

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

SUMMER 2018



FOSTER CARER
SUPERSTARS

COOL PLACES
TO COOL OFF

FINDING BEAN
RECENTLY
ADOPTED
WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?



THANK YOU!

ACT Rescue and Foster would like to thank all our volunteers and members, vets and vet nurses, individual and business sponsors and supporters, and all those who have assisted and supported us throughout the year. This year we re-homed dog number 3,000—thanks to YOU!

We wish you all a wonderful, safe and peaceful 2019.

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.

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COVER: CHARLIE

Our cover boy for this issue is **Charlie**. Charlie has been with ARF for a while now, learning how to 'dog', and he loves chase and herding. You can find out more about Charlie, and his ARF mates, on our website

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Summer edition of *ChinWag*! With Christmas fast approaching we can look back on yet another good year for ARF, full of delight when our lovely dogs find their forever homes and challenges overcome with the strong teamwork and dedication of carers and their ARF support teams.



We're forever grateful to have such a committed team of rescuers on board.

Once again there's a great line up of interesting dog stories and information for you to browse as you relax in holiday mood.

Watch out for Finding Bean, a truly inspiring story of a dog and a foster carer who never gave up; Foster Carer Superstars, the first in a series about amazing ARF foster carers; and with a hot summer ahead we look at Cool Places to Cool Off featuring summer water holes for dogs.

As always, a huge thank you to all our supporters who keep the donations rolling in throughout the year, and our ARF vets who give their best for all ARF foster dogs.

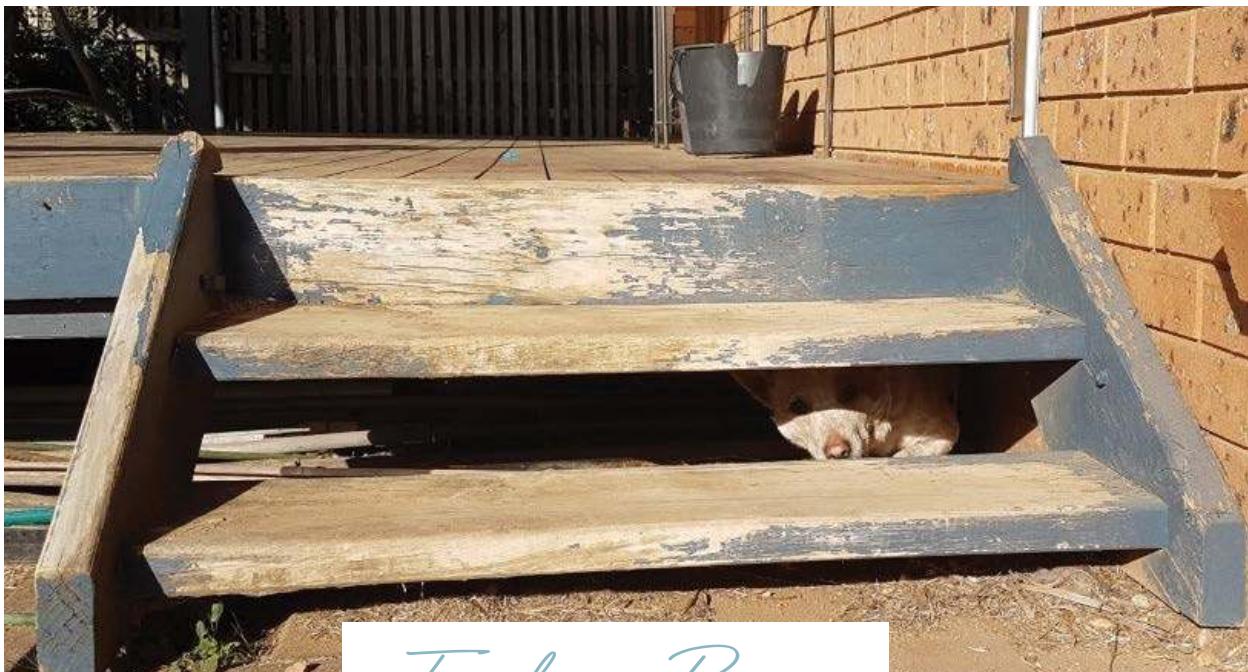
A safe and very happy festive season to everyone.

