

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

WINTER
2017

WORKING WITH
WORKING DOGS

IN PRAISE
OF THE OLD

YOU CAN'T
STOP AT ONE

ARF
AMBER ALERT!

A POUND
OF LOVE

MATCHMAKER,
MATCHMAKER



TRIVIA NIGHT



SAVE A LIFE, HAVE A LAUGH AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES!

ARF Trivia Night

Saturday 9 September 2017, 7pm
Canberra Labor Club, Belconnen
\$20 per person, tables of up to 10 adults
Book your table by emailing arfrivia@gmail.com

www.fosterdogs.org

Like us on Facebook

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: SCOUT

Scout is a mini Foxie/Jack Russell mix aged around 10 months. He came into ARF care on 5 February 2017, and was adopted into his forever home on 3 March.

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

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter is on the way; to state the obvious. I always look forward to the shortest day in June so that I know we're now on the way back to spring when we can walk our furry friends in a little more comfort.

In this issue of *ChinWag* read about ARF's Match Making service and the great work of those ARFers who carry out the behavioural assessments every week, and in all weathers, at pounds in our region; and In Praise of the Old about the joys of adopting senior dogs.

I think the book reviews are always a good read too, and in this issue my old favourite *Hairy MacClary* features as well as Harry the Dirty Dog and Clifford. In the life of an ARF foster carer there are many tales and stories to tell, and we've included one in this issue. ARF Amber Alert! outlines the dedication of all our ARF team.

There's some big events coming up over the next few months for you, your family and friends, including Pooch Affair; Queanbeyan's Christmas in July starring our very own Santa and elf—Harold and Emma, and ARF as the chosen charity for a Canberra Raiders game. Keep up with ARF events on our website and Facebook.

Looking forward to seeing you at an ARF event very soon.

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

WORKING WITH WORKING DOGS

BY DALLAS BURKEVICS

When the term 'working dogs' is mentioned the majority of people will conjure up images of Kelpies, Cattle Dogs and Border Collies herding sheep and cattle and working on the farm.

One of the more common myths is that working dogs can't live in town, and yes for some dogs it's definitely harder, but not at all impossible! The reality is that so many of today's dogs come from different varieties of working dogs, and keeping breeds such as Jack Russells, German Shepherds, Labradors, Pointers and Poodles busy is just as important as farm dogs.

There are many successful working dogs living in family homes and here are some tips on how to achieve it.

There are so many new and exciting types of dog sports and activities around than just the well-known agility and flyball. Find something that suits your likes and the abilities of your dog such as Nose Work, Scent Scrambler, and Tracking where the dog has to use their nose and brain to find an item or scent. Activities like this work the brain which helps to create a relaxed and contented dog. More active sports like Dock Dogs, Canine Disc, Frizgility and Rally O are great for those active, agile and fit dogs and owners who love to get out and get active together. There is a sport to suit every type of dog.

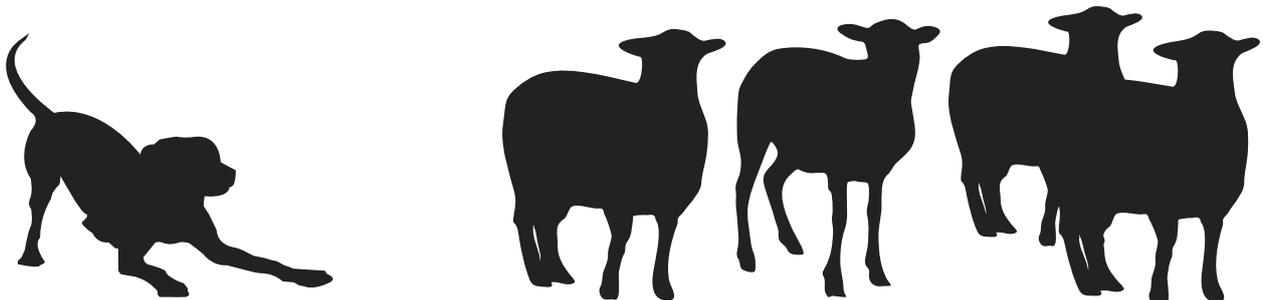
If you don't have the time or finances to attend classes don't despair; there are lots of things you can do at home to keep your dog busy and having fun. Build an agility course in your backyard using things like rakes, pots and wheelbarrows to get your dog weaving, jumping over, and crawling under and through. These types of activities not only tire the brain and body, but they build confidence in nervy dogs and build a great working relationship between you and your dog.

Trick training is probably my favourite activity for dogs. Some of these dogs are smart enough to assist a visually impaired person around a shopping centre and all we do is ask them to sit for their dinner. Teaching your dog assistance skills like retrieving dropped items, putting things away, or fancy things like taking your socks off and putting them in a basket all keeps the dogs brain working, and this will tire them more than a walk.

Get out there and try some different sports or training with your dog. You may find you love it more than they do!



Image: ChinWag Editor, Aine, with her German Shepherd Cleo, trying out agility with All Round Good Hounds



A POUND OF LOVE

ARF BEHAVIOUR TESTING

BY MEL MARTIN

I fell in love again last Saturday.

This time, it was with a large tan crossbreed in Yard 27, whose previous name I'll never know.

It's nothing new of course—I'm part of a team of ARF volunteers who go to our local pounds to assess pound dogs. And every time I'm on shift, at least one dog steals my heart.

The teams go to Canberra (Domestic Animal Services), Queanbeyan, Goulburn, and Yass pounds to assess the dogs' temperaments. We look at whether they're friendly with people and dogs, what training they have had and how easy to train they might be, whether they scare easily, what their favourite game is, and a whole raft of other things.

And importantly, we give their personality a chance to shine.

Because the funny way you dance on your front paws when waiting for the ball to be thrown, or the way you tuck your bum in as you zoom around the yard at full speed, or how your entire body wags when someone calls you over, those are not the things that shine through when you find yourself in a cage with dogs barking all around you and people staring at you as they walk by.

Once we've assessed the dogs, we put their profile on their cages to help potential adopters choose the dog that's right for them, and we post them on our volunteers' page to help our foster carers choose which dog they can save. We also promote the dogs on social media, and through posters distributed to a network of people around the region, who then might distribute the posters more widely, such as on their work or local shop noticeboards.

Being a behaviour assessor is emotionally brutal. While we are very lucky to work with rangers who do their best to save as many dogs as they can, not all the dogs we test will live. But that's exactly why—whether it's 5 degrees and raining or 35 degrees in the shade—we always turn up, and hope that our notes inspire someone to give that dog a second look.

