

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

AUTUMN 2017

**DOGS HELPING
DOGS**

**WHAT'S
YOUR BREED?**

**LETTING GO OF
YOUR FOSTER DOG**

LOST AND FOUND

**ARF MENTORING
PROGRAM**





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www.fosterdogs.org

ABOUT ARF

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

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COVER: ZION AND MAX

Zion is a three year old Kelpie who was adopted in January. Max is a two year old Kelpie mix who came into ARF care in December 2016. Max is looking for a home where he can be part of the family and a canine friend would be great!

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

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Rose, and Canberra Lost Pet Database

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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

We're delighted to welcome one of Canberra's favourite journalists, Ian Warden, as a guest contributor to *ChinWag*. Ian has given ARF many column centimetres of coverage over the years and he says after his retirement from The Canberra Times he's very keen to continue his support for rescue dogs. Ian's first story is about dogs helping dogs. Check it out on page...

Right now ARF needs more foster carers to help rescue the steady stream of dogs arriving in pounds in Canberra and the region. This year we'll be promoting the foster carer message at our events and in the media. So how about becoming a foster carer. People from all walks of life become foster carers—full time workers, students, couples, families with children and retirees, and we offer lots of support and mentoring. Want to know more? Go to fosterdogs.org/foster-a-dog

This year we'll be the chosen charity for a Raiders match, and for a Canberra Theatre Music at Midday concert. And we'll be featured in the floral display on Capital Hill. Just a few of our many public events throughout the year to keep our public profile high.

Here's to our beautiful ARF dogs and their foster carers in 2017! We hope to see you soon at an ARF event near you fosterdogs.org/category/events

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

DOGS HELPING DOGS

BY IAN WARDEN



In my 45 years as a journalist I had never known my interviewees fall asleep while being interviewed. Now Nash and Lilly, unable to keep their eyes open while I interviewed them about their selfless roles as blood donors, have become my first interviewees to nod off.

Not that I've taken it personally. For Nash and Lilly, companions of ARF vice president Susan Black, are greyhounds. Greyhounds are famous for needing a superabundance of sleep and for being, especially when lounging at home, sleepy, docile and serene. These two (both former racing dogs) got up off their sumptuous living-room mattresses to come and greet me at the door. The two rangy, amiable animals loomed large in the narrow hallway.

After that, though, they flopped back on their beds to return to their dreams. Greyhounds are like that. It wasn't that they found me especially lacking in sparkle and importance. Had I been Donald Trump they still would have nodded off. And it is this famous serenity, coupled with their size, that veterinary surgeon Marc Pilkington of The Gables Veterinary Group (Monash clinic) says makes greyhounds the best canine blood donors. And so in a recent emergency Nash and

Lilly, already on the practice's books, were sought in a hurry.

"This all came about when someone brought in a dog with leukaemia," Dr Pilkington explained. "It had collapsed. It needed blood transfusions. It was very sick. Its red cell count was down to about 14 per cent. Normally [a healthy count] is about 37 per cent plus.

"We get a few cases a year where if we don't do blood transfusions the prognosis is much worse and when a transfusion may improve things quite dramatically. It can give you a chance to start treatment of the dog. Like us, dogs do have differing blood groups but we're quite lucky with dogs because in an emergency situation you can give a transfusion of any dog's blood with very little chance of a transfusion reaction.

"Ideal donor dogs have to be large, quiet dogs. Greyhounds are the best because they're so docile they'll just lay there while the blood is being taken. If the donor dogs are agitated you have to sedate them, and you don't want to sedate a healthy dog just to take blood from it."

Nash and Lilly, summoned in a hurry on that dramatic day, needed no sedation and just a little local anaesthetic at the spot on their necks where the line met their jugular veins. Glossily black, streamlined and handsome Nash and more petite, brindle and white Lilly each yielded up 400mls of blood without a grumble. Susan Black was with them.

"They'd both donated blood before to the clinic," said Susan. "Just a couple of times. Marc had rung me. I'd just come in the door with groceries. He asked 'Can I borrow a greyhound for a blood transfusion?' It was urgent. We went in straight away. Nash did the first donation. Lilly did the second."