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***



Finding Bean

ONE TINY ACT OF BRAVERY AT A TIME

By Mel Martin (ARF fostercarer)

She didn't dare to move, and she didn't dare to sleep. She sat upright, pushing herself into the farthest corner of her concrete pen at the pound, staring straight ahead, frozen in fear.

And that's how she stayed after I got her home, huddled in the back of her crate, hoping no one would notice her; petrified. Bean would flinch when I touched her, panic if I so much as looked in her direction, and huddle under the deck for hours, afraid to move.

The first time I changed her crate bedding, she paced in a loop for six minutes—too scared to go back into her favourite, safest place, because the blanket was blue this time. This went on for so long that, many times, I wondered whether Bean's life of constant terror was one worth living, and whether, by continuing to try, I was just being cruel.

Then tiny changes did start to happen.

I came home from work, and Bean joined the other dogs in their boisterous welcome, then realised what she'd done and ran off to one of her hiding spots. Though she remained wary, she stopped looking for an escape every time I walked past her. And, as I sat, drinking my morning coffee, she found the courage to leave her safe spot to join me in the lounge room.

These seem like such mundane things to do, but for Bean these tiny acts of bravery were huge victories that each nurtured her confidence a little more, enabling us to push forward another minuscule step.

Bean loves to learn, so we used training to build her confidence—some simple tricks at first that didn't require her to move from her safe

place, like touch, shake, high-five, and wave. Then some scarier ones like sit, drop, and spin. We walked at 5am and found secret bushwalks, so that we wouldn't run into anyone—her worst fear. And we spent so many hours cuddled up together, because she felt safe when smooshed up on my lap.

It was months before she started to trust me, and almost a year before she was comfortable going into every room in the house. But over time, she learned how good cuddles in bed can be, how to play with toys, and that car rides lead to excellent bush adventures. We still have so much work to do, to help Bean feel safe in the wider world, and trust the humans in it. And she will never be a *normal* dog.

But she has come so very far. And today, 1.5 years later, I am crying as I



write her adoption profile for the ARF website. Bean is ready to find a very special human, who will accept her for who she is, who will understand that her fears—however irrational—are very real to her, and who will continue to help her tackle them, one at a time.

And I can't even keep track of all the emotions I am dealing with. As foster carers, these are the impossible choices we make. Do we save this wreck of a dog and spend months rehabilitating her to a point where she might be rehomed, or not? Or do we leave her behind, and, in that same timeframe, save many more dogs who will find their forever family much faster?

There is no right answer, of course. It's a choice our hearts make on the day.

And on that day—when the pound ranger sent me that most heartbreakingly photo of a small cattle dog huddled under her desk, completely frozen—it wasn't a hard choice at all. Bean needed to discover the joy of a belly rub, of running at full speed in a game of chase, of swimming and climbing rocks, and of breathing in all the good sniffs during a bushwalk.

Bean deserved a chance to come out of her corner... and I'm so glad she did.

LEAVE THE PAST IN THE PAST

Most people would assume Bean was horrendously abused.

I would guess that's not the case—her utter helplessness was most likely the result of a complete lack of socialisation, possibly combined with some dodgy genetics.

Before coming into care, she probably spent her entire life in one cage/run/yard, and had never seen the outside world, never seen a bike or a car, and never interacted with friendly humans.

This would have stunted her brain development to a point where some of the circuits can never be fully repaired.

Positive socialisation in the first few weeks and months of a puppy's life is critical in developing the brain connections that dogs need to cope with what life throws at them. It is what makes them resilient, and able to work through life's challenges.

Like a young tree, the developing brain grows branches, and when those branches get no use, they get pruned.

It's so convenient when rescuing a dog with an unknown history to invent an abusive past, but this is rarely helpful. It makes it easy to excuse behaviours, and avoid addressing them.

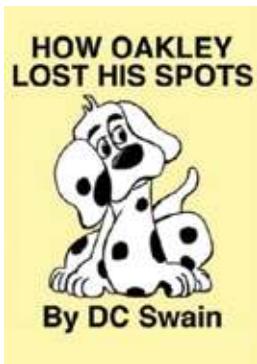
When we adopt a dog, let's leave the past in the past, and focus on the present—just like dogs do.

Let's accept our beautiful friends for who they are, but work with them to overcome whatever quirks they might have, and help them be the best dog they can be.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Aine Dowling

Being able to read opens up a whole new world for children, and fires the imagination as the characters are created in your head and you can give them their own personality and attitude, language, diction and articulation, and overall manner. Here are some great Christmas stocking stuffers for early readers.

