

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

SUMMER 2017

**TICK TOCK—
IT'S TICK SEASON!**

**PETS IN THE
PARK**

**K9 OFFICER
CHASE**

**THE DOG THAT
STOPPED A NATION**

**EMERGENCY
PLANNING WITH PETS**

**LOCAL
HEROES**





ACT RESCUE & FOSTER



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2018 Calendars are available at all ARF stalls,
the ARF website or please email us for north/south-side
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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: TOAST

Toast, together with her seven siblings came into ARF care via West Queanbeyan Vet, aged six weeks. Wouldn't you like a little Toast with your vegemite?

If you are looking for your new best friend check our available dogs at fosterdogs.org/available-dogs-gallery

CHINWAG TEAM

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Surely it can't be summer again? But yes, the tell-tale signs are all there, including the appearance of Summer *ChinWag* our extremely popular ARF magazine.

There's some really interesting summer reading in this issue - Australian Federal Police dog training in which Ian Warden reports on an intriguing visit to watch it all happen; emergency planning with pets, as we come into the bushfire season; a review of the film *Dogs of Democracy* about a dog that stopped a nation, and much, much more.

School holidays are coming up and time for families to relax together, but it's a very busy time for our rescuers who will be dealing with dogs ending up in pounds across the region. These rescuers are truly local heroes.

Have a wonderful festive season and as always thank you so much for supporting ARF.

Wendy Parsons

President, ACT Rescue and Foster



ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

ARF would like to thank all its 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.

We wish you all a wonderful, safe and peaceful 2018!

WE WELCOME COMMENT AND FEEDBACK ON *CHINWAG* INCLUDING SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ADOPTION UPDATES, AND BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS.

CONTACT OUR EDITOR AT: CHINWAG@FOSTERDOGS.ORG

K9 OFFICER CHASE: FROM RESCUE DOG TO PILLAR OF SOCIETY

By Ian Warden

When you love your dog you may joke that he or she is, in his or her quaint and hairy way, a dog in a million. But Australian Federal Police detection dog Chase is, literally, a dog in about 600.



Almost all of the dogs that find careers in police work are specially bred or specially selected from specific breeds and working bloodlines. But the exceptional Chase (a Labrador cross) is a very exceptional case, his handler Leading Senior Constable Simon Aldridge explains, showing the exuberant Chase off to me at the AFP's Majura Complex in Canberra; for Chase was found in and recruited from (and so in an important sense rescued from) Canberra Domestic Animal Services (Canberra Pound). Simon estimates that only one shelter dog in about 600 will ever show any promise as a possible detection dog. Chase, though, bristled with promise from the very first.

"Our canine staff will, every now and then, go down to a pound to see if there's a dog that's got what we ask for," Simon relates. "So I think they did a test with Chase where they threw a tennis ball and saw he had a really big desire to chase it. That's what we look for in a dog. They threw a particular ball out amongst 20 other tennis balls but this one had the handler's odour on it and Chase searched and searched for it. And so we thought we'd give him a go."

Chase has seized his opportunity. Although only three (and still engagingly puppy-like in his looks) and very much a work in progress with Simon's painstaking training, he's already done lots of actual drug-detecting work. "I'm primarily attached to ACT policing," Simon explains, "and most of my work is drug related or firearms related, so we respond to search warrants and search houses and cars and look for things buried in fields. Chase is trained now in all the drug odours, cocaine, heroin, meth, and just in these last two weeks I've introduced firearms to him so he's in the process of learning to find guns."

Simon says that some detection dogs (not Chase, as yet) are even trained to detect the odours of banknotes since raided places may contain stashes of the ill-gotten proceeds of crime. Dogs' senses of smell are truly remarkable. For us our \$10 notes have no perfume whatsoever but for a trained dog banknotes reek of polymers and inks. One of Simon's previous dogs, retired now, sniffed out some currency hidden under 30 centimetres of concrete.

For the average dotty dog lover Chase is a perfect 10 on the ten-point Adorability Scale. As he emerged from his travelling pen in the back of Simon's specially adapted Ford van this reporter and the three folk from the AFP media team gasped with delight and admiration. We each gave the lovely mongrel a pat on his handsome head. But it could only be a token pat, with Simon politely urging us to show restraint. "He's getting free pats from you but we have to be pretty strict about that. So I ask that you don't give him any more freebies. Normally I'm the only one that will give him pats. These working dogs don't get free pats. That sounds mean but if I was to give him pats all the time he just wouldn't work. He'd say to himself; 'I'm getting it for free. Why should I work?'"

Simon describes a typical assignment with his four-legged workmate.

"So, ACT police might be doing a house warrant for drugs or guns and they want the dog to go in to assist them. We'll meet them at the house. We deploy the dog first. He'll search the house and tell me where things are. So he might hit on a false wall [settling down into a 'sphinx' pose and pointing with his educated nose] and police will put a sledgehammer through it and find what's there." Then, of course, Chase gets rewarded and congratulated with Simon's pats and with praise for being such a "Good boy!" of a detective.

Extreme dog lovers, like this reporter, may well imagine that Simon has the best job in the world. Simon wouldn't go quite so far as that but he does enthuse about his work. He is fond of dogs (he has dogs at home including a retired detection dog) and says there's a special satisfaction in seeing working dogs like Chase blossom.

"The good thing about my job is that I get to see the dogs develop with the effort and work I put into them. After 12 months of training of him my reward is when he does a search for drugs and actually finds drugs. And [when you and your dog are deployed] something new always happens. There's always something new you learn from the dog, from what he does. You're constantly surprised."