Human blood donors have a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards. The equivalent for Nash and Lilly was something to eat and a sweet electrolyte drink. "They recovered pretty well," Susan recalled, gesturing at the two sprawled and snoring

dogs at our feet, their startlingly long legs overlapping their beds' edges. "Lilly is 10 and a half now, but she's quite sprightly. Nash just came straight back from the clinic and bounded around."

"There's no need to get up, Susan will see me out," I told the two lovable, soundly-slumbering donors (in a tone of fond sarcasm) as I got up to go.

MIGHT YOUR DOG GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES?

Dr Pilkington invites those with big, taciturn dogs to contact the Monash clinic on 02 6292 4569.

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

MARCH

Saturday 25 March

Connect and Participate
21 Wentworth Avenue,
Kingston
11am – 4pm

Saturday and Sunday 25 – 26 March

Earth Festival
EPIC (Exhibition Park)
10am – 5pm

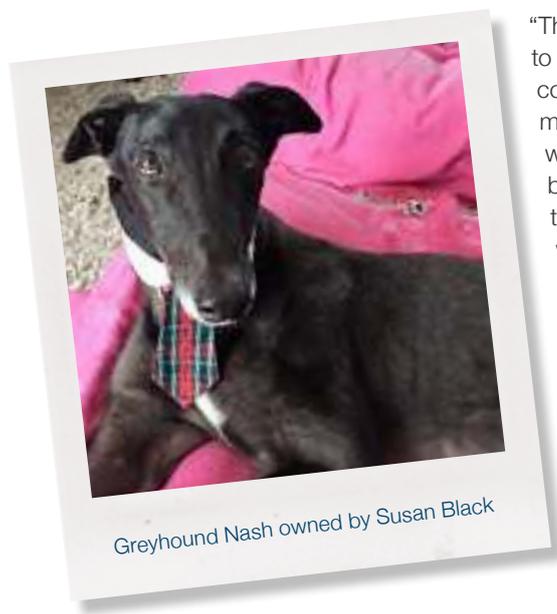
MAY

Sunday 7 May

Collector Pumpkin Festival
Bourke Street, Collector
10am – 4pm

Sunday 21 May

Million Paws Walk
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park
9am – 2pm



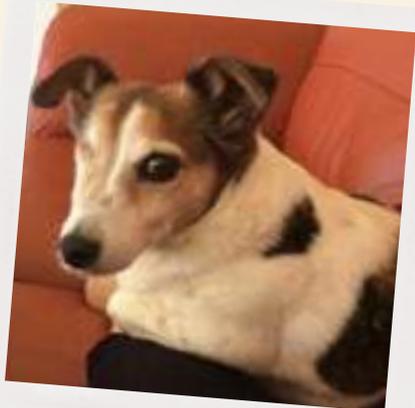
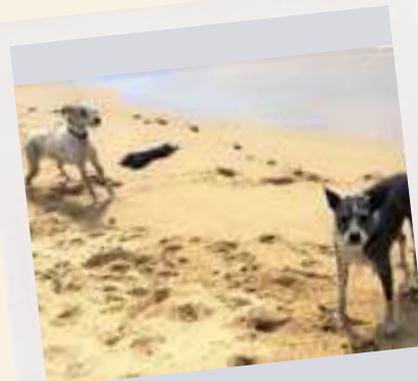
Greyhound Nash owned by Susan Black

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

COMPILED BY LAUREN CANELLIS

HAMISH AND SASSY

Hamish and Sassy are both ex-ARFers who live on the coast with their family. They were two separate ARF adoptions a few years apart! Don't they just look so happy on the sand!



OSCAR

Happy 10th gotcha day to our gorgeous Oscar, adopted through ARF! He's the funniest, cuddliest boy and it's been 10 years of true love for our family. Apart from losing his right eye to glaucoma a year and a half ago, it's been fun fun fun. Thanks ARF for letting us adopt him all those years ago and all the great work you still do.

BART (FORMERLY BOLT)

Thought you might like to see some pictures of me and hear how I'm going.