I'll never know what Yard 27's name was, who loved him, where he came from, or what he went through before the pound. But I hope that highlighting his soft and gentle nature will make someone stop by his yard, and—just like I did—fall in love with him enough to take him home, and give him a new name and a happy life.



Image: ARF assessors checking in with the dogs at DAS

If you would like to help ARF with behaviour testing, or in a myriad of other ways, contact info@fosterdogs.org for more information. If you have skills and an interest in marketing and communication or events, or a yen for writing, contact communication@fosterdogs.org.

To help out on our many stalls contact carolanderson@grapevine.com.au

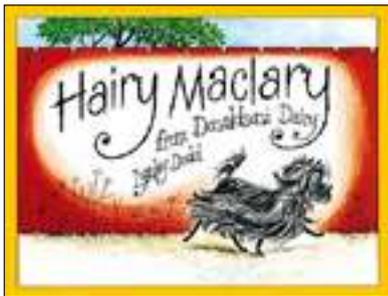
If you would like to become a DAS volunteer or dog walker, please contact the pound at www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/domestic-animals/dogs/volunteering-at-das.

To volunteer at regional pounds contact the pound directly.

BOOK REVIEWS

BY AINE DOWLING

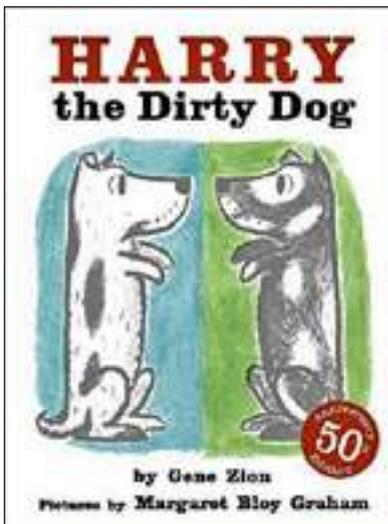
The winter weather is well and truly here, and what better than to curl up with a good book—even for the kids. These are oldies but goodies and a great introduction to the world of reading and imagination (and dogs) for all kids from pre-readers (read aloud) up to older primary.



HAIRY MACLARY FROM DONALDSON'S DAIRY

There is now a collection of 10 Hairy MacLary books but *Hairy MacLary from Donaldson's Dairy* (published 1983) is the original and introduces Hercules Morse, Bitzer Maloney, Muffin McLay, Bottomley Potts, and Schnitzel von Krumm as well as our main protagonist Hairy MacLary. The six dogs decide to go for a walk with no idea that Scarface Claw—the toughest tom in town—is just around the corner ...

Hairy MacLary books by Lynley Dodd and published by Penguin Books. Available in paperback, board book, and Kindle.



HARRY THE DIRTY DOG

Harry the Dirty Dog was originally published in 1956 has truly stood the test of time. Harry is a white dog with black spots but he hates baths! So one day before bath time he runs away and plays all day digging in mud and soil. Harry gets so dirty that he now looks like a black dog with white spots—will his family recognise him when he goes home? There are now three other Harry books; *No Roses for Harry*, *Harry by the Sea*, and *Harry and the Lady Next Door*. You can also get a Harry soft toy.

Harry books by Gene Zion (words) and Margaret Bloy Graham (pictures), and published by Harper Collins. Available in hardcover, paperback, and board.



CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG

Clifford the Big Red Dog was published in 1963 and there are now a total of 12 books in the Clifford collection. Emily Elizabeth wants a dog; a big dog. But she chooses little puppy Clifford who dreams big! And he grows, and grows, and grows ... Clifford books also started the BE BIG Campaign—how you can be a Good Friend, and how Big Ideas can make the world a better place. This is a great read aloud and early reading book for young primary ages.

Clifford books by American author and cartoonist Norman Ray Bidwell (February 15, 1928 – December 12, 2014); originally published by Scholastic, now published by Cartwheel Books. Available in hardcover, paperback, board, audio, and Kindle.

ARF AMBER ALERT!

POPPY IS MISSING! BY WENDY PARSONS



In the life of an ARF foster carer there are many tales to tell—some happy, some sad, and some more of a ... Far Out! This falls into the latter brigade, but also shows the dedication of our foster carers and volunteers. Poppy came into ARF care in 2009 and was adopted by her foster carer.

The place: a suburb in south Canberra

The season: mid-winter

Time: evening fast becoming dark night

Poppy pocket rocket, ARF mini fox terrier cross is having a sleepover at an ARF friend's place while Poppy's ARFer owner travels to Sydney. Suddenly a hot oven in the kitchen sets off the smoke alarm, and a terrified Poppy shoots out of a small cat door and disappears into the night.

The alert goes out to ARFers all over Canberra and the search begins as ARFers make their way to the scene to look for Poppy in the deep dark night. They came by car, bike, and on foot searching high and low, calling her name and waving their high beam torches disturbing the entire neighbourhood until midnight—no luck.

Meanwhile back at the house, the family had been pickling beetroot and the various containers and leftovers were taking up too much bench space in the kitchen. Please take these somewhere else! The beetroot had been strained through muslin which was then placed out of the way beside the front door on the verandah in a cardboard box, and when an ARF searcher popped into see if there was any sign of the pocket rocket, they saw the box of red soaked muslin and feared the worst!

As soon as she disappeared Poppy's details had been posted on the Canberra Lost Pet Database and on the Domestic Animal Services (DAS—Canberra Pound) lost dogs site. Posters went up at the local shopping centre where the takeaway shop owner had to chase away a grumpy 'good' citizen who had been taking them down. The grump refused so the takeaway man chased him off waving a broom and replaced the poster.

The search was called off at midnight—with no sign or reports of pocket rocket.

In the cold of the following frosty morning Poppy's ARF minder was on the search again with her own two dogs to help, when word came through from the DAS Ranger that a dog similar to Poppy's description had been sighted standing bewildered in the middle of an oval about seven kilometres from her starting point .

Two separate carers then advanced on the oval, approaching it from either side, but neither of them could see any sign of a little lost terrier. As the responsible minder parked her car and wondered how to begin the search, she decided to take out one of the dogs to see if that might bring Poppy out of hiding. The minute the dogs jumped out of the car—up sprang Poppy! She had been hiding beneath a tree and ran to her canine friends and the safety of the car.

Poppy had been travelling in a direct line crossing main roads towards her own home and had only three kilometres to go. A huge cheer went up all over Canberra as the word FOUND went out to the magnificent ARF rescue teams. Poppy's owner, having cut short her trip came in to the bus depot later that morning and was met by the little adventurer with her minder. What a reunion that was!

As a foot note to this story; it proved impossible to remove the Lost notice from the DAS website and for about 10 days after this Poppy's minder was receiving calls from people all over Canberra who had found straying small tan and white terriers. In one case she even went to collect the found dog and take it to a vet where the microchip was read and dog and owner reunited.