After our interview the photogenic Chase posed for photographs to go with this story. Unable to give him a farewell pat, but how my hands twitched!, I shot him an admiring stare. If ever ARF and dog rescuers everywhere needed a kind of poster dog for their cause then Chase seems perfect. From being an abandoned, straying, scrawny mongrel teetering on the brink of oblivion he has gone on to be a lustrously healthy dog enjoying a brilliant career in the fulfilling field of law and order.



THE DOG THAT STOPPED A NATION



Fotoula. Many other dogs, including Perecles (named after an influential Greek statesman), and Grikos (an ethnic Greek community) were also cared for by the community.

But Loukanikos was the one who walked with, and supported, the people during the protests. One protestor, Gina (a university professor) was walking in a protest with her younger colleagues, and when the riots and tear gas started her younger colleagues ran, but Gina, in her 80s, couldn't run. "I couldn't run away, so I walked as fast as I could, and I looked down and Loukanikos was there, right by my side every step of the way, as if to say 'It's OK—I'm here. I'll look out for you.'"

Image: Protestors run to help Loukanikos when the tear gas starts. Photographer unknown.

Loukanikos retired in the autumn of 2012, his heart weakened from the effects of the tear gas; he swapped protests and riots for a peaceful life on the outskirts of Athens with his foster carer, Rita. Loukanikos died on 9 October 2014, and the whole of Greece mourned his passing.

Dogs of Democracy, by Mary Zournazi, Ronin Films, 2014. Our thanks to Dionysus Events, and the Palace Electric Cinema, New Acton, Canberra. To purchase a copy of the movie contact Ronin Films, Mitchell on 6248 0851 or orders@roninfilms.com.au

Loukanikos (Greek for sausage) was known as Greece's 'Riot Dog' as he marched alongside protestors, and faced down the police during the Greek economic crisis. Many other dogs walked with the community during the protests, but Loukanikos was always up front and centre, protecting the protestors, and giving the people hope.

In 2014 Australian author Mary Zournazi made her first ever trip to Athens in search of her cultural roots, but what she found inspired her to produce her first film, *Dogs of Democracy*. In 2014 Greece was in the grip of an economic crisis with wages dropping 20 per cent from 2010 to 2014, and with debt levels around \$485.5 billion. Banks had closed, and Greece became the first developed country to fail to make an IMF loan repayment. Bankruptcies were rife and people were losing their livelihoods, but the stray dogs were still a part, and heart, of the city. *Dogs of Democracy* is essentially a story about the street dogs of Athens, but it also shows people's courage, dignity, and consideration for others in times of crisis.

In the middle of Greece's worst economic crisis people still looked after the street dogs of Athens. Greece had become the 'stray dog of Europe' and the dogs became a symbol of hope and love to the people of Greece. People like Spiros, a homeless man who took care of Fotoula—a large breed girl whom he fed every day. The community and cafés gave food to Spiros which he shared with



GO GREEN MACHINE

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WHERE ARE

COMPILED BY LAUREN CANELLIS

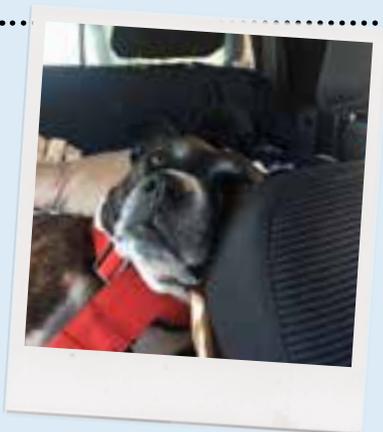
LOCHIE From Wendy Parsons

I adopted Lochie in December last year, after my lovely dog Felix lost his battle with lymphoma in October. Felix is the dog with me in the photo for my President's message in ChinWag, a simply beautiful border collie cross Belgian shepherd.

My ARF friends Helen and Tess, who do the behavioural assessments at Goulburn pound, were watching my recovery from the loss of Felix and knowing my love of border collies gently suggested I look at the Goulburn website. And there he was. The pound rangers called this dog Locky. He was very timid dog, friendly and keenly seeking affection. He came to an ARF foster carer then almost immediately to me. And so our journey began. I changed the spelling of his name to Lochie, in honour of this lovely Scottish border breed. He's probably around two years old.

It's amazing how much you can find out about a dog by simply watching its behaviour. By doing this I soon realised he'd been abused in a number of ways, but now, seven months later, Lochie is over the worst of his ghosts and is blossoming into a very bright, affectionate dog, keen to learn and eager to please. He's a great mate.

Photo by Oh My Dog Photography.



BONES From Sharyn

We adopted our male staffy, Bones, from Marianna in 2011 as a companion for my son who has Aspergers after he sponsored him for a Scout activity through 1st Jerrabomberra Scouts. They have become best mates and Bones has adapted greatly to life with us. He loves his bed and being wrapped up in his blankets, playing fetch with his favourite toy (his red bone) and lazing about in the sun.

We have never known a dog to have so many personalities - he brings so much joy to our lives and we are so grateful to ARF!

INDIE From Liz

This lovely smart girl was rescued from Goulburn Pound by ARF just before euthanasia and matched to me by Lisa (thankyou, thankyou Lisa) a year ago. From her behaviour, I'd say she'd been started as a working dog - from the beginning she was very responsive to voice, very keen to herd anything, and had great recall, automatically coming round behind and going into a sit on my right. Absolutely no grace or decorum around the house though, and no idea what a ball was for! Walks involved keeping her on leash for several weeks until she stopped looking for sheep and learned to be less boisterous about greeting other dogs. Since 'retiring' to the suburbs, she has become the most beautiful house dog, welcoming every visitor and bestowing affection on all and sundry. I look forward to many more years with this gorgeous girl. Thank you ARF.



THEY NOW?