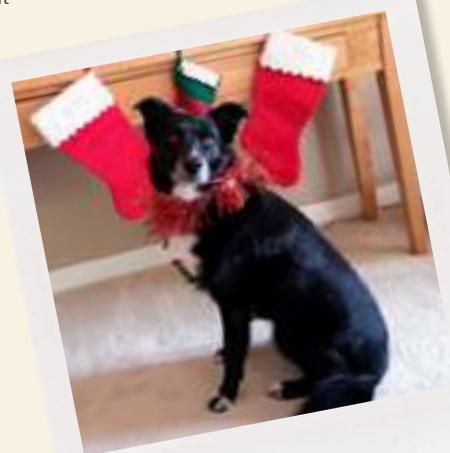
I still go for a walk round Uni of a morning with Len and see lots of birds and kangaroos. I sure wish I could chase them, but I'm in my easy walk dog harness which leads from the front and Len said I don't pull as much now with that when I'm walking. Of an evening Mum and Len take me for my 2km walk round the river, I love it there. I trot along off my lead (as it is an off lead area after 5pm), except when we get near the road of course. I jump in the river when I see other dogs swimming and also help them chase balls. When Mum calls me to continue walking, I pretend not to hear her as I'm having such a good time!

I must be a good boy as I'm always getting told I am, except for one time I got into trouble for standing up to the kitchen bench and taste testing a homemade pizza before it went in the oven. I thought Mum wasn't looking! It was yum. When I first came to Bathurst I was scratching a lot, even though I didn't have fleas, so Mum looked on internet and I now eat Stay Loyal dog food and since starting it I don't scratch anymore and have a healthy coat and am full of energy. No cereal in it Mum said. I also like my raw chicken carcasses and meaty bones.

Sometimes Gabby the cat is mean to me, and jumps out of her hiding place to scare me. But I chase her round the yard when Mum comes home from work as I know it is walk time and I get all excited. Mostly we are okay together though. I must be special, because a lot of people say I am a really nice dog and have a lovely shiney coat. The neighbours are always saying that too and tell Mum that I never bark. My Mum's sister says I am adorable and thinks she might have to steal me for herself! I visit her house sometimes and see my cousin Pip, a Border Collie.

Thank you for rescuing me Cresley. I love Mum and Len and my new life, and I know everyone loves me!

– Love Bart (Lick!)





TOPSY

We first met Topsy (Jug) in September 2015. While waiting to move into our new house, we visited her on weekends and soon fell in love with her! Topsy has been with us since December 2015 and we now can't imagine life without her. She fits into the family perfectly, getting along with our two cats and much larger dog, Finn. Topsy is a very happy little dog and loves sleeping on the couch, everything food related, riding in the car, going for walks and meeting new human and canine friends. 2016 was a big year for Topsy: apart from settling into a new home, she had surgery on her throat and nose to help her breathing, some dental work, as well as surgery on both hips to treat her severe hip dysplasia. Topsy has taken it all in her stride and continues to love life and enjoys being admired by everyone whenever she is out and about! Thank you ARF for introducing us to Topsy - she is a much loved member of the family!

BASIL

We knew we had a small, fluffy dog missing from our lives. We also knew it was an older dog, not a cute puppy we craved this time. As a family with working parents and older children we knew that we wanted a dog but as new residents to Canberra we didn't know where to start looking. So we headed to the pound first, but everything we saw was large (we don't have a big yard), or they were reunited with their human family before we could take them home. We then stumbled across ARF out the back of the pound where they were 'road testing' the latest, disregarded dogs. We meet some lovely volunteer carers and then the following week we saw them again at the Canberra Show. We had our eye on a few of the pooches on their list and it was love at first sight with Basil. Sure he'd been through the pound, an unsuccessful rehoming or two before ARF took him on and ARF followed it up with numerous surgical procedures...but we just knew he was the one! Narida, Basil's carer, met with us, evaluated us (that's new for us!) and we obviously passed all the tests, because little Basil came to live out his retirement with us.

So what did we get for our commitment to Basil and ARF?

Basil is deaf, but that doesn't stop him sniffing out his treats and thanking us with lots of cuddles. It also means he doesn't bark very often. We think he must be pretty peaceful.