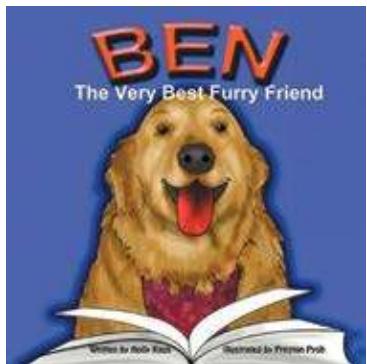


HOW OAKLEY LOST HIS SPOTS

DC Swain

How Oakley Lost His Spots tells the story of Oakley the Dalmatian who has no spots. Thinking he's lost them the little pup and his friend, Rover, go on a search to track them down and discover that dogs, as well as people, develop at different times. The book includes cute illustrations of Oakley and Rover, and is a lovely read-aloud or early reader book.

How Oakley Lost His Spots by DC Swain (Author) and Sakshi Mangal (Illustrator), Amazon Digital Services Inc, 2013. Available in paperback and Kindle.



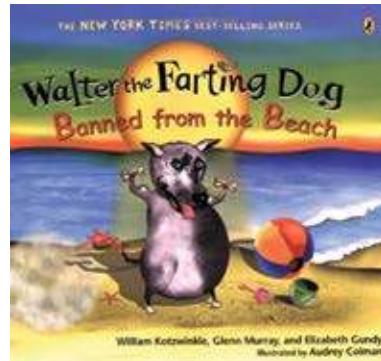
BEN—THE VERY BEST FURRY FRIEND

Holly Raus

This is a gentle and informative book about *Ben—The Very Best Furry Friend*; the places he visits and friends he makes. Children will love to visit the nursing home and school with Ben as he goes about his role as a therapy dog. He gives comfort and companionship to the elderly in the nursing home, and builds self-esteem in the school as he listens to the children read.

Bright and cheery illustrations accompany a simple text; ideal for the early reader, or any child experiencing difficulty with reading.

Holly Raus (Author) and Preston George Pysh (Illustrator), Pylon Publishing 2011.



WALTER THE FARTING DOG: BANNED FROM THE BEACH

William Kotzwinkle, Glenn Murray, and Audrey Colman

Those of us with sons know only too well the enormous attraction of fart jokes. *Walter the Farting Dog* series will provide endless gales of laughter for primary age children of that 'special' age...

Walter the Farting Dog: Banned from the Beach. Walter and his family are enjoying a day at the beach when Walter is banned... because, well, of farting... but when the tide comes in and his family is in peril—who will save the day?

Walter the Farting Dog series by William Kotzwinkle, Glenn Murray, and Audrey Colman, Frog Children's Books, and Amazon Digital Services Inc. Available in paperback and Kindle.

The *Walter* series is also available in Spanish, and impressively, Latin, with the wonderful title *Walter Canis Inflatus*, and just to make it more fun (for the kids that is) you can also get a *Walter the Farting Dog* toy to accompany the books.

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



CHARLI AND NEO FROM MARG

Charli (formerly Gretel) was adopted a few months ago from ARF. She's an absolute delight, a very bright little thing and oh so pretty! She spends her days playing with her adopted fur-bro, Neo, and catches up on beauty sleep all night long. She's learning to stay on the property and not wander beyond the boundary fence line, and her recall is coming along nicely at 9 months of age. Turning negatives into positives, she loves to re-arrange Neo's collar during plays, enthusiastically greets the horses with a lick on the nose (tolerated but not really enjoyed by the horses) and has an attack of the 'mads' every now and then, tearing around

“
**SHE'S AN ABSOLUTE
DELIGHT, A VERY BRIGHT
LITTLE THING AND OH
SO PRETTY! SHE SPENDS
HER DAYS PLAYING
WITH HER ADOPTED
FUR-BRO, NEO.**”

at top speed. We're lucky to have this little bundle of joy!"

Now Neo (formerly Swampy) was adopted a few years ago from ARF. He's a super-smart gentleman, a very chilled out dude and he adores his owner. He loves chasing the ball, so much so that he could do it all day long!! He spends his days playing with his adopted fur-sis, Charli, and is the most patient, tolerant and forgiving big brother a pup could have. In his spare time he keeps an eye on the horses, tells them off when they're naughty and generally rules his domain quietly, taking his job quite seriously. He's the best little mate, and I can't imagine life without him!

