this, but it is unrealistic to expect Domestic Animal Services (DAS) rangers - even with the small compliance team announced this week - to be stationed at all times in every park or on every street corner in the ACT or in every backyard where an attack may occur.

Canberra is a dog owning community. Many thousands of us own dogs and they are our daily and beloved companions. Dogs enrich the lives of their owners, of families and children and the elderly, and especially those living alone for whom this companionship is an important human welfare issue. Dogs provide therapy in nursing homes, work alongside us on farms and in businesses, protect our properties, provide support to people with trauma, mental health issues and a range of disabilities. They can save the lives of epilepsy sufferers, serve with our armed forces overseas, help police to prevent crime, help customs officers prevent environmental and agricultural

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... EVERY CANBERRA DOG OWNER CAN PLAY A ROLE IN HELPING TO PREVENT POTENTIAL ATTACKS BY BEING A RESPONSIBLE OWNER
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disasters at the border, help scientists with conservation research and so much more.

The majority of Canberra's dog owners are responsible and caring. They look after their dogs and are careful around others. And the majority of Canberra dogs are family friendly dogs and well behaved. However every Canberra dog owner can also play a role in helping to prevent potential attacks by being a responsible owner. And the ways are simple and obvious. All dogs need to be desexed (unless the owner has a permit), registered and micro-chipped. Every dog owner needs to ensure they have suitable fencing and gates or, if the dog is not in a yard, a way to securely contain their dog. Every dog owner needs to exercise a dog responsibly and train the dog so that it responds to commands, especially the one to come back! Every dog owner should obey the legal requirement to walk a dog on the lead in on-lead areas, including in Canberra's many suburban streets.

Every dog owner should have a suitable collar and lead or harness for the size, weight and strength of the dog and not use 'extenda leads' which make dogs harder to

control and call back. Every dog owner needs to be careful with their dogs around other dogs and show respect for the dogs and their owners - for example by not allowing their dog to bowl up to an unknown dog on a lead while blithely saying 'mine's friendly' - the other dog may not be; by not letting a dog in off-lead areas uncontrollably approach another dog (who may react to a perceived threat), people or wildlife; by not letting a dog 'go for a run' in an on-lead area (it's not legal and its potentially dangerous for the dog, other dogs, traffic and people); and when walking a dog not getting engaged on a mobile phone and failing to watch what is happening on the other end of the lead or in the environment (a recipe for disaster); and of course the very basic requirement - picking up after your dog because it's an offence not to do so.

Most of all, every dog owner should make a point of reminding other dog owners who are causing a potential risk to other dogs, people or wildlife to do the right thing, and if the issue is serious, report the owner and the dog to DAS. What is important, too, and will be long lasting, is more accessible and affordable dog training especially for young and new owners and their dogs.

Let's make responsible dog ownership happen with more realistic governmental resources allocated for community-wide dog ownership education programs, including in ACT schools from primary level. This should be in close collaboration with relevant community organisations and the overwhelming majority of responsible dog owners.



RAINBOW BRIDGE

IN MEMORY OF WILLOW

Willow (formerly Harlow) came to live with me on 4 August 2017. Willow's background is that she was used for puppy breeding. By her condition she had several litters. We all know this is no life for any animal. Willow decided she wanted to come here and I am so glad that she did. She is the love of my life. There is nothing that I wouldn't do for this girl. She is just a beautifully natured girl.

When Willow came to live with me she was underweight, her fur was coarse and dull. Willow also had a skin condition and drove us both mad by her scratching. None of this was the result of her care with ARF. In fact it took two different vets to work out what was wrong. Willow had underlying skin bacteria infection that was never picked up. The first vet thought it was just her fur growing back as a result of her being deseeded. The second vet, and I might add where I have taken all my other beloved furry friends to, did more through investigations to find the cause. Several more trips on a weekly and fortnightly basis, plus



antibiotics she recovered from this. We have never fully found the cause of this, so we just manage it for her, and with a really good diet and lots of Omega 3 oils her coat has improved to a beautiful shine and colour.

Willow also had an aversion to drains and holes of any kind, but with time she has overcome this and most times walks on past them. This is the result of the bond and trust between both of us. Willow knows that she is safe and no harm will come to her. She still has dreams of the past in her sleep. She comes out of these usually by my talking to her and calling her name. Sometimes I give her a pat or touch her paw. She knows it's me.