RUSSELL From Christine

I adopted Russell in April 2014 when he was four years old and what an interesting time we've had since then. He did look super cute as Mr June in ARF's 2015 calendar, and has been good company for my Shih Tzu Baxter, who was two years old at the time. Baxter helped Russell learn how to be a dog and to do dog things which was lovely to watch.

Russell settled in OK, but didn't seem happy, so I took him to the awesome vets at Kippax to see the behaviourist in May 2015. She diagnosed him as having extreme generalised anxiety disorder, and after treatment and working on his behaviour, he became much calmer.

We now live in Queensland. Russell loves the retired gentleman next door, who thankfully also loves him, and is more than happy to stay there if I ever go away. He does still take to men MUCH faster than women, much to our neighbour's wife's regret, and she was over the moon when Russell jumped up onto her lap one afternoon. Generally he chooses her husband's lap, even when I'm there.

He enjoys going with me to visit my parents. I think he's won over my Dad too. He loves, loves, loves going to the beach. It's one of the few times he just frolics with joy across the sand and thru the water puddles. He even gets dirty where usually he doesn't and he's not a water dog. Doesn't like to swim usually. He plays with Baxter and his cousin Yuki, a Japanese Spitz, most days. He loves going for a walk and occasionally likes to play fetch, but only on his terms, and not when the others are about. Photo: Russell (right) with best mate Baxter



BILLY From Lyn and Brenda

Billy has been with us for five years now and in that time he has travelled in the car to the very top of Australia (including a side trip on the ferry to Thursday Island) and also Ballarat, Mildura and Adelaide. He likes to spend his winters at Kingscliff in far north NSW where he is the dune care group's mascot. As an active senior he insists on two walks a day and he loves chasing balls.



JESSICA From Tracey

We adopted Jessica in May 2007 and she was originally called Carla. We and our other dog Ruby love her to bits. Jessica loves to go for long walks, snuggle and is a piglet when it comes to snacks. Although she is the smallest member of the family, she has a very big opinion of herself and keeps us all in line. She is definitely an indoor girl and always find the comfiest spot in the house.

Thanks ARF for bringing her into our lives.

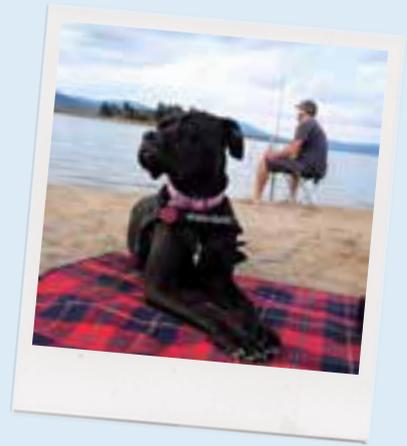


MORGAN From Anya

We adopted Morgan in September 2013 when she was approximately 9 months old. Morgan knew she was home the second she arrived. She is friends with all the neighbouring dogs and a cat named Max, and greets all the neighbours as they arrive home at the end of the day - she doesn't miss a thing.

Morgan's favourite words are 'hungry' and 'walk', we have to be careful not to unintentionally say these around her, if we do she won't let it go until we feed or walk her. She loves playing with our niece and nephews, enjoys walks, camping and swimming in any body of water. She has even learnt stand up paddle boarding! She travels with us when we visit family interstate, and we are always looking for new pet friendly holiday option. Last year we took her to the beach for the first time. We don't like to do anything if Morgan's not by our side, she is a big part of our lives so having her with us as much as possible is important.

Morgan truly believes she is a lap dog, but we don't have the heart to tell her she's not. Life's pretty wonderful with Morgan in it!



XENA From Johanna

We adopted Xena in October 2015, and it is the best decision we have ever made. She took a few weeks to really settle in, and trust took a little longer. She was scared of brooms, hoses, bikes and loud trucks driving by. However with time and reassurance, she has completely overcome those issues.

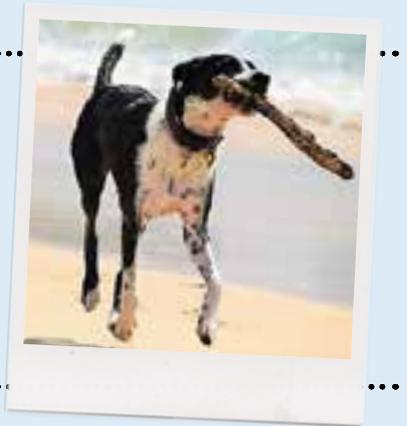
Xena is a friendly, gentle, beautifully natured dog. She is walked everyday either up Mt Ainslie or through one of the many nature reserves close by. Our walks are her favourite thing to do, and she will stare at me through the windows until we go. Xena was also ARF calendar cover girl in 2016.

Xena has brought so much joy into our lives, and we cannot imagine life without her.
Photo by The Dog Tog

SUMMER From Suzie and Greg

We adopted Summer just over three years ago. She is the best decision we have ever made. Summer is such a dork. She loves walks but more so loves to run and is a true water girl. She loves playing games and is very clever. It does not take long to teach her new tricks and she will remember them weeks after she has learnt them.

We cannot visit Bunnings without her and she steals the hearts of everyone wherever we go.



DUSTY From Zoe (aged 5)

Dusty is a great dog and he is always kind to us. Dusty likes running and playing with us, and he is always a good dog. Dusty likes us giving him lots of walks, and whenever he is lonely we just pat him and then he is happy again.

HAVE YOU ADOPTED AN ARFER?

Where are they now? is about ex-ARFers who have been adopted into their forever homes. We plan for this section to be a regular inclusion in ChinWag and 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! Send your update and pics to chinwag@fosterdogs.org

LOCAL HEROES!