SAM FROM CARLENE

Sam is now almost 13 years old and a very happy dog. We will celebrate the day he was rescued with a special challenging play present purchased from Pups4Fun. Sam keeps in contact with Nerida and Ellen (his rescuers and fosters), and he has morning and evening walks in various venues, including the new Duffy Dog Park. He has many doggie friends, including Leonardo Maremma, and Rexy, a rescue cat from Queanbeyan pound.

He's loved so much, and is a very special dog. Thank you, Carlene.



Foster Carer **SUPERSTARS!**

ARF has recently rehomed dog number 3000 since its inception in 2001—that's 176 per year, or 3.39 dogs per week. A few of our foster carers play an outstanding role in not only the number of dogs they have fostered over the years, but also their mentoring and coaching within the organisation—they are a mine of information.



IMAGE: Paris Dancing with Dogs.

One such foster carer is Raelene Stewart who heads up the fostering numbers with over 280 dogs fostered. Not only that, she is the proud owner of TV star extraordinaire, Paris.

Raelene is the first in a series of our foster carer superstars, and here Raelene highlights some of her best and favourite moments.▶

WHY I FOSTER CARE

By Raelene Stewart

I joined ARF in 2001 after intermittently rescuing from Queanbeyan Pound and privately rehoming dogs in urgent need. One day they told us about a new rescue group in Canberra—so I joined—I have a strong love of dogs and wanted to help those in need, and the rest is history!

My first foster was Bundy, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier X from Queanbeyan Pound, and since then have fostered over 280 dogs over the years, plus numerous puppies born in care, and I do have a few dogs who were 'standout fosters' including Sophie, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who came from a puppy farm and was dumped in the bush. Poor Sophie was so traumatised but managed to find the most loving home with two local vets in Murrumbateman who could manage her needs and give her endless love. Fred the Whippet was attacked by two bigger dogs and left with severe injuries, but he recovered at an



IMAGES (L-R): Paris in car, Fred the Whippet and Paris in Mercedes.

amazing rate and found a wonderful home in Tuggeranong. Harley was a four month old crossbreed who had been badly abused and was absolutely terrified—he was shy, but recovered enough to find himself a loving home, and finally Frankie, a Kelpie who was only nine weeks old but could already heel, sit, spin, drop, and stay—he was a very quick learner!

We've also had several 'foster fails' along the way—mostly for health or behavioural issues where moving them into a new home was just not possible. They were all Staffy types and much loved. Sadly they have now crossed Rainbow Bridge.

I could not have done all this without the staunch support of my husband, Malcolm, who does a lot of the caring and puts up with all the destruction!

But that's not all, as well as fostering over 280 dogs, Raelene now has one very special puppy in her life, read on...

After many years of fostering, a special puppy came into our lives.

Paris, a little French Bulldog and our third Frenchie. Paris has a heart condition, which we discovered was quite severe and resulted in surgery (how lucky we can do that). With her new lease on life, she didn't waste a moment and soon breezed through the levels of obedience at dog school—loving being out and about and bringing home the ribbons.

One early winter evening, we went to training and Paris stood in the wet, frosty grass and looked at me like, 'you can but I'm not keen'—so we moved to Dancing with Dogs, an inside dog sport, and Paris thrived. She loves nothing better than her Wednesday training night where she can socialise with friends and get lots of praise and treats for tricks. Nowadays she loves showing off her tricks and has competed in eight competitions for an amazing eight wins! She really has broken the 'stubborn untrainable Frenchie' mould. In fact, she is pretty much perfect. She is great with people, perfect to work with kids frightened of dogs, great for settling our fosters, training reactive or fearful dogs, and she is also an accredited

Delta Therapy Dog and visits the aged care facilities on weekends brightening up residents lives. She also spent many days cuddled up with her human Dad when he was unwell—the perfect nurse.

A dog of so much talent, it didn't take long until she hit the big screen. Paris did an NRMA safer homes ad in 2016 and followed this up this year with a Toyota Hilux EOFYS ad (yes the girl in the red dress is really beautiful and perfect too) and currently is the Frenchie on the Foxtel 'What the 4K' ads. Paris is also helping out Jake at Luton Real Estate, appearing in his videos of local houses for sale and 'driving' her little Mercedes.