Basil is partially blind, but that doesn't stop him enjoying a drive in the car and taking turns to be petted by the kids. He gets very excited when we put on his driving harness with a little dance and heads straight for the garage door.

Basil had a hernia repair and six teeth removed, but that doesn't stop him from trotting to his dinner bowl right on 5pm everyday looking for his dinner. We can set a watch by it. He does prefer left overs and not that dog food some people recommend.

Basil had ingrown eye lashes repaired, but that doesn't stop him putting his little feet up on the lounge at night and convincing us that he should be 'watching TV with his eyes closed' on our laps off of the ground. He also uses the same ploy to get up on the beds and into the car.

What a win Basil has been. Yeah he's now 14 years old, and our time with him will be way too short compared to getting a puppy. But we wouldn't change anything about Basil, nor would we give him up for a million dollars.

We often ponder what his previous family might have been like. But then we remember that he now has the best life ever thanks to ARF, his ARF carer Narida, and now us.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (CONT.)

COMPILED BY LAUREN CANELLIS

PIXIE

Since moving to the deep South, it has been a busy two years for Pixie. She has been very involved in the community and many charity events. In December 2014 she helped run two Pet Photos with Santa fundraisers at two different towns in Mississippi, one event raised funds for the local Humane Society and the other raised money for a local children's home called 'Sally Kate Winters, Children's Home'. In 2015 she again helped run the Pet Photos with Santa to raise funds for the children's home, she took part in present giving to the children and sat patiently on Santa's knee. For two years, she has been a spokesperson for the local charity 4PawsForACause, run by a lovely local vet, Dr. Blanton. Pixie has taken part in the 4PawsForACause charity run two years in a row, winning 1st place at the 5 km run event in 2015 & 2016 - nothing beats the speed of a Kelpie Dog! Pixie will have to work hard to retain her title for a third year in 2017. The 5 km run event raises much needed funds for the local humane society.

Pixie has settled in as a fixture at the local doggy daycare 'Shaggy Hound', even adopting the local owner as her 'Big Momma', so needless to say Pixie wants for nothing. This Halloween, Pixie took the Halloween Photos for her doggy friends at daycare and had a great day with her doggy daycare boyfriend, Axel, a Finnish spitz. I think Pixie and Axel are drawn together because they are both one of a kind around this part of the world. Pixie looks forward to returning to the pastures of Australia one day soon, but in the interim she is really enjoying her Mum working mostly from home instead of the office buildings of Canberra and the amazing yard she has here where she can watch squirrels when she is not playing with her friends at Shaggy Hound.

Pixie is a true rags to riches story, she was a skinny weird looking little dog when she was rescued out of Canberra pound by her foster Mum, Chloe. We are eternally grateful to Chloe for choosing Pixie as her first foster dog and ARF for making it happen. Poor Chloe is always bombarded with photos of Pixie and tales of her antics here. Pixie is a very kind, gentle, laid back Kelpie with the sweetest nature, she loves her two cat brother's, Igor & Leon and makes a good first impression to those who have never heard of a Kelpie before. Pixie and her Mum were doing agility, but Mum had to give it up in recent months due to the fact that in March Pixie is about to become a big sister to a human baby. We know Pixie is going to be the best dog a child could ask for and we can't wait to see what best friends they will become.

Love Pixie and Hayley



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

ARF DONATIONS



A HUGE thank you to the students and staff of Miles Franklin Primary School, Evatt, for their generous donation.

At the end of each school year the school puts on a concert and the students select a local charity to support, and in 2016 they chose ARF!
Thank you!

ARF BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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MENTORING OUR FOSTER CARERS

BY TERESA KENT

ARF is part of a large and growing movement of dog rescue and rehoming, and we're always on the lookout for new foster carers who are willing to put in some time and effort in taking on a dog and helping to find them their new forever home.

But what does a foster carer actually do; and what support do they get from ARF once they have the dog? Communication, learning, and teaching are essential elements of being a foster carer and ARF has a strong support program to help all our foster carers.