ARF carers - the dog rescue experts!



Image: Poppy recuperating from her amazing adventure!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR PET

Contact **Canberra Lost Pet Database** (CLPD) via their Facebook page and include date, pet, breed and pic (if possible), any noticeable features—colouring etc., when last seen, and where the pet is likely to be—if they have a favourite walk or haunt.

For lost dogs, notify **DAS** (Domestic Animal Services—Canberra Pound, TCCS) under Lost Dogs section and complete the online form including a pic if possible. You can also visit DAS on Mugga Lane, Symonston to see if your dog has been handed in. Also check the Found Dogs list to see if anyone has listed your dog as found. If you're in Queanbeyan, Yass, or other regional area, check with your local pound.

For dogs, cats, and other animals, check with the **RSPCA** and **vet clinics** in your area.

WHAT'S YOUR BREED?

What's Your Breed? covers some of the more popular dogs in Australia in each issue of *ChinWag*. It goes without saying, but we'll say it anyway ... that all dogs need responsible owners that undertake, at least, basic training, and provide plenty of exercise including a daily walk.

JAPANESE SPITZ

The Japanese Spitz is a high-spirited, intelligent and playful dog; alert, obedient and a good watchdog. The Spitz is also a quick learner and could do well at agility or ball/Frisbee games. The breed is good with children, but can be a bit of a barker if he thinks he's in charge. Firmness, consistency, and confidence are essential in the pack leader, in order to avoid any behaviour problems. Bad behaviours—such as destruction, anxiety, guarding and snapping, are not a Spitz trait, but can develop without the correct leadership, and it's also essential to provide rules, limits, and plenty of mental and physical exercise. In spirit, this dog is a big dog in a small body and makes a good family pet. The adult Spitz weighs in at 5 – 10kg, and reaches a height of 30 – 38cm, depending on gender.

Image: Buddy, owned by ChinWag graphic designer Byron Carr



AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG (ACD)

The Australian Cattle Dog; also known as Red Heeler, Blue Heeler, or Queensland Heeler, is a loyal, hardworking, herding breed. Highly intelligent, this dog is not one to lie around all day, or live happily in the backyard with only a 15 minute walk now and again. It needs much more exercise and mental stimulation to occupy its mind, and if you are not able to provide that, then this is not the dog for you. This dog does best when it has a job to do. It is sometimes suspicious of people outside its pack and may become dog aggressive if allowed to be pack leader as its dominance level is very high. The ACD is very easy to train and excels in herding trials, agility, and obedience, where it receives plenty of physical and mental stimulation, and if you're looking for this breed as a pet only, consider avoiding working farm lines. Well-balanced ACDs make great family companions and are good and trustworthy with children. Depending on gender, the ACD reaches a height of 43 – 51 cm, and weighs between 13 – 28kg.

Image: Ex-ARFer Xena, image by The Dog Tog



WEIMARANER

The Weimaraner is a large, athletic, working dog, and is happy, cheerful and affectionate. The breed is excellent with children, but without proper exercise may become very rambunctious and difficult to control. A quick learner, this dog may become bored if the training is the same over and over again, and needs a variety of training starting from a young puppy. Without proper leadership and training, he may become stubborn and willful, and possibly combative with other dogs. Being a hunting dog, the Weimaraner has a strong prey drive and needs plenty of socialisation with people, things, and other animals. Brave, protective and loyal, the breed is a good guard and watchdog. Owners should not be harsh, but calm with a natural authority, and provide plenty of exercise. The Weimaraner is a strong dog and if left to run ahead will pull like a train and start to think it's the pack leader, so short-lead walking, and walk training is essential. The breed is very eager to please, and motivated by reward (food or praise), and once a trick is learnt they will be happy to repeat the trick for more praise. Depending on gender, the Weimaraner will grow to height of 56 – 69cm, and weigh between 23 – 32kg.

Image: sourced



MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER ...

BY MEL MARTIN

At ARF, we also provide a matchmaking service.

Our foster carers are not looking to move the dog on as quickly as possible; they're looking for just the right match—the family that best meets the need of the dog, and the dog that best suits the family's lifestyle. But finding the perfect fit is an inexact science, and sometimes, we get it wrong. That's why we have an insurance policy—a three-week cooling off period, during which an adopter can return the dog, and get their money back.

Sometimes, the dog shows behaviour in his new home that he didn't previously show; or the cats can't get used to their new housemate, or the adopters realise they are not as equipped as they thought to deal with a dog's

issues, big or small. The reasons are many and varied. But it's never a failure.

Adopting a new dog is a long-term commitment, so making sure it's just the right dog is critical.

We love our foster dogs, and when we take them on, it is with the promise of a happy life in their forever home.

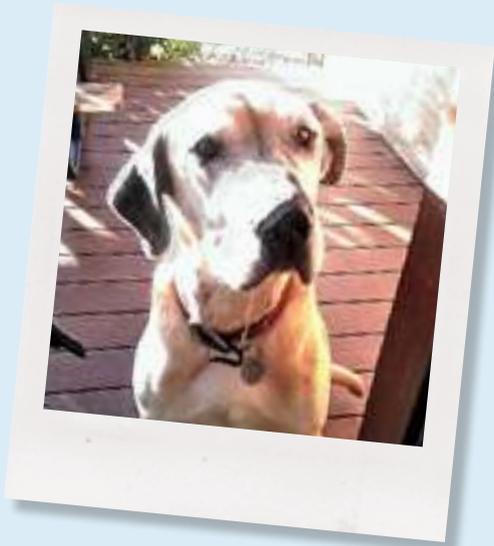
It would be great, of course, if we got it right every single time. But if the adopter realises the dog wasn't the right fit after all, we're more than happy to try again. Whatever the reasons for a return, it helps us better understand the dog, and choose a better match next time.

And the family can save another life—one that is just right for them.



WHERE ARE

COMPILED BY AINE DOWLING



LUCA

We adopted our gentle giant in December 2014. We were looking for a companion for our two year old rescue Staffy, Motley, and as soon as I saw Luca's beautiful face I knew he would be the perfect addition to our family. Motley was a little wary of this looming monster but it didn't take long for them to bond and they are now inseparable, and I don't know who has led who astray. Luca insistently puts his paw on my arm or leg when he wants more pats—Motley now does this too. Motley loves sitting on top of the picnic table—Luca now does this too! Luca has developed this crazy little jig when he knows he's going to get a treat which is guaranteed to make you laugh. There are so many things we love about him; the way he leans in as only Great Dane's do, his big smile, the way dark clothes look like lamingtons with all his hair clinging to them, and most of all, the big greeting we get when we return home from work. He has brought us so much joy that we can't imagine life without him.