There is something special about this girl, who has cheered up many people's lives, is the love of our life, and has helped us increase our dog behaviour and training skills and has taught so many fosters to relax and learn about life to prepare them for their new homes. She is such a little achiever with eyes that melt your heart, and her catchcry is 'Everybody Loves Paris!'

RECENTLY ADOPTED

Compiled by Joh Dunn



FRECKLE

Cattle dog mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 18 July 2018

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.



TRUFFLE

Cattle dog mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 18 July 2018



OREO

Cattle Dog Mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 18 July 2018



VIOLET CRUMBLE

Cattle dog mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 18 July 2018



MALLOW

Cattle dog mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 18 July 2018



CANDY (NOW CAMIE)

Cattle dog premium blend | 8 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 25 July 2018



NOUGAT

Cattle dog mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 7 August 2018



FERRERO

Cattle dog mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 25 May 2018
Adopted: 7 August 2018



LULU

Goulburn special mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 28 September 2018
Adopted: 19 October 2018



DUSTIN

Kelpie mix | 12 weeks
Rescued: 15 May 2018
Adopted: 16 July 2018



RAYNER

Kelpie mix | 18 weeks
Rescued: 15 May 2018
Adopted: 11 August 2018



SHAKER

Kelpie | 5 months
Rescued: 13 February 2018
Adopted: 27 July 2018



RUSTY

Border Collie mix | 5 months
Rescued: 18 August 2018
Adopted: 2 September 2018



JAKOB (JAKE TO HIS FRIENDS)

German Shepherd Labrador mix | 6 months
Rescued: 7 August 2018
Adopted: 14 September 2018



LOUIE

Blue Eyed Ginger Freckled Cuddle Hound | 6 months
Rescued: 16 May 2018
Adopted: 25th August 2018



SWAY

Bull Arab mix | 6 months
Rescued: 16 May 2018
Adopted: 11 August 2018



MICA

Bull Arab mix | 7 months
Rescued: 16 May 2018
Adopted: 9 September 2018



CLARA

Staffy x | 10 months
Rescued: 23 May 2018
Adopted: 1 September 2018



FERDINAND

Boof-nosed Block-bull snuggle hound!
12 – 18 months
Rescued: 19 May 2018
Adopted: 21 July 2018



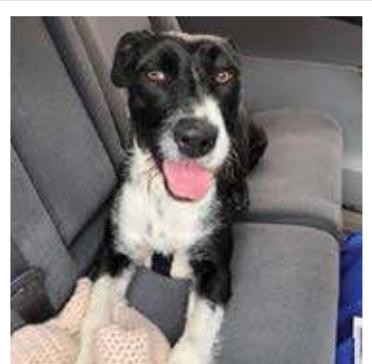
CHAZ

Jack Russell X | 18 months
Rescued: 12 September 2018
Adopted: 1 October 2018



MISS PENNY

Canberra special blend | 18 months
Rescued: 15 September 2018
Adopted: 13 October 2018



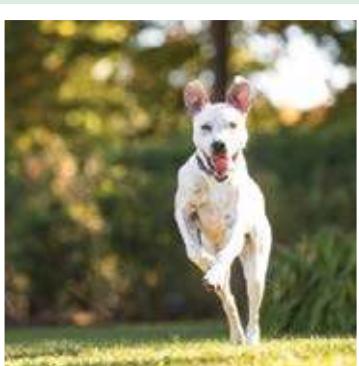
KARLI

Wolfhound mix | 2 years
Rescued: 25 August 2018
Adopted: 30 September 2018



GECKO

Kelpie | 2 – 3 years
Rescued: 9 October 2018
Adopted: 28 October 2018



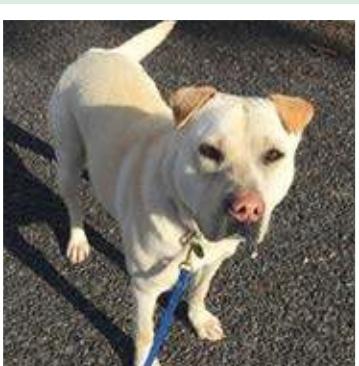
CHUCKLES

Queanbeyan Quirky | 3 years
Rescued: 9 January 2017
Adopted: 10 October 2018



ORLEY (NOW QUINCY)