ARF's foster carers are our lynchpins; they are the people who rescue dogs in need, bringing them into their own homes and providing whatever foster care is needed for each dog. For example, this can vary between a simple tune-up, reminding the dog about indoor manners, loose lead walking and a vet check to ensure the dog is in good health, or an intensive rehabilitative training program transforming a boisterous wild child into a calm happy canine companion.

To help our carers with this journey ARF has a network of mentors who support and coach foster carers—particularly the newer recruits—with all aspects of their role. ARF also provides a Foster Carer Information Manual to all carers. Our mentors magnify

ARF's impact and strengthen our work by passing on their knowledge and offering a helping hand or listening ear to our foster carers who are the public face of our work.

A mentor is an experienced ARF member who has good knowledge of ARF policies and procedures, and they are usually a current foster carer or have fostered in the past. Carers are advised of their mentor at the time of induction, and mentors may change depending on availability. A mentor is allocated to all new foster carers; usually close to the mentor's suburb if possible, and the role of the mentor includes:

- 🐾 Helping the foster carer to choose an appropriate dog for their home situation and abilities, and guiding the new carer through all elements of fostering a dog. This includes the process of choosing and requesting a foster dog, arranging vet work, training, getting dog food and equipment, claiming for any necessary reimbursement and the rehoming processes from putting a dog on the website to going to new home.
- 🐾 Assisting the foster carer in solving/working with dog behaviour issues by either giving personal assistance, or referring them to professional help when and where required; this may include extra or additional training to provide the best

solution and outcome for both the carer and the dog.

- 🐾 Checks-in with their foster carer on a regular basis (preferably weekly) to see how their foster dog is going; is it improving with toilet training, walking on lead, and interaction with other dogs.
- 🐾 Attending meets and greets with prospective adopters until they are confident enough to go by themselves, and encourage attendance at ARF training sessions (some of which are mandatory for new carers) and ARF events/stalls to promote foster dogs
- 🐾 Assisting with the procedures for fostering, vet work, and rehoming, and providing guidance with administrative tasks to ensure paperwork and payments are submitted promptly.
- 🐾 Discussing strategies for rehoming long-term dogs, such as, extra or additional training and update of description/photos on the ARF website for long-term dogs, and providing a monthly update by email to the Rescue Sub Committee including any issues their carer may have.

Foster caring can be a challenging role, and although there are many rewards it really helps to have someone as a guide along the sometimes winding road to successful adoption.

Image: Foster carers in training by The Dog Tog



2016



STATISTICS

2016 was another big year for ARF,
thanks to our members, sponsors and hard working volunteers.

188
DOGS
IN CARE

49
FOSTER
CARERS

Volunteered their
time and their
homes to care for
rescued dogs


88 DOGS

Rescued from outside
the ACT, including
Queanbeyan, Yass
and Goulburn



48 DAYS

Average time
spent with ARF's
foster carers

16
GOLDEN OLDIES

Adopted
dogs over
10 years of age

TOP DOG
NAMES

- 
1. MILLIE
 2. CHARLIE
 3. HARRY



11 FOSTER
FAILS!

(Dogs so loved that their foster
carers adopted them!)



136

Desexing operations
performed on dogs in
ARF's care

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.

POMERANIAN

The Pomeranian (Pom) is a lively little dog; intelligent, eager to learn, and very loyal, and makes a wonderful companion or show dog.

Docile and affectionate, it makes it a very popular dog with families, especially older persons, and those who may not usually care for toy dogs. They will get along well with other dogs and pets if properly introduced, and make good little watchdogs. The Pom needs a firm but gentle hand and consistent training—being particularly good at learning party tricks, but they do need to see their owners as their boss otherwise they can develop small dog syndrome and become wilful, bold, and temperamental, and be aggressive with strangers. The Pom needs rules and limits in order to be well-rounded, trustworthy, and a happy family member. This cute little dog weighs between 1 – 3 kilos, with a height of 18 – 30 cm.

Image: sourced.



AIREDALE TERRIER

The Airedale is the largest of the terrier breeds. Courageous and protective, they are loyal, eager to please, generally friendly with strangers, and extremely playful when puppies, but as they grow they may play a little too rough and ready for small children.