Best wishes, Meg

WOODY

It is nearly a year since our Woody became part of our family, thanks to Lyn and all the wonderful people at ARF.

We believe that he really appreciates the love and attention he receives after spending the first year of his life "on the streets" and in the pound.

He loves his daily morning walks and gets quite excited when he realises it is time to go. He likes to meet other dogs while walking. To most other dogs he is friendly, but if a large dog appears to be a bit threatening, he lets them know with a little growl that he is a big dog too.

After all the exercise during the morning Woody likes to find a comfortable resting place around the house to have an afternoon nap.

He likes to answer the phone. When it rings he starts to howl. People cannot understand why we are laughing when we answer.

He loves it when anyone comes to visit especially our grand-children. After a while though he does get a bit bored with visitors and may just decide to go to bed.

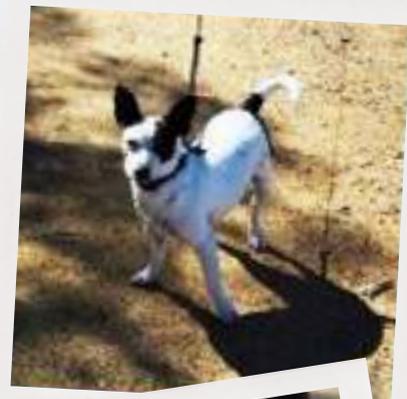
Woody is not happy when we go out and leave him alone, but we think he realises we always come back and he greets us enthusiastically when we return.

We have had a number of dogs over the years, but Woody is really something special.

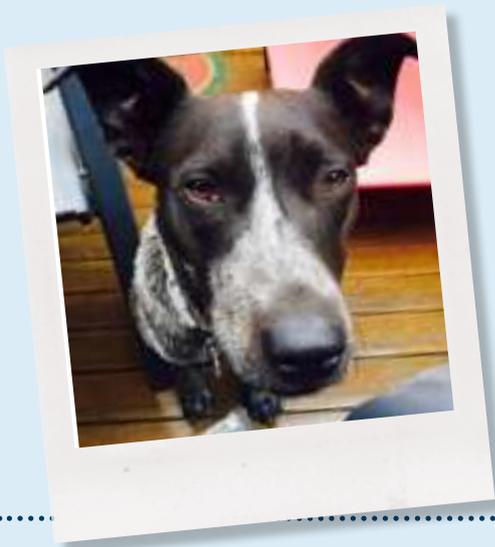
If anyone wants a dog, regardless of breed, size or age, we highly recommend adopting one from ACT Rescue & Foster.

– Sandie and Michael Doherty

Woody is also our August 2017 Calendar Boy



THEY NOW?



ELU

This is ELU. She's really come out of her shell and has so much more confidence now (sometimes a little too much!). We love our morning runs together, going on adventures, and she seems set to become the next flyball champion (LOVES playing fetch). She is inseparable from Devon and has definitely given him a new lease of life. She is doing really well and we just couldn't imagine our lives without her.

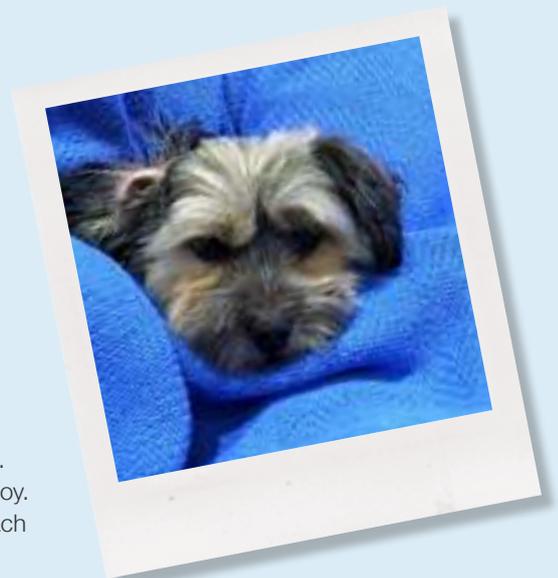
Can't thank ARF enough, she really is a very special (totally spoiled) girl!

MOLLY

We adopted our Molly about 2.1/2 years ago after she was rescued from the ACT pound by ARF. I joke that the three of us, my husband Tim, me and our fur baby Leo (adopted from the RSPCA) fell in love at first sight with her picture. We had recently lost our little girl Tess (another rescue) from heart disease and the three of us were bereft, especially Leo.

The minute Molly was adopted the house was whole again. Leo especially stopped having separation anxiety and we were complete. Leo and Molly puppy played and that was how we discovered Molly had a problem with her back legs. The vet diagnosed luxating patella, where her knee caps would pop out of the socket. They recommended surgery, which the vet assured us would hurt us more than her. In fact, keeping Mollys in a kennel for six weeks was hard on all of us, but we didn't want her to reinjure herself. When she finally got the green light for her release you wouldn't believe the joy. She has become a ball chasing champion and her most difficult decision each day is to choose which ball she wants us to throw.

We can't thank ARF enough for the great work you do and the happiness you bring to families like ours. All the best, Cindy Stockbridge



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

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you can help at any of the following events or stalls please contact our stall organiser extraordinaire Carol Anderson at carolanderson@grapevine.com.au

2 June

Dickson Shops

17 June

Pooch Affair EPIC

7 July

Dickson Shops

30 July

Queanbeyan Christmas in July

14 July

Raiders vs Dragons Game

4 July

Dickson Shops

ARF DONATIONS

Here's a shout out to a couple of our terrific Canberra Vets in their support for ARF.

Inner South Veterinary Centre do great work helping DAS (Canberra Pound) and ARF dogs. A huge thank you for their generous donation!



Canberra Veterinary Hospital has set up donation jars supporting 'local heroes'; so each time you visit you will be given a token to drop into one of the jars. You can support ACT Wildlife, Greyhound Rescue, or ARF! When the jars are full the tokens are converted to a monetary value and donated to the registered 'hero' group!



WINNERS OF 2017

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

With bated breath we drew the winners of our fabulous raffle prizes on Mother's Day, Sunday 14 May. And the winners are ...

First prize Amanda Muggleton, Ticket 232 Seller Wendy Parsons

Second prize Anna Morrissey, Ticket 636 Seller Carol Anderson, Dickson Shops

Third prize Jenny Barry, Ticket 1301 Seller Stalls Team, Canberra Show

Fourth prize Cory McGuinness, Ticket 1315 Seller Stalls Team, Canberra Show

Fifth Prize Anne Reiter, Ticket 599 Seller Stalls Team, Bungendore Show

Congratulations!