BY WENDY PARSONS

Everyone knows about ARF. Everyone knows about the RSPCA. And everyone knows the about Canberra Pound.

But there are many individuals who work behind the scenes, or who work alone, to give their time and resources to help animals in need—not just dogs, but all animals including our native wildlife. Those people who do this in their own time, without recognition from the general public are truly animal heroes, and so ARF has spoken with a few people who are such 'local heroes', to find out what they do and why they do it.

Jennifer and Bill Marshall—Volunteer Dog Walkers at the Canberra Pound (DAS)

Jennifer has been walking dogs at the pound for seven years, and Bill for five years. "Dogs are in kennels for 24 hours a day except for the time when walkers take them out on the trail through bushland nearby," they explain. "They get exercise, a chance to escape the noise of the kennel area, to sniff and exercise their minds. Some dogs are very frightened in the pound environment, and to get away and be in human company can relieve some of the stress.

"It is amazing to see the difference in the dogs as they settle in. It is also a rewarding experience for the walkers - because it's a chance to get out in the bush setting and exercise ourselves, while making life a little better for the dogs. And it's educative to be interacting with the different dogs; learning to judge a dog's nature, mood, and friendliness to people and other dogs.

"We get to see the love and joy in the faces of new owners and their new best friends. And there's always the need for more walkers to help out."

If you want to be a volunteer DAS dog walker, contact DAS on 13 22 81 or check out their website at www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/pets/dogs/volunteering-at-das

Chris Tabart—Have Donations will Travel

Chris has been gathering and delivering donations for dogs in need since 2006. "I have managed to get items off to places as far afield as Brisbane, down to South Australia, Melbourne/Bendigo/Trentham and Mildura in Victoria, Sydney, out to Broken Hill, Hay, Narrandera, Wagga, up to Walgett, and down to Batemans Bay and Narooma—and many, many places in between," Chris says. "A quick tally of the groups I have helped comes to over 60. And I have also helped more than 20 regional pounds in NSW.

"The most rewarding aspect of this work is knowing I am making a difference to animals in need and the people who choose to help them. Plus the beautiful thank you that I sometimes get. I put a huge amount of effort into this so it is lovely when it is appreciated."

Asked why she thought this work was important, Chris said that the rescue groups and pounds she helps are

generally small and under-resourced both financially and from a volunteer perspective. She says the rural groups do it really tough—they generally have no networks providing assistance. They often consist of just a few people who do everything themselves including travelling to collect animals on death row in pounds, fostering, getting vet work done, and then trying to find them new homes.

"I've been running Christmas Giving Boxes for animal rescue in many of the large government workplaces since 2006. And I don't just help domestic pets. I have a number of wonderful wildlife rescue groups that I regularly support with donations."

To organise donations contact ARF for more information, or your local pound, rescue or wildlife group.

Cindy Daley—Greyhound Rescuer

Cindy works with other volunteer rescuers to arrange foster homes for greyhounds and then place them new loving and permanent homes. "The sheer number of greyhounds needing homes means that my contribution will be a drop in the bucket," says Cindy, "so I am focused on the quality of the placements in new homes. I feel a dog that is not included in the family is just living in a nicer kennel facility. The hounds I deal with have been working dogs all their lives and I think it's important that they have a fitting retirement.

"The most rewarding part of rehoming greyhounds is seeing them months after adoption when they have forgotten about training, racing and foster and they are living as normal pets, and a part of the family. The ones I find most rewarding though are the tough cases, where we have managed to rehome dogs with trauma, epilepsy, elderly and a missing limb. I've learnt that there is a home for every hound given the chance."

To find out more about Greyhound Rescue visit their website at www.actgsn.com



EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

FROM CAROL ANDERSON

2018 CALENDAR LAUNCH

Our 2018 Calendar Launch was held at Brodburger in Kingston on 17 September and was sponsored by BrodDogs. The lovely Amanda Whitley from HerCanberra launched our calendar and met with the doggy stars and their owners and carers. Our gorgeous calendar, featuring current and ex-ARFers, is now on sale, for only \$10 each, from our website or from north and south side pick-up points, and our local stalls and events—more info on our website. A huge thank you to Amanda, Brodburger, BrodDogs, and our calendar team Sarah, Byron, Dallas, Jo, Rebecca, and Aine.



Calendar stars line up with Amanda Whitley from HerCanberra. Photo by Mus Musgrave



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The complex block features a large photograph of a woman with blonde hair sitting on a wooden bench, engaged in conversation with a man in a white shirt who is standing next to a tiger enclosure. The tiger is visible in the foreground, looking towards the man. The background shows a large window looking out onto a natural landscape. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'JAMALA WILDLIFE LODGE' featuring a cheetah's head. Below the photo, contact information is provided in a dark grey bar.

MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAYS

Murrumbateman Field Days on 21-22 October was an almost perfect weather weekend which drew out the crowds and we raised a total of \$757.

Many thanks to Kay, Deanne, and Barbara for their help over the weekend. Other springtime stalls included Fairday at Gormon House, Bunnings Gungahlin, and Hall Markets.

ARF 2017 TRIVIA NIGHT

ARF 2017 Trivia Night was held on 9 September at a totally packed Fred Daly room at the Canberra Labor Club Belconnen. With much fun and laughter with emcee Larry Appley, we raised \$9,000 for the dogs, and lots of people went away with fabulous prizes and lucky dips. Thanks to Larry, Canberra Labor Clubs, all our sponsors and supporters, and the Trivia Team of Sarah, Amy, Tony, Emma, Harold, Aine, Rebecca, and Lisa.