The Airedale needs consistent training and obedience and an owner who can take on the role of 'top dog' as they may develop dominance challenges to owners they see as submissive, and the Airedale will respond best to a calm, firm, confident handler. A well socialised Airedale will make a great family member and good around older children who can handle their boisterous behaviour. They generally get along well with other family dogs and pets. They also like plenty of exercise and are not really suitable for apartment living. Depending on gender the adult Airedale is 56 – 61cm in height, and weighs between 18 – 30kg.

Image: Hudson (after a swim) owned by Larry Appley



GREYHOUND

The Greyhound is a noble breed. Tall, slender, devoted, and charming, its character is often undervalued because of its reserved behaviour. Greyhounds do not respond well to harsh discipline and the owner needs to be calm with an air of natural authority.

Most Greyhounds have a prey drive and it is instinctive for them to chase, but they seldom present difficulties with other dogs and are good with children provided there is no rough play. Although they have tremendous stamina, and are known for racing, indoors the Greyhound is calm and sociable, and forms a strong bond with their people. Racing Greyhounds are gentle, loving dogs when they retire, and there are a number of rescue groups in Australia for those who wish to adopt an ex-racer. Unless the dog has passed a test in its home state, the Greyhound is required to be muzzled when out and about—this has nothing to do with their temperament, but merely a caution due to their prey drive. The Greyhound will reach a height of 68 – 76cm and a weight of 27 – 36kg depending on gender, though some lines are larger and may reach a weight of 40 – 45kg.

Image: Lilly owned by ARF member Susan Black



LOST AND FOUND

CANBERRA LOST PET DATABASE

In June 2013, Anna Reimondos was on a quest to adopt a new furry friend. She began her search, as so many of us do these days, on the internet.

While browsing rescue, shelter, and rehoming websites Anna's shrewd eye observed that a pet was often listed as 'lost' on one website and 'found' on another. Anna took it upon herself to facilitate these connections and in doing so recognised that there were several unconnected places to report lost and found pets in the Canberra area, causing crucial information which could reunite lost pets with their loving owners to fall through the cracks. To bridge this gap Anna established the Canberra Lost Pet Database, a Facebook page that has amassed a following of over 24,000 people.

The secret to CLPD's success is in its unique operation. Unlike other organisations which juggle competing priorities, the sole purpose of CLPD is to reunite lost pets with their owners. Anna and her team cross check lost and found reports on other websites and have uncannily long memories for pet recognition. By utilising Facebook, CLPD tapped into an already widely used, real-time and portable platform, with 80 per cent of people who contact the team doing so via a mobile phone. The ease of snapping a photo with a smart phone has pathed the way for an evolution from simpler 'Lost' and 'Found' reports to an additional category known as 'Sightings', where a wandering pet is unable to be approached or contained but a description, time, and location can be reported.

The CLPD team are a group of highly devoted and passionate volunteers who dedicate many hours each day to the operation of the page. Canberra has rallied around them, offering an abundance of community support. Strangers help to search for lost pets by checking their properties, driving the streets of their neighbourhood, and participating in organised searches and letterbox drops. On one occasion, local Police Officers helped a member of the CLPD team escort two small, skittish dogs along a busy road to a location where they could be captured safely.

Dogs, cats, and birds are the most common species that CLPD encounter but ferrets, snakes, chickens, a pig, and even the odd wandering goat have found their way onto the CLPD page. Most pets are reunited quickly, some without even leaving home, eventually being discovered in a deep sleep under the owner's bed or lying on a rug of similar colour to the pet's fur.

Other happy reunions have occurred after considerable time; a cat who went missing from his home in Duffy was found two months later in Bywong. Some have been found under amusing circumstances, a tennis ball loving galah was located on a tennis court, and another parrot was reunited after landing on a stranger's shoulder in a park and helping himself to her lunch.