LOCK THIS IN YOUR CALENDAR!

On **Friday 14 July** ARF is the nominated charity at the Canberra Raiders v Illawarra Dragons game. We will be at the game with our buckets—so get your tickets now, gather your spare change, and help us help our dogs! Gates open 5.20pm for kick-off at 7.50pm.



COLLECTOR PUMPKIN FESTIVAL—7 MAY

Great crowds at the Pumpkin Festival—it gets bigger every year! We were joined at the stall by a number of dogs and their carers including Chuckles (with Joh), and Rusty—who possibly has a new home (with Lisa), and Zoo and Acai (with Courtney), and, we sold all our remaining raffle tickets. Many thanks to Denise, Deanne, and Aine who helped out on the day.



YOU CAN'T STOP AT ONE!

BY MARIANNE ANDERSON

As the end of 2016 approached I took the time to reflect on the year that was. One of the most profound changes was that my partner Joe and I started the year with two dogs and ended it with four; three of them are from ARF!

Our ARF journey started back in late May 2015. In April of that year we lost our beloved Bella, our Border Collie who had been our loyal furry companion for 10 years and passed at the ripe old age of 16. I thought our Foxy-cross, Ruby, (another rescue dog) who had been with us for 6 years, would relish being the centre of attention, however, I was grossly mistaken as she pined, paced and was lost without her big sister Bella. So I started looking for another suitable dog that might want to adopt us as their human companions.

It soon became clear that there were many lovely dogs but none that seemed to suit our small house, but when visiting the local pound an assistant mentioned ARF, so I looked on the website and saw the most gorgeous little puppy called Mozart who was deaf, so I contacted ARF and we arranged to meet Mozart. It was love at first sight and Mozart, who became Archie, came home on the long weekend in June 2015. He is now 20 months old, a pure joy, clever and so much fun, and he loves cuddles.

Fast forward to November 2016 and we're back on the ARF website. We had just finished dog-sitting for a few months and found we missed the extra company. There were the two cutest little dogs I had ever seen, Pippin

and Frodo; Tenterfield Terriers and brothers. Once again for me it was love at first site for both dogs, but it was little Pip that stole my heart completely, and he came home with me on 11 November.

It was about three weeks later that I received a call from Raelene to ask if I was still interested in adopting another dog as there was a dear but special dog Aggie (white and tan Silky cross West Highland White Terrier) who needed a good home. Aggie had some issues and had been with her foster parents for eight months and they were beginning to worry that she might be very hard to find a home. I must say our first meeting was not so great, as Aggie was so timid and scared of me. However, I could see that with time, love, caring and patience she would not only fit into our family but would also thrive and be happy with us. We arranged for a second meeting and a sleep-over and on 29 December Aggie Mae joined our clan.

The three dogs that have adopted us as their humans have brought so much joy and have enriched our lives immeasurably. There are no words to really thank ARF enough for the joy that has been added to our lives through their dogs. Thank you to Nancy, Raelene, Narida, and especially to ARF for giving us the opportunity to have such a lovely furry family. May ARF continue in their great work in finding homes for all the dogs; all of whom deserve a second chance at life, and a loving home.

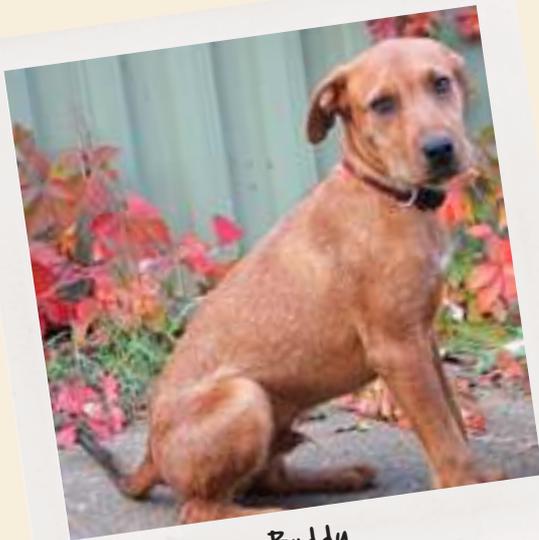


Image: Pippin and Aggie (front) in their forever home

RECENTLY ADOPTED

COMPILED BY RUTH WHEELER

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 info@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.



Buddy

About 6 months | Breed: Goulburn Great
Rescued: 30 Mar 2017 | Adopted: 27 Apr 2017



Astra

About 12 months | Breed: DAS delight
Rescued: 3 Dec 2016 | Adopted: 9 Apr 2017



Muriel

8 weeks | Breed: Gorgeous amazing mix
Rescued: 30 Mar 2017 | Adopted: 21 Apr 2017



Holly

16 weeks | Breed: Staffy mix
Rescued: 25 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 21 Apr 2017



Cassia (now Cassidy)

4 months | Breed: Ridgeback mix
Rescued: 9 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 18 Mar 2017



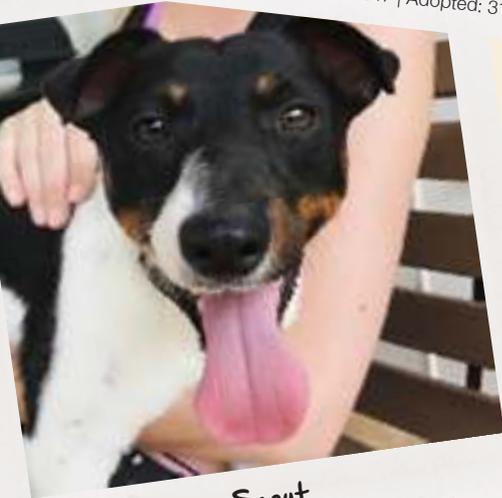
Kian (now Kane)
About 2 years | Breed: Crossbreed
Rescued: 4 Mar 2017 | Adopted: 31 Mar 2017



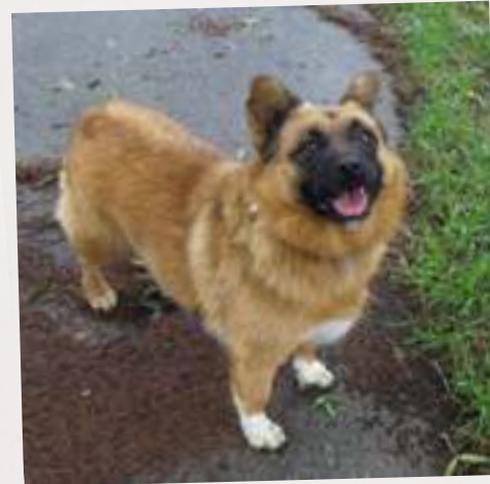
Dustin
4 years | Breed: Crossbreed
Rescued: 18 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 26 Mar 2017