Yass Scruffer | 3 years
Rescued: 27 September 2018
Adopted: 30 October 2018



MICK

Labrador Shar Pei blend | 3 years
Rescued: 31 August 2018
Adopted: 26 October 2018



WILBUR (NOW JAKE)

Shih Tzu | 3 years
Rescued: 14 August 2018
Adopted: 7 September 2018



LOLA

French Bulldog | 3 – 4 years
Rescued: 16 June 2018
Adopted: 28 September 2018



ZARA

French Bulldog mix | 3 – 4 years
Rescued: 16 June 2018
Adopted: 20 October 2018



TURTLE

Frinklefrown Beefer Tankhound
3 – 4 years
Rescued: 18 July 2018
Adopted: 11 August 2018



CROUTON

Babyseal-eyed Polarbear Dustdemon
5 years
Rescued: 15 September 2018
Adopted: 10 October 2018



DOTTIE

Border Collie mix | 11 years
Rescued: 21 September 2018
Adopted: 21 October 2018



NALA

Nubby-tailed smoochy snugglemuffin
9 years
Rescued: 11 August 2018
Adopted: 14 September 2018



MERLIN

Shih Tzu mix | 10 – 12 years
Rescued: 30 June 2018
Adopted: 15 August 2018



DOLLY

Maltese Shih Tzu mix | 13 years
Rescued: 28 September 2018
Adopted: 19 October 2018

COOL PLACES TO COOL OFF

By Aine Dowling

In the heat of the summer it's nice to be able to cool off—and take your dog to cool off too. There are numerous rivers and swimming holes in the Canberra area, that are dog friendly, where you can take your dog for a swim or quick dip when the thermometer reaches those high 30s. Remember to check out water quality if you choose to take them to one of Canberra's lakes.



CANBERRA

Lakes: Dogs are permitted to swim in most of Canberra's lakes provided they are not within 10 metres of a sign-posted public swimming area. Sometimes the lakes can be closed due to algae in the water. This is usually advertised in the media so watch out for notices before you encourage your dog to take a dip.

Rivers: On the Murrumbidgee River dogs are allowed to swim at Uriarra Crossing East; Uriarra Crossing West; Swamp Creek, and the western riverbank of Point Hut Crossing recreational area. Please note that on the eastern riverbank of Point Hut Crossing dogs must remain on a lead. The mighty Murrumbidgee can flow fast at other times of the year so keep your dog close.

SOUTH COAST BEACHES

The swimming holes can often be crowded during the summer with families and plenty of children, so make sure your dog is well socialised and not intimidated by crowds and lots of noise. It's also a good idea to take their mat or blanket for a bit of downtime after the swim.

For information on the location of public swimming areas in Canberra contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.



IMAGE ABOVE: Booker and Mocha at the beach.

IMAGE RIGHT: Lexi cooling down with the garden hose.



Areas where dogs are prohibited by legislation include:

- All national parks and nature reserves, including Broulee Island, Congo, Bingi, South Head and Mystery Bay
- Wildlife Protection Areas (NPWS)
- All council swimming pools, public halls, offices, play equipment and their environs
- Food preparation areas

Dogs are also prohibited from certain beaches adjacent to reserves. Call the Rangers at the Council for more information, or download a copy of Dogs on *Holiday in Eurobodalla* at www.eurobodalla.com.au/docs/dogs-on-holidays-061010.pdf

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

It's that time of year again! We've had some great events in the Canberra region lately, and ARF has been there to show off some of our ARFers and ex-ARFers.



ARF TRIVIA NIGHT

8 SEPTEMBER 2018

A great fun night on 8 September which raised over \$9,000 for the doggos! Our thanks to emcee Larry Appley, Canberra Labor Club Belconnen, and the trivia team with Sarah, Emma, Harold, Aine, and Lisa.

IMAGE: Packed house at ARF Trivia.

LIFE ON A LEASH (RENTING WITH PETS)

Life on a Leash (Renting with Pets) is a great initiative by the ACT Tenants Association enabling people with pets to gain access to long-term rental properties by working with local real estate agents and home owners. This was an informative and fun day at Rose Cottage with heaps of renters (and potential renters) turning up with their pooches, and some fun prizes were handed out!

IMAGE: Ex-ARFer Augie wins a Life on a Leash award at Renting with Pets.