Winners are grinners at the 2017 ARF Trivia Night. Photos by Oh My Dog Photography



MUSIC AT MIDDAY

ARF bucket rattlers were out in force again on Tuesday 24 October, as the chosen charity at Music at Midday with the Royal Military College Band. Two shows of fantastic entertainment, and \$1,712 in donations, plus a bit of jewellery as well! Thanks to bucketeers Kay, Joyce, Barbara, Wendy and Aine, also The Canberra Theatre Centre, and RMC Band.

ARF AT THE FISH SHACK!

On the last Sunday of each month the Fish Shack in the City cook strictly vegan only meals with a percentage of the profits going towards a chosen charity, and on Sunday 29 October we raised over \$500 from the food sales profits, ARF sales, raffle and cake stall. A HUGE thank you to Joanna Chalker and the Fish Shack staff for organising the event. And, we can highly recommend the food! Photo: Carol at the Fish Shack from Events-ually Yours.



UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like to help at ARF events please contact communication@fosterdogs.org To help on market stalls, fetes, and regional country shows, please contact our stall organiser Carol Anderson at carolanderson@grapevine.com.au. Check our website for more information.

RECENTLY ADOPTED

COMPILED BY JOH DUNNE

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.

*Note: due to the large number of adoptions over recent months we have carried some over to the Recently Adopted section in the Autumn 2018 issue, so stay tuned!



Birdy
Kelpie Airedale mix | About 8 weeks
Rescued: 5 July 2017 | Adopted: 27 July 2017



Flex
Kelpie mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 10 June 2017 | Adopted: 14 July 2017



Bungee
Kelpie mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 10 June 2017 | Adopted: 14 July 2017



Oakey
Kelpie Airedale mix | 8 weeks
Rescued: 5 July 2017 | Adopted: 4 August 2017



Jam
Kelpie Huntaway Airedale blend | About 10 weeks
Rescued: 5 July 2017 | Adopted: 19 August 2017



Nellie

Scruffy crossbreed | About 6 months
Rescued: 2 May 2017 | Adopted: 12 July 2017



Gadget

Jack Russell/Foxie X | 8 Months approx
Rescued: 8 August 2017 | Adopted: 1 September 2017



Acai

Kelpie mix | About 6 months
Rescued: 30 March 2017 | Adopted: 26 August 2017



Samson

Queenbeyan cutie | Around 9 months
Rescued: 17 June 2017 | Adopted: 5 August 2017



Finch

Border Collie mix somewhat larger | About 6 months
Rescued: 23 March 2017 | Adopted: 6 August 2017



Rosie

Staffy mix | About 18 months
Rescued: 28 January 2017 | Adopted: 7 September 2017

RECENTLY ADOPTED (CONT.)



Teddy
Terrier mix | About 12 months
Rescued: 9 August 2017 | Adopted: 23 August 2017



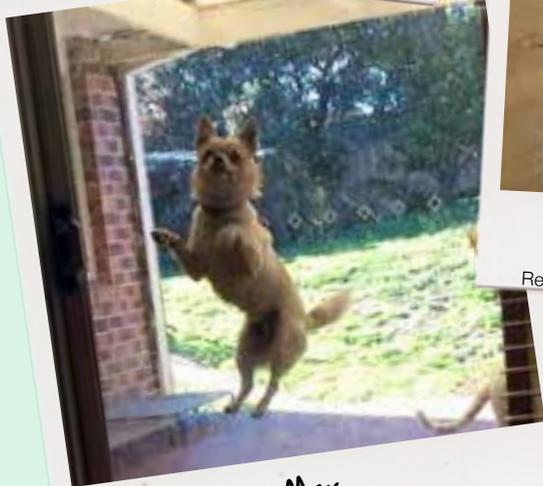
Atticus
Bull Arab mix | About 18 months
Rescued: 27 June 2017 | Adopted: 19 August 2017



Missy
Kelpie mix | About 12 months
Rescued: 30 June 2017 | Adopted: 12 August 2017



Spud
Kelpie Labrador fusion | About 18 months
Rescued: 3 August 2017 | Adopted: 1 September 2017



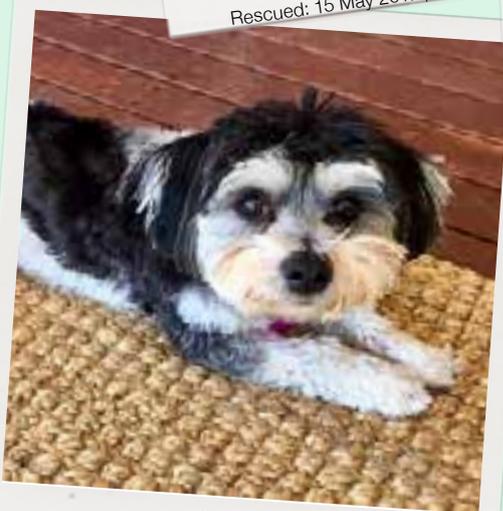
Max
Chihuahua mix | About 12 months
Rescued: 15 May 2017 | Adopted: 10 July 2017



Lido
Canberra fine blend | About 3 years
Rescued: 13 May 2017 | Adopted: 5 August 2017



Harlow
American Staffy mix | About 4 years old
Rescued: 2 July 2017 | Adopted: 3 August 2017



Norbert
Maltese Shih Tzu mix | 1 to 2 years
Rescued: 18 August 2017 | Adopted: 3 September 2017