Coco
About 5 years | Breed: Border Collie
Rescued: 10 Mar 2017 | Adopted: 5 Apr 2017



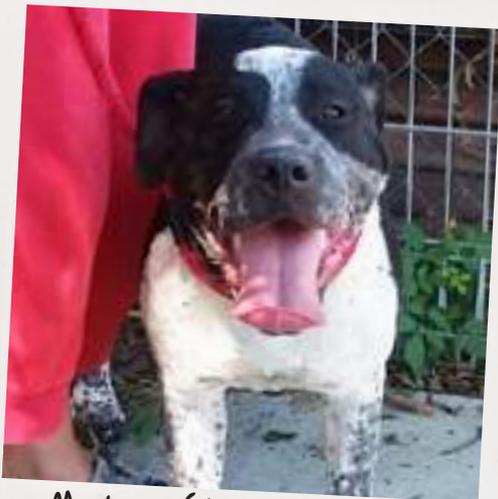
Scout
10 months | Breed: Mini foxie Jack Russell mix
Rescued: 5 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 3 Mar 2017



Bella
4 years | Breed: Corgi pug mix
Rescued: 21 Mar 2017 | Adopted: 8 Apr 2017

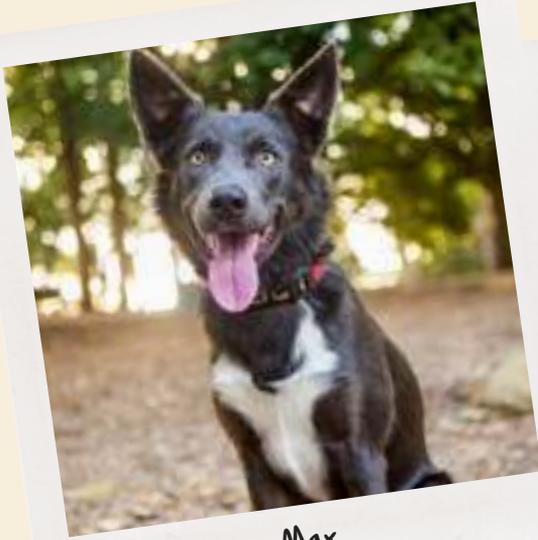


Mustard
About 4 months | Breed: sight hound mix
Rescued: 13 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 17 Feb 2017

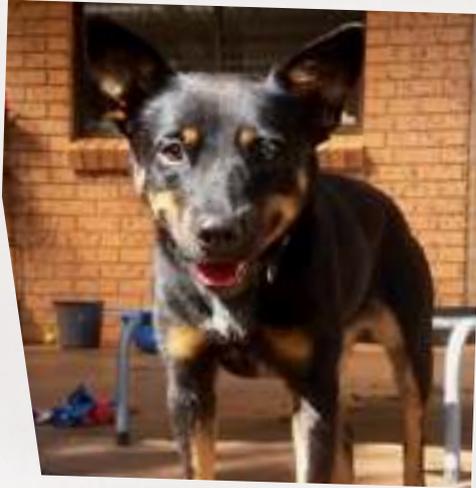


Mortimer (Morty to friends)
About 8 months
Breed: Cattle Dog, Aussie Bulldog, Great Dane mix
Rescued: 9 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 10 Mar 2017

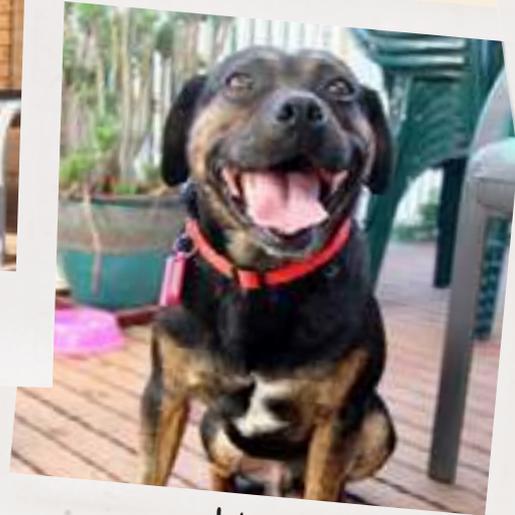
RECENTLY ADOPTED (CONT.)



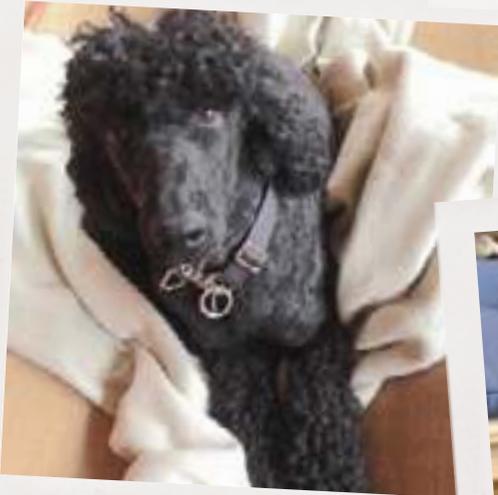
Max
About 2 years | Breed: Kelpie mix
Rescued: 24 Aug 2016 | Adopted: 26 Mar 2017



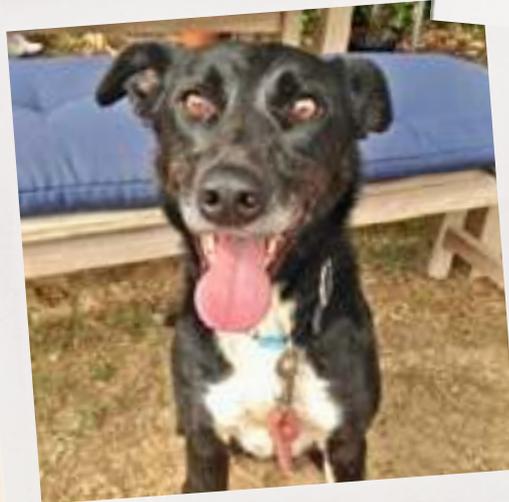
Mocha
2 -3 years | Breed: Kelpie/Cattle dog blend
Rescued: 9 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 6 Mar 2017