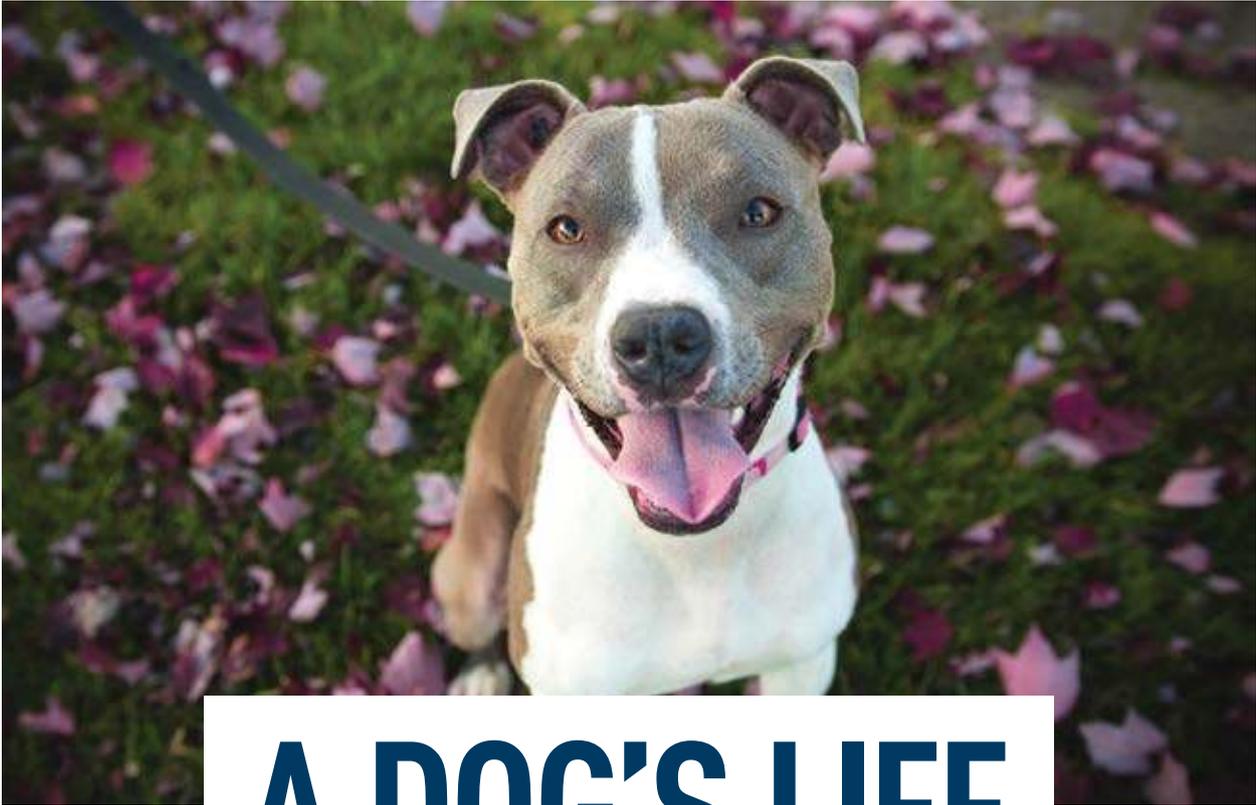
Willow gives me kisses and beautiful nose nudges. Even on the occasions when we have been to the dog park or out somewhere she checks to

see where I am and brushes against me. This is the most beautiful thing in the world. Why, because this is the stuff you cannot teach them. It is something they do all on their own. It's that bond and trust between human and friend.

Willow very much has her own personality. She loves her toys, and will woof at you when she wants to play, but she isn't giving her toy up for anything. She greets anyone who comes to visit with a toy, and always has to have a toy on the ready just in case. Her attention span of playing is still very short. I've tried different methods of trying to engage her in different types of play. She loves other dogs. Willow doesn't do anything much in a hurry, it's her nature. When walking if she sees another dog she will pick the pace up and want to follow and walk with them. I try to accommodate this for her. Walks are about her.

Willow brings a smile to anyone that meets her, just by her laid back nature. We still have a way to go. Me, I'm the luckiest person to have such a beautiful girl come into my life.

Footnote: Sadly the beautiful Willow passed away suddenly on 24 April from cancer. She crossed the bridge with mummy, her favourite toy—her chicken—and some roses, as she always liked to smell the flowers... literally.



A DOG'S LIFE

what should it be?

This article is taken from a presentation by ARF President, Wendy Parsons, to the Rotary Club of Canberra on 11 July 2019.

ACT Rescue & Foster began way back in 2001, with just two people, at a public event, with a card table and posters of dogs in the pound who urgently needed homes and a better life. Since then, our organisation has rescued, fostered and rehomed over 3,000 dogs and helped rehome many more.

ARF exists to raise the number of people adopting rescue dogs and so reducing the number of dogs in pounds in Canberra and the surrounding region.

ARF exists to raise the number of people adopting rescue dogs and so reducing the number of dogs in pounds in Canberra and the surrounding region.

Here's how we're doing that.

Every week our behavioural assessment teams are working at both Canberra pound (Domestic Animal Services) and Queanbeyan pound, to assess and try to find ARF foster carers for dogs in urgent need of rehoming - in other words, these dogs are coming to the end of their time of allotted stay at the pound.

There are also teams regularly visiting Goulburn and Yass pounds for the same reasons.

We don't have a shelter—our shelters are the homes, families and animals of our foster carers, who are extraordinary individuals willing to take a foster dog as part of the family, learn about it, talk to potential adopters, find out who would suit the dog, and the dog the people and their life style. This is a complex task and calls for dedication. Ask any carer, though, what is the best thing about it and they will say the joy of seeing the dog who was once in need and is now happily going to a forever home, for a good life, much to the delight of the new family.