Marcel

Maltese x | 4 - 5 years
Rescued: 29 August 2017 | Adopted: 12 September 2017



Archie

Whippet | About 6 to 7 years
Rescued: 26 May 2017 | Adopted: 7 September 2017



Jack

Foxie mix | About 5 years
Rescued: 30 April 2017 | Adopted: 20 August 2017



Rusty

Cattle Dog mix | About 5 years
Rescued: 26 April 2017 | Adopted: 21 August 2017



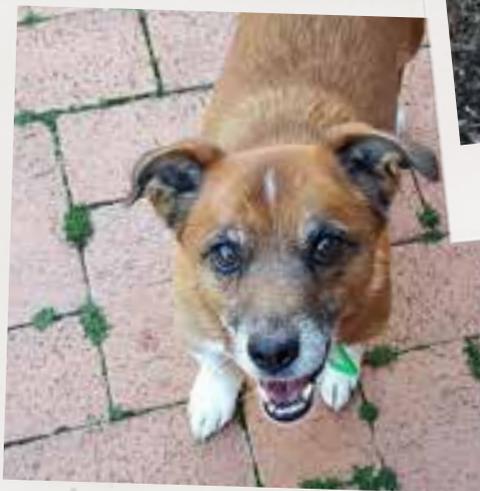
Lyta

Maltese | 14 years
Rescued: 16 June 2017 | Adopted: 29 July 2017



Sage

Maltese | About 6 years
Rescued: 16 June 2017 | Adopted: 21 July 2017



Zeezee

JRT mix | About 10 years
Rescued: 25 July 2017 | Adopted: 5 September 2017



Bella

Chihuahua mix | About 12 years
Rescued: 12 July 2017 | Adopted: 28 July 2017

PETS IN THE PARK—CANBERRA LAUNCH

BY AINE DOWLING

Pets in the Park (PITP) is a charity dedicated to caring for companion animals of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Established in Sydney in 2009 by Dr Mark Westman, Pets in the Park started out in a park in Parramatta with a fold-out table and esky of medications, and has grown to include over 60 volunteers, two surgical clinics, and six monthly check-up clinics held in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and now Canberra—with the official Canberra launch on Friday 3 November.

The launch opened with Dr Mark explaining why he took a fold-out table and started free vet checks in a Parramatta park. “I’m not psychologist, counsellor, or social worker, but I am a vet,” he said, “and I realised that pets mean so much to people at risk, sometimes it’s all they have—their pet is their family, and this was my way of helping them; doing what I knew and keeping their pets healthy and well.”

As we all know, owning a pet can be expensive, but for someone who is homeless it’s a cost that many simply cannot afford. Vaccinations, flea treatment, worming, microchipping and de-sexing doesn’t come cheap—not to mention feeding and even grooming! Pets play a significant role in all our lives; offering unconditional love, companionship, and security, and Pets in the Park has the support of many volunteers around Australia including vets, vet nurses, groomers, and people donating food and accessories.

In Canberra, support comes from a wide range of individuals and organisations, from local vets and nurses who donate their time every month; from the Rainbow Paws Program who collect donations—from members of the public—of food, toys, collars, leads, and coats and blankets in the colder months; from Canberra Pet Ambos who assist in getting sick or injured pets to the vet, and from groomers who shampoo and clip and keep the pooches looking great.

The support shown at the launch of the Canberra program was also impressive and included Federal Member for Fenner, Dr Andrew Leigh, and MLA Member for Ginninderra, Yvette Berry, as well as two clients of Canberra Pets in the Park, John and Karen. John is the proud owner of Shampers a little white scruffer, who is now 17 years of age.

*Sadly Shampers crossed Rainbow Bridge shortly after the PITP launch. Run free Shampers.

Karen is the owner of Weepong aged 13 years, and Pia aged around 14. Karen was thrilled to tell me that Pia (formerly Mia) is an ex-ARFer whom Karen adopted in June 2005. A cute little Silky Terrier, Mia has put on 1.5kg



over the years and certainly had a fondness for the treats handed out at the launch. It’s great to hear about our ex-ARFers doing so well and being so well cared for under programs like Pets in the Park.

Pets in the Park was incorporated in 2012 and was granted deductible gift recipient status (which means monetary donations are tax deductible) in 2013. It is run by its four founders Drs Mark Westman and Leah Skelsey, and nurses Vicky Cawsey and Linda Warlond.

To become a client of PITP you need to be identified in need and have a referral from a case worker or social worker, or a human service provider such as Wesley Mission, Salvation Army, Mission Australia, Wayside Chapel, etc., and bring your referral to the clinic.

Pets in the Park Canberra clinic is held on the first Sunday of every month from 2 – 4pm at Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Avenue. Donations of food and accessories to Pets in the Park can be made at the clinics or through the Rainbow Paws Program. Monetary donations may be made directly on their website by selecting the donation link.



Pets in the Park is always on the lookout for volunteers with the following skills; veterinarian, vet nurse, administration, IT/tech support, and marketing. If you have these skills, or just want to help out, contact PITP through the volunteer page on their website www.petsinthepark.org.au

TICK TOCK—IT'S TICK SEASON!

There has recently been a number of announcements by Canberra vets on ticks (including the paralysis tick) being found on local dogs who have not been to the coast.

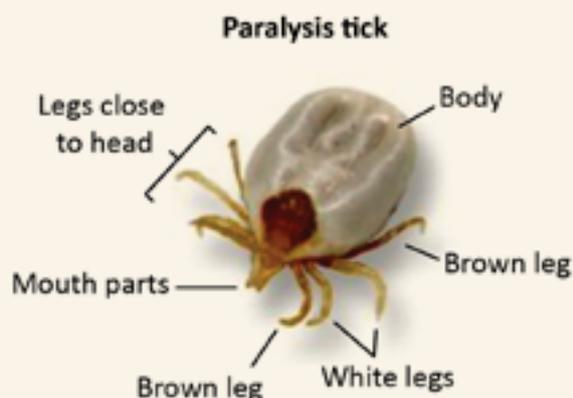
So what should you do to prevent your dog from being bitten by a tick?