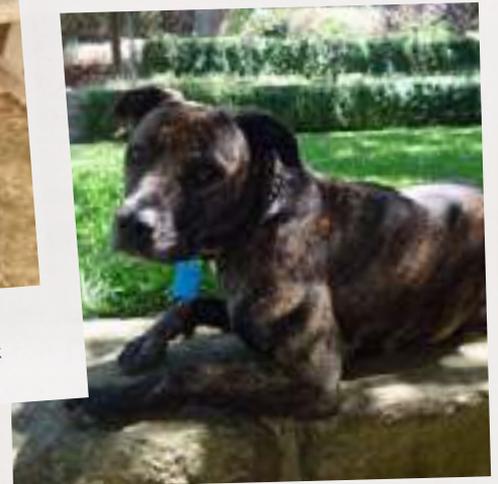
Jakob
8 years | Breed: Pug x
Rescued: 17 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 1 Mar 2017



Koko
About 3 years | Breed: Standard Poodle
Rescued: 3 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 25 Mar 2017



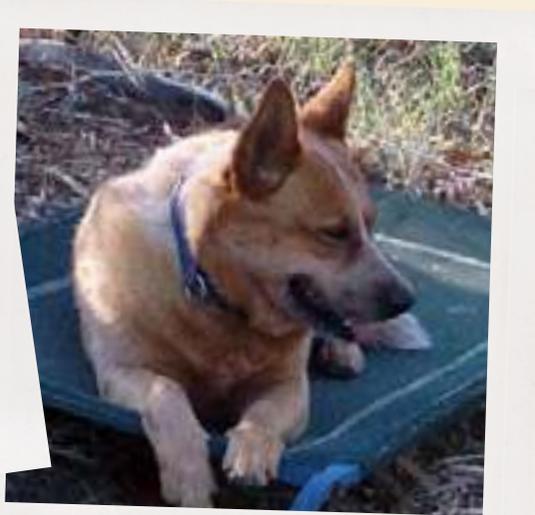
Princess
About 6 years | Breed: Border collie Kelpie mix
Rescued: 4 Feb 2017 | Adopted: 4 Mar 2017



Dasha
2 - 3 years
Rescued: 17 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 25 Feb 2017



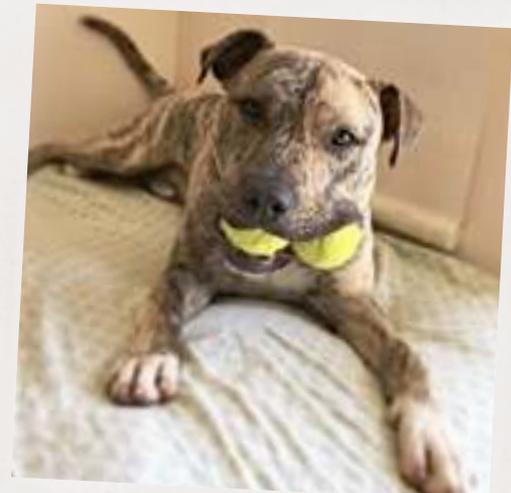
Brooklyn (now Callie)
About 3 years | Breed: Crossbreed
Rescued: 13 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 20 Feb 2017



Rusty
About 5 years | Breed: Cattle dog mix
Rescued: 14 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 18 Feb 2017



Zoe
10 years | Breed: Staffy
Rescued: 28 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 16 Feb 2017



Mash
About 12 months | Breed: Staffy/Boxer blend
Rescued: 2 Oct 2016 | Adopted: 18 Feb 2017



Austin
10 years | Breed: Staffy mix
Rescued: 29 Jan 2017 | Adopted: 13 Mar 2017

CRUCIAL RULES FOR



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Rescuing a dog is great particularly in this world of disposable lives and easily obtainable, seemingly perfect, puppies. The first few weeks of rescue is usually unsettling though, despite being exceptionally rewarding it can be easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. Unless you set your own expectations, here's how to do it.

EXPECT AN INDIVIDUAL

All dogs are different, as different as people are in fact. Your new dog will be as individual as you are. He will have his own character, preferences, fears and emotional triggers. He will be motivated by something specific and worried by something else specific. He might ask for attention to begin with or he might want to be left alone.

If a dog doesn't ask for attention in the beginning, then please respect his wishes. He is not yet confident enough to show himself and he doesn't know you. Trust begins from that first moment and if he can't trust you to respect his personal space, it's not a good start. It might be necessary to protect him from the unwanted attention of other as people naturally want to touch dogs. Worried dogs naturally find touch from strangers intimidating and it's your job to stop well-wishers intimidating your new friend.

Trust comes first in every relationship, not least this one. If you can get on with your life for a few days and allow your new dog to do his own thing, you will be building the foundations for trust in the best way possible.



EXPECT THE ODD LEAK

Even a housetrained dog becomes disorientated in a new place. Seasoned rescuers know the best urine eliminator and we use it, in fact we account for it in the household budget. One of our rescued dogs squirted everything repeatedly due to anxiety—he even got on the coffee table and squirted the coffee at one point.

Expect to use your sense of humour, get your hands dirty and accept that as part of this amazing journey.

EXPECT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT OR TWO

A confused dog, in a new place, with all the fears and worries might not sleep through the night. We humans need sleep so after a little deprivation we can't see things clearly and even begin to become stressed and upset. If you set your mind ready for lack of sleep, you will handle it much better.

OR DOG RESCUERS

EXPECT LUGGAGE

A rescue dog will come with baggage. Not all baggage will last long. Some move into their new lives quietly and some must unpack. Don't see baggage as a negative thing or a problem though. See it as an unpacking of everything the dog has been carrying around in his heart and is now ready to shed because he is beginning to think he can be happy again.

If after a few weeks, the dog shows some lasting problematic behaviour then you may need to find an expert to help you. If you do this make sure you choose a positive, kind, qualified expert. Certainly don't watch The Dog Whisperer or adhere to anyone that quotes him.



EXPECT TO FALL IN LOVE

You will start gazing into each-other's eyes after a while. This is when you are falling in love, trust has been established, the dog feels secure and your bond is intensifying. This is when the bonding hormone begins to work its magic. Oxytocin is present when a Mother looks at her child, yet also when a dog and guardian with a good relationship lock their gaze. So if you have any doubts at all, in the previous steps, hang on for the oxytocin you won't regret it.

EXPECT TO BECOME AN EVANGELIST

When your rescue dog is settled, you will start to tell others how rewarding rescue is. You will also tell everyone you meet that your dog was rescued. There's no escaping it, you might as well roll with it. You might even find yourself rescuing more.

EXPECT A BROKEN HEART

You love a rescue dog in a very special way. The more he unpacked, the more upheaval and the more trust you had to instil into your dog, the bigger your bond will feel. Sadly though, dogs don't live long enough and one day you will have to say goodbye. Your heart will break. Yet you will never, ever regret the journey you shared.

The steps above might take two days, two weeks or two months, but they will happen. The biggest mistake we can make is assuming the first few days dictate that life is this way now; this is when people get stressed and give up on dogs. Things always settle down and will certainly be better than they ever were before.