IMAGE: It's a dog's life for ex-ARFer Maddie, cuddly warm in her new forever home.



IMAGE: It's a dog's life for ARFer Squeak, snuggled on his bed with his foster bro Robbie.

And here's my plug—we need more foster carers! Currently we have around 35 active foster carers. However not all of them can be available to take new dogs at any one time, since the ARF agreement with new families is that if things aren't working out in the first three weeks, ARF will take the dog back, and that means the carer must have that spot available.

ARF has regular training and information sessions for its foster carers and a mentor system whereby experienced carers and pass on their knowledge to new carers. We also have a special Facebook page for carers where all sorts of very valuable information can be swapped and support given to those still learning the ropes.

The organisation has established a strong governance framework in support of the foster caring process, so that we can have a smooth process for rescuing and rehoming dogs and manage issues that are sometimes challenging and highly sensitive. Most importantly, ARF must keep up to date on legislation covering its activities, and its obligations for reporting to government.

Although we are not a lobby group and try to remain politically neutral, we try to contribute our expertise

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A DOG'S LIFE SHOULD BE WITH LOVING, CARING OWNERS, WHO PROVIDE FOOD, CLOTHING, FUN, EXERCISE, STIMULATION AND INTEREST.

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to the public debates. For example, there has been extensive coverage of dog issues in the ACT recently, most particularly dog attacks.

Di Johnstone and I put together an article on dog attacks and our view that legislation alone won't fix the problem. We said in that article that we believe it is a relatively small number of owners who are irresponsible and it's important to have severe financial and other penalties to both penalise and deter irresponsible owners.

We think that responsible dog ownership will happen with more realistic governmental resources allocated for community-wide dog ownership education programs, including in ACT schools from primary level. This should be in

close collaboration with relevant community organisations and the overwhelming majority of responsible dog owners.

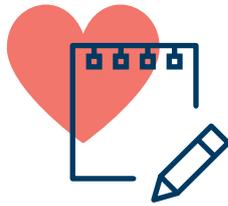
Our hope is that the Canberra community can set the standards for responsible pet ownership with education programs embedded in the Canberra school's curriculum and backed up with community-wide, government supported education programs.

So having said all that—what should a dog's life be?

A dog's life should be with loving, caring owners, who provide food, clothing, fun, exercise, stimulation, interest and most importantly, socialisation for the dog to be a happy member of the community. In return, as we know, the dog will give all its love and unqualified loyalty. In other words, exactly the same things we look for in humans.

Sadly, many of those humans have lost the ability to relate to one another and to animals, and that's where the trouble starts on the road to the street and the pound for millions of animals world-wide. But, I think it is within our power to change that at community level, to give both dogs and humans a good life in one another's company.

What do you think?



ARF VACANCY!

After eight years at the helm of ChinWag, our current editor is stepping down at the end of this year. If you have a love of all things dog, have a bit of time on your hands, and enjoy researching and sourcing articles of interest, we would love to hear from you! And, we have a great team at the ready to help you out including Asst. Editor, Editorial Assistant, and Graphic Designer.

From 2019 ChinWag is published in glossy and digital twice a year—June and December.

For more info email chinwag@fosterdogs.org
or contact our President at president@fosterdogs.org

ARF BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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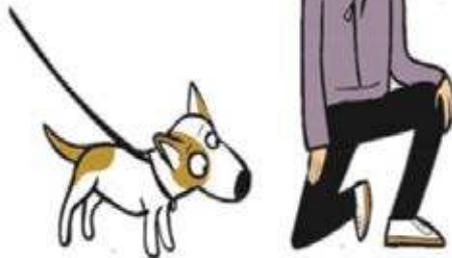
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HOW TO MEET A DOG

Do

- ✓ Kneel and turn to side
- ✓ Keep your face up and away from dog's face



- ✓ Walk up slowly and speak softly
- ✓ Allow dog to approach you
- ✓ Pet gently for a few seconds then stop
- ✓ Always ask before petting

Don't

- × Reach towards or over head
- × Make direct eye contact
- × Make quick movements or loud noises
- × Hug a dog you just met
- × Pet a dog while holding a baby



A dog is afraid if you see:

- Wide, worried eyes
- Leaning or looking away
- Ears back, tail low or tucked

Courtesy of Pets and People in Harmony, Columbus Dog Connection, and CattleDog Publishing



#PREVENTDOGBITES



ACT RESCUE & FOSTER



HI, I'M PIMMS!

I'm Pimms, a Cattle Dog mix. I was rescued, together with my sister, by ARF in April. I'm not yet on the ARF site because I'm a little scared at the moment and I need a bit more training, but I'm getting better every day. Hopefully I'll be able to go to my forever home soon. However, if you're looking for one of my lovely foster friends to take into your home, check out our Available Dogs section on the website—thank you! www.fosterdogs.org



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