Your dog's fur should be inspected daily, especially the long-haired breeds. A thorough tick search involves working your fingers deep into your dog's coat to check all parts of their skin; around 70 per cent of ticks are found attached on the front half of the pet and could be hidden in areas like skin folds or even their ears. Another tip is to completely avoid the tick habitat. During the tick season, don't take your dog walking in bush areas or scrub areas known to harbour ticks. Keep your lawns and shrubs short and remove compost material from backyards, and use a topical or chew tablet tick preventative on a regular basis.

If you notice any of the following symptoms, you must take your pet to the vet immediately.

- 🐾 change of bark
- 🐾 lethargy, depression, decreased ability to exercise
- 🐾 loss of coordination in the hind legs (wobbly or not being able to get up)
- 🐾 loss of appetite, retching, coughing or vomiting
- 🐾 heavy, laboured or rapid breathing.

The following article is written by Sarah Russo of Scooby & Friends Dog Grooming, and reprinted with permission.



PREVENT, GROOM AND SEARCH!

Tick season is upon us! It is very important that you are on the lookout for ticks. The dreaded paralysis tick is generally found in warm coastal areas, however, paralysis ticks have recently been found on dogs that haven't left Canberra! Here are a couple of tips to help you prevent or identify ticks on your dog.

Tick prevention treatment: keep up your regular tick and flea treatment, but, if you are heading to the coast with your pooch, always take the necessary precautions with a tick prevention treatment which you can buy at your local vet or pet store. Remember to wait 48 hours after applying a topical preventative before you bathe your dog or take him swimming.

Regular grooming: if you have quite a hairy pooch that receives clipping, you can choose to take their coat shorter than usual to help with detecting ticks. If you have a dog that requires de-shedding, removing the excess dead undercoat in a de-shed session could help make it easier to find ticks.

SEARCHING FOR TICKS ON YOUR DOG:

Even with tick protection and regular grooming, you must still thoroughly check your dog over as ticks can still find their way onto your pet. Feel over the entire body, brushing your fingers through the fur with enough pressure to find any lumps.

Neck and head: feel the skin slowly with your fingers looking at the skin through the hair as thoroughly as possible to spot any lumps.

Ears: check inside and outside the ears and surrounding areas thoroughly.

Lips and eyelids: pull your dog's lip up and check on their lip line and surrounding areas. Be sure to check around the dog's eyelids too.

Tail area: check the tail area on top and under the tail.

Armpits and groin: feel and inspect the armpit and groin regions

Toes and pads: feel and check very thoroughly in between every toe and in under the pad area. This is what a tick hiding on a dog looks like. It is important to remember that ticks come in different shapes, sizes and colours.

If you suspect your dog might have a tick, contact your vet as soon as possible or a local vet if you're away from home, or one of Canberra's emergency vets in Fyshwick and Gungahlin.

The sooner your pet is treated, the better chance of survival they have.

EMERGENCY PLANNING WITH PETS



Are you ready?
Make a plan for ALL your family

In an emergency your animals rely on you.

Know your risks. Practice your plan. Stay informed. Act early.

Checklist for your animal emergency kit:

- Food and water, bowls, can opener, treats
- Current medications, animal first aid kit, vaccination certificate, care instructions in waterproof bag
- ID — tag, microchip details, current photo of animal
- Secure crate/carrier, collar, harness, lead
- Bedding
- Comfort item — toy, blanket etc
- Toileting supplies — cat litter tray, poo bags
- Cleaning supplies and plastic rubbish bags
- Emergency contact numbers — local vet, neighbour to assist with animals, emergency accommodation

Links to assist you with emergency preparedness:

HOUSEHOLD PLANS

- Red Cross — Redi Plan
www.redcross.org.au/prepare.aspx
- NSW RFS — Plan and Prepare
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare
- NSW SES — Home Emergency Plan
www.seshomeemergencyplan.com.au

PETS

- Australian Veterinary Association — Animals & Natural Disasters
www.ava.com.au/public/animals-and-natural-disasters
- RSPCA NSW — Disaster Management Plan
www.rspcansw.org.au/learn/owning-a-pet/disaster-management-plan

HORSES

- NSW RFS — Prepare Your Horse for a Bushfire
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/9453/Prepare-your-horse-for-bush-fire.pdf

LIVESTOCK

- NSW DPI — Pets & livestock
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/emergency/community

HEATWAVES

- RSPCA AUSTRALIA — How to prevent heatstroke in hot weather for pets
www.kb.rspca.org.au/What-can-I-do-in-hot-weather-to-prevent-heatstroke-in-my-pet_353.html

WILDLIFE

- WIRES NSW — Seasonal animal advice: Helping wildlife during bushfires and other extreme weather events
www.wires.org.au/seasonal-animal-advice

Blue ARC: [facebook.com/BlueARCAnimalReadyCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/BlueARCAnimalReadyCommunity)

It's been a bitterly cold and dry winter in Canberra this year, and long range forecasts indicate a hot dry summer to follow.

Canberra is also known as the Bush Capital, and due to the city's constant expansion, the surrounding pine forests are coming ever closer, and no-one can forget the bush fires that hit the west of Canberra in 2003. Forecasters now say that the dry winter and hot summer is building into a major bush fire season, and we all need to be prepared and ready—including our pets.

The following article was written by Dr Mel Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Organisational Psychology at MacQuarie University. Dr Taylor has worked in the areas of psychosocial impacts of disasters and emergencies and related preparedness and response behaviour, and is involved with Blue ARC (Animal Ready Community), which focusses on identifying and helping to solve local challenges and barriers to emergency preparedness and planning for animals. This article was originally published, in full, in *The Conversation*, and is reprinted with permission from Dr Taylor.