IN PRAISE OF THE OLD ...

BY PAULA GOWANS



At 13, she wasn't entirely pretty.

Her baby seal, big-eyed, grey face was sweet, but her airframe was decidedly crooked and she had a large, ominous, soft lump on her side below the right front leg. Her walk was a bit wobbly and she was short a few teeth. But oh, that face! And if there ever was a dog with a sense of humour, Tahlei was it.

She came to us with lovely happy senior dog qualities; she was sensible, and strategic in her own energy expenditure and in the deployment of her humans. She already knew the ropes—doors, stairs, cars, leads, other dogs, and the basic commands. She wasn't a foolish time-wasting puppy. Like us, she preferred to do everything purposefully and efficiently.

She was a great manipulator, outsmarting my training attempts from the very first day. She knew to give us a bark to let her out. Thinking I wanted her to learn to come in as soon as she was finished, I gave her a treat whenever she lumbered back up the back steps. On that first night—bark at the door. OK, get up, open door, she hops down the stairs and after a reasonable time, comes back and get a little treat; an hour or so later—another bark at the door. Worried that her kidneys are going bad, I open the door again. She goes halfway out, turns around, comes back in and sits in perfect treat position. It then dawns on me that we have different ideas on what she was being rewarded for. She tried to fake me out a few more times until she realised the game was up. But I had almost created a barking monster.

Tahlei turned out to be a homebody. She was somewhat particular about how and where she snoozed. She wasn't keen on being left at home, and while she was never destructive, we would come back to find she had redistributed all the sofa cushions to her comfort. She liked to customise her own bed as well; digging in it, fluffing it up, and dragging it around

to meet some criteria known only to herself. It was fun to watch her industriously re-arranging her personal space and we even enjoyed her attempts to rearrange our bed pillows while our heads were still on them—her idea of a goodnight kiss before she migrated to the foot of the bed. There, she was able to cover herself up completely in the big extra blanket. The morning when we couldn't find her signalled to us that she was declining. It was unusual for her not to get up for a bite of breakfast.

Tahlei was our first dog as a couple. I have had several life-time dogs and even ran a sled-dog team in Alaska. But although Patrick was never a fan of dogs, he suddenly had someone a lot more appreciative than me to fuss over.



We took Tahlei partly to see if we could manage a dog without making a long lifetime commitment. We always knew we wouldn't have her long. But then, we didn't know where we might be in a couple of years either. After all, Tahlei had already outlived one owner. The emotional toll of adopting an old dog is a little like fostering; there is a day in the not-too-distant future when the dog will be gone.

In the ten months we had her, Tahlei was happy and comfortable, and we would do it again. Maybe not right away, but if another old dog needed to be taken care of to the end, we have the strength to do it because an old dog still has so much to give. Tahlei did the job of being our first dog very well and we did right by her. It was a very satisfying partnership.



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GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED

ARF is seeking a new volunteer graphic designer to take over the layout of our fab glossy magazine *ChinWag*.

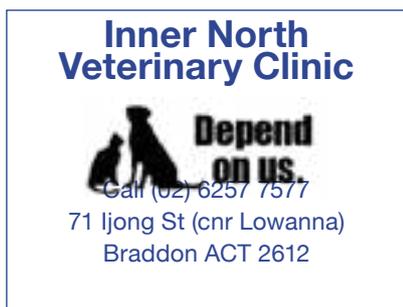
If you are an experienced graphic designer used to working in Adobe InDesign and Photoshop; have experience in laying out long text heavy documents with images, can liaise with our printers, love dogs, and would like to be part of the terrific ChinWag team—contact our editor at chinwag@fosterdogs.org for more information. This is a work from home position.

ARF BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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PARKWAY VETERINARY CENTRE



6 TOP TIPS for DESENSITISATION

Turn scary things into fun, positive experiences!



- 1** Show the scary object just before feeding for at least a week, so the dog learns it becomes a precursor to good things.



- 3** Break down the scary thing into a process of small steps (IE putting the clippers near the dogs claws, then touching the claws, then holding the claw in the clippers then cutting), praising and rewarding heavily for each step.



- 5** If your dog seems unhappy or sensitive to the scary object at any time, go back a step and spend more time on that step.



- 2** Start with short moments of exposure followed by good things only (IE don't clip their claws, give 3 liver treats instead)



- 4** Be patient, proceeding to the next small step only when your dog is 100% comfortable



- 6** If your dog is scared of several things, work on one at a time maintaining a happy voice, rewarding with lots of treats and remaining patient.

JezRose 
canine behaviour specialist

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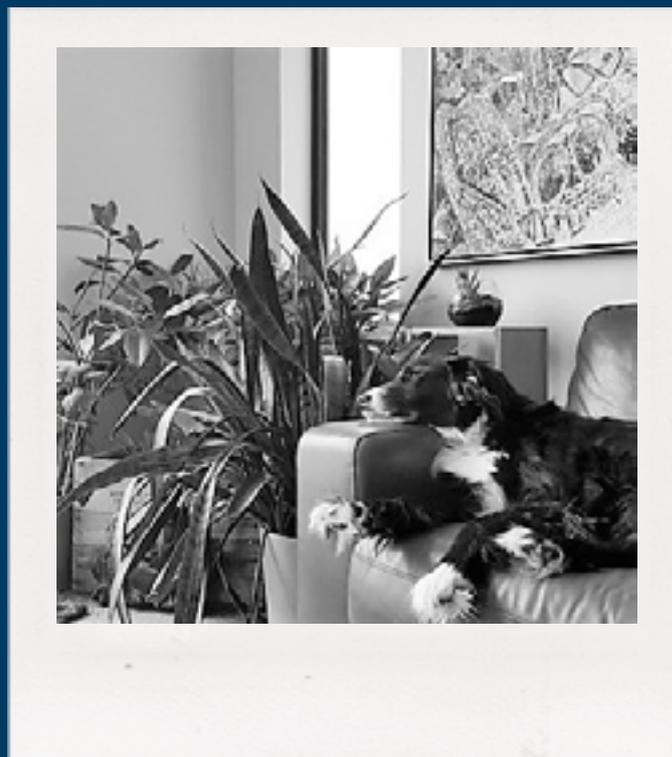


ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

JET AROUND THE WORLD!

This is ex-ARFer Jet, a Border Collie X, who was adopted in 2009 and now lives in Canada. The following is an update from his owners.

"Jet is getting old, blind but still our sweetheart. He will always be our perfect dog. We were living in Perth back then, and ARF had to send him by plane when we adopted him. Anyway, just letting you know that we still love him; he is still with us, and we will always be grateful to ARF for your help to bring him home."



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