VICAR OF DIBLEY CHRISTMAS

26 OCTOBER TO 4 NOVEMBER 2018

Vicar of Dibley Christmas presented by Tempo Theatre at the Belconnen Theatre Centre, ran from 26 October to 4 November with a charity night on Thursday 25 October where all proceeds from ticket sales were donated to ARF. As well as enjoying the hilarious show, we raised \$1,400 for ARF and would like to give a huge thank you to Tempo Theatre cast and crew, with a special thanks to ARF member Kirsten for coordinating the night.

IMAGE: Karyn Tisdell who played Reverend Geraldine Granger, with ARF President Wendy Parsons.



ARF 2019 CALENDAR LAUNCH

23 SEPTEMBER 2018

ARF 2019 Calendar Launch was held at Beef & Barley on the Kingston Foreshore on Sunday 23 September. Thanks to all our sponsors Beef & Barley, GoBoat Canberra, Curtin Veterinary Hospital, Weston Woden Animal Hospital, Pups4Fun, and Canberra's Friendliest Pet Sitter. Also to all our wonderful volunteers including photographers, designers, and calendar team of Sarah, Jo, Aine, and Dallas, and another thanks to Larry Appley who launched the calendar.

IMAGE LEFT: Larry with Colorado (one of 10 puppies born in ARF care earlier this year) and his new owner Ellen.

IMAGE TOP: Calendar group at Beef & Barley.

3000th DOG REHOME



IMAGE: Jake and Nala with their new owners. Photo courtesy The Canberra Times.

On Saturday 1 December ARF celebrated its 3000th dog rehome! Jake, an eight month old German Shepherd cross, and Nala, a nine year old Kelpie, were rehomed on the same day and so shared the honours at our celebration at Oaks Estate Brasserie. From humble beginnings in 2001, with a small stall at a local Canberra fete, we have grown to a professional organisation with over 40 foster

carers, and close association with local pounds including Canberra, Queanbeyan, Yass, and Goulburn, and other rescue groups. All dogs are assessed to determine their rehome suitability, and are then cared for in the carer's own home until their forever home is found. If you would like more information on our foster care program, or one of the many other ways you can help ARF, check out our website at fosterdogs.org

“
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 2001, WITH A SMALL STALL AT A LOCAL CANBERRA FETE, WE HAVE GROWN TO A PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION WITH OVER 40 FOSTER CARERS.
”

KEEP YOUR COOL!

FROZEN DOG TREATS

Frozen fruits and veggies make a yummy cool treat for your dog on a hot day. Fruit and veggies such as bananas, strawberries, watermelon, large chunks of cooked pumpkin, carrot and sweet potato sticks, and green beans.



BASIC BROTH

Simply boil a chicken carcass until the chicken falls off the bones. Allow to cool—make sure you remove ALL the bones—and pour into ice-cube trays or silicone cupcake liners. You can also add chopped veggies to the broth but make sure you cook any squash such as pumpkin, marrow, courgettes etc, first.



DOGGIE MEATBALLS

Are great either fresh or frozen.

What you need

- 1.1/2 cups dry dog food, ground in food processor
- 1.1/2 cups plain fresh breadcrumbs
- 500gms lean mince beef/chicken/lamb
- ¼ cup honey or 2 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon cooked and mashed apple
- Grated carrot or sweet potato (optional)

What you do

Cook the mince and pour off the fat. Mix together the processed dry dog food and breadcrumbs, and mix the honey/eggs and apple with the cooked mince. Stir the meat mixture into the dry mixture until combined. Cover a baking sheet with baking paper and using a ¼ cup measure, fill and pack the measure with the meat mix, pressing firmly. Turn out onto the baking paper and lightly shape into a round. Place in the freezer until frozen—approximately 2 – 3 hours. Place in plastic or foil containers (with lids) in a single layer and store in the freezer.

SIMPLE DOGGIE ICE-CREAM

Makes a special treat and is great for doggie parties (see the spring 2015 issue of *ChinWag* for The Art of the (Dog) Party).

What you need

- 2 x small cartons plain (low sugar) yoghurt
- 1 tablespoon honey or no-salt peanut butter
- ½ cup carob chips or chopped fruit such as strawberries, apple, banana, or blueberries

What you do

Mix all ingredients together, place in ice-cube trays or silicon cupcake liners, and freeze for approximately 2 – 3 hours until solid.