LOOKING AFTER PETS IN EMERGENCIES

BY DR MEL TAYLOR

If you've been following media coverage of the post-hurricane flooding in Texas during the last couple of weeks, you will have seen many images and accounts of people evacuating with their pets. You will no doubt also have seen emergency responders and volunteers rescuing abandoned pets and stranded horses and livestock. Similar stories play out during all types of natural disasters, whether they're floods, cyclones, or bushfires.

According to Animal Medicines Australia*, an estimated 63 per cent of Australian households have at least one pet—one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, and including those pets in your emergency plan can be vital. I have spent the past three years leading a project on animal management in emergencies, which considers the challenges for emergency responders, as well as owners of pets, horses, pet livestock, animal-related businesses, and livestock farmers—including chooks. Image: Carrying his dog through a flooded street in Chennai, India (Reuters)

So if you have animals, what can you do to protect them? The first thing to do is check general resources on emergency plans. Unfortunately there is no Australia-wide emergency response approach, so it's important to make plans that are suited to your own situation and the help you have available.

Here are my top tips for taking care of your animals in an emergency:

🐾 It sounds obvious, but creating an emergency plan that includes pets is the first step. If you don't have a household plan, the Australian Red Cross Rediplan is a good place to start. Consider a range of potential

emergencies in your planning: heatwaves, prolonged loss of power, floods, cyclones and bushfires. Most importantly, think about every creature in your household: our research suggests that chooks are popular but often not considered when it comes to emergency planning.

🐾 Plan to leave early. Evacuating with animals can take longer, especially when you have multiple types of animals or need to make multiple journeys. Don't plan to leave animals behind, or plan to leave a household member behind to take care of the animals. Stay aware of weather conditions and emergency warnings.

🐾 Have an emergency kit for your animals: fill a go bag (or box) with items you'll need if you need to leave in a hurry. If you have essentials you can't afford to leave in a box, make a checklist and know where they are. There are some excellent checklists available online to get you started.

🐾 Plan where you will take your animals. Emergency services can't help evacuate your pets or larger animals in emergency situations, and not all evacuation centres will accept them. The official position is that your animals are your responsibility, so you need to know where you'll take your animals and how you'll get them there. Most people rely on taking them to friends or family, but this can sometimes mean that different animals need to go to different places.

🐾 Plan for what will happen if you're not at home, or can't get back home. No one likes considering this situation, but it is often a reality. Speak to neighbours or nearby friends about what you would like them to do if you're not home (and offer them your support if they're away). Make sure you have contact numbers for neighbours and those who might be able to help in these situations.

🐾 If you have horses or other large animals, find a buddy. Horses, and other large pet livestock, are special cases in emergencies; their size means that there are additional challenges in their handling, loading, transportation, and relocation. Many equine groups have guidance for horse owners, and advocate buddy systems to help owners. There are also networking systems, such as Walking Forward Disaster Relief Team, that help horse owners prearrange safer places to relocate their animals ahead of emergencies.

🐾 Hardest of all; practice your plan. Most emergency preparedness advice suggests that you practice your plan, but it's particularly important with pets. It's better to find out early that your ideal plan doesn't work in practice. Finding work-arounds, and making a plan B and C, is far easier without the threat of imminent danger.

Remember, your animals depend on you.

Plan for all the human and non-human animals in your household, and stay safe. Image: Flood waters in St George, Queensland Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) is the peak body representing the leading animal health companies of Australia

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SHADE & WATER

Protect your pets from the sun's rays and keep them hydrated.



NO CARS

Never leave a pet in the car, not even with the window cracked.



HEAT STROKE

Excessive panting, discolored gums, and mobility problems are signs. Seek veterinary attention immediately!



NO ASPHALT

If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws.



LIMIT EXERCISE

Don't let playful pets over exert themselves in the heat.

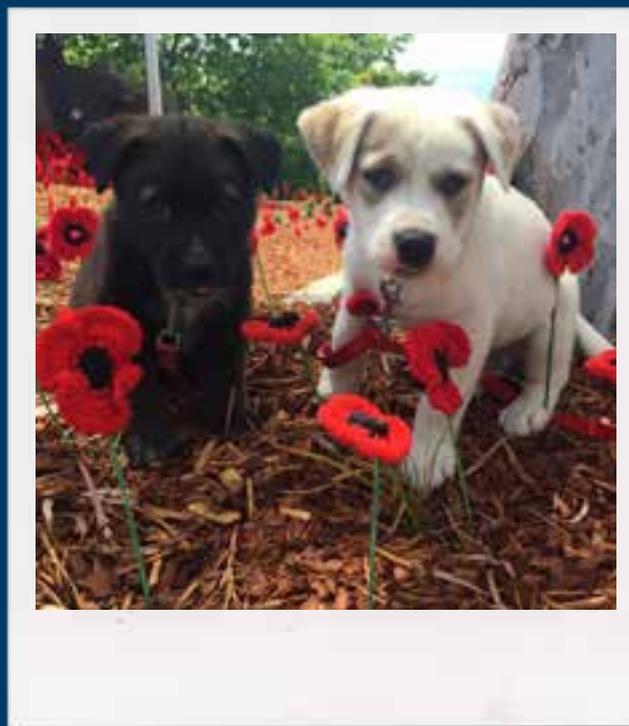


ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

JETT & BOWIE

Meet Jett and Bowie, two of the eight pups who came into ARF care from West Queanbeyan Vet. Jett and Bowie are paying their Remembrance Day respects by 'guarding' the crocheted poppies.

Photo by Ruth Underwood.



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