RAINBOW BRIDGE

IN MEMORY OF JAKE

By Petra Bright

There's a pair of dairy cow eyes that won't wake me up tomorrow and a little boofy head that won't snuffle his way under the bed covers at 5am. Jake came into my life in May 2014 as a foster dog, but I knew within minutes he was going to stay. He wasn't a foster fail—he was a foster success!

Despite his small stature, his character was immense. He led the way for many of my future foster dogs, although sometimes, the way was over the back fence in search of adventure. On one occasion, he and his favourite foster sister escaped in the wee hours of the morning, and found well after daybreak at the Ted Noffs Centre for At-Risk Youths! At-risk indeed—I always figured they were trying to elope!

Whether it was zooming with other dogs, bounding across the beach or stealing food (usually chocolate) from shopping bags, he treated every day like it was his best day. He turned heads everywhere we went too—especially among tradies! The catcalling was regular and always to Jake. "Hey, staffy!!" they would cry out. A burly tradie once asked to pat



him and I watched him melt as Jake jumped in his arms and licked his face. "Thank you ma'am," he said, "your dog has just made my day!"

As for me, ours was an instant bond. I like to think I chose him but truth be told we chose each other. He was my shadow—my 'everywhere dog'. He loved everything dogs love: walks, bones, chocolate, chasing, and destroying toys. But most of all he loved me.

It's what made it so hard when I had to move abroad in 2017 to a country where I couldn't take him. And even harder when mum called me a few months ago to say Jake had been getting terrible blood noses. All the first tests came back benign and after a small surgery removed some

growths in his nasal passage it looked like he would be OK. But last September, right before I was set to come home for two weeks, the blood noses continued and his breathing became laboured. Mum booked him in for a CT scan the day I got home. The diagnosis was horrific—there was cancer throughout his right nasal passage and spreading into his left. The vet gently said our only options were palliative.

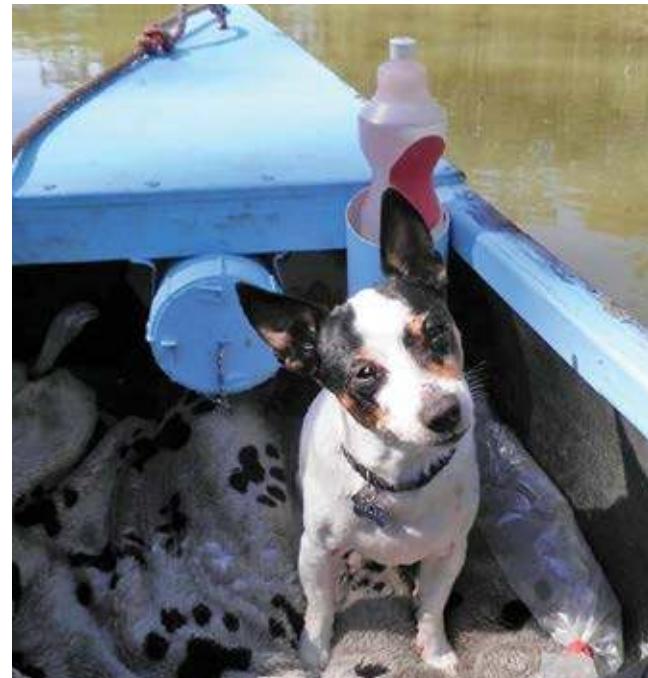
Knowing he may only have a few weeks, or months at best, there was only one option. I wasn't going to let him watch me pack my suitcase nor see me leave again. But you know what? The next ten days were some of our best. Although there were many moments of tears for

“
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”

me, we gave each other a lifetime of cuddles, went on countless walks and his hordes of fur friends and human friends came to fill his last days with love.

On the last day, he got to eat the last bits of brownie from the pan and several generous portions of cheese. Then the vet came, and Jake went peacefully in my arms, without ever having to suffer the full scourge of cancer.

There were many adventures that Jake and I never got to have. And I'll never know whether the timing of my trip home was coincidence or fate. But to be there with him for his last big adventure is the kind of serendipity I will never underestimate.



GOODBYE PATCHY

Patch has left us.

In the last six years he has given us a wealth of unconditional love. He has travelled many thousands of miles camping with us, enjoyed canoeing on many rivers and lakes, had fun running on beaches, and followed me everywhere. His trusting eyes as he said goodbye broke my heart.

Love and miss you little Patchy.



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I have now gained weight
because of your loving care.

You restored my faith in humans.
You gave me a place to call home
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