In the little over three years that they have been operating, Canberra Lost Pet Database has generated more than 12,000 pet related reports. To give your pet the best chances of being reunited should they become lost, CLPD recommends animals wear a collar and tag with their owner's contact details where possible. Many animals, including small pets, can be microchipped and owner details should be kept up to date. If you are unsure if your pet is microchipped or who you need to contact to confirm or change your details, you can drop into a vet any time for a fast, free microchip scan.

For more information about lost and found pets, visit the Canberra Lost Pet Database on Facebook.



5 WAYS TO LOVE & LET GO OF FOSTER DOGS

Written and posted by Lisa Elisabeth Rose in *Border Collie Inquisitor*, *Border Collies*, *Gloria Sirens*
Reprinted (as published) with permission from the author.

People tell me all the time they admire me for fostering dogs. “I could never foster,” they say. “I’d get too attached.” I know they mean to praise me, but the compliment sometimes feels backhanded. They love too much; therefore I must have something wrong with my heart.

The truth is I’m passionate about dogs and naturally clingy. Yet, somehow, (so far!), I’ve let all my fosters go—even the ones with whom I deeply bonded.

Here’s how I love and let go of them. I compare them to other strong but temporary attachments in my life.

I tell myself:

1. THEY’RE MY STUDENTS.

University students are in your class five months at a time, high school a whole ten months. As an educator, I got attached to some of my students; there’s a reason favorites are called the teacher’s “pet.” I tell myself I run a school in my home where lost dogs learn how to be lovable family pets again. I teach them basic obedience and a few tricks so they are good and charming. When they get adopted, they ‘graduate’.

2. THEY’RE RELATIVES FROM OUT OF TOWN.

I tell myself things like, “These three puppies are my nephews. This is Grandma Gilly. Here’s Cousin Barkley!” Some I like more than others. Some I can’t wait to see the backside of. Just as when I have relatives visiting, while they’re here, we conflict, we connect. I’m stressed, I’m joyful. When they leave, I’m sad, I’m glad. I find myself looking forward to fosters leaving just so I can reconnect with my own dogs, Mick and Maisie. I know we’ll all be sad, but we have each other. Although I won’t necessarily see my individual fosters again, I will see their like again. (And we do have reunions!)



Tuppence with her foster carer, Petra

3. NO MATTER THEIR AGE, DOGS ARE A LOT LIKE CHILDREN.

Like your kids, dogs belong to themselves more than they do to you. If you raise them right, children grow up and leave home. When my daughter was small and warbling enchantments that intoxicated me, I couldn’t believe it was my job to render myself obsolete. But it was. I did it, and the child of my heart lives in a home of her own now. Just like your child, foster dogs come into your heart only for a short time. While we’re together, we share a ‘now’ that is our life together. When they go, the story of their lives goes on, and in it; I’m barely a paragraph. A year or two later; I’m nothing but a comma. And that’s okay. In fact, it’s marvelous that life stories are that rich.

4. I’M NOT SPECIAL.

Some people have trouble letting go because it feels as if no one else will love this animal as much or as well as they do. When I feel that way, I remind myself that the world is full of love. It was full before I was born, and love will go on without me in abundance. Dogs are innately lovable, and lots of people love dogs. (I’m certain there’s a dog-person gene.) Maybe it’s because I’m a teacher, but I know if I can take good care of this dog, so can someone else. I hold tight to this faith. With the help of the rescue network, I try to make solid, long-term matches for the dogs in my care. That way I get to do my small part to bring the right dog and the right family together. This other family gets to be heroes, and I share in their joy from the sidelines. Most fosters I know say that making this gift possible for others is the most rewarding thing about this work. One said to me, “Sometimes I wonder when I agree to take 10 more puppies if I have rocks in my head. Then when I see the families so excited and know those puppies didn’t have a chance without us. In those moments, I know exactly why I do it.”

5. I HAVE TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEXT DOG.

Think Schindler’s List: “I could have gotten more out ... I didn’t do enough!” Every year, 7.6 million dogs and cats enter shelters, and 2.7 million are euthanized. I can’t adopt them all, and if I could; how would those accommodations look? Acres of kennels? My home would become a shelter. A puppy mill. A factory farm. A fellow foster mom told me, “Sometimes I’m tempted to ‘foster fail’ and keep a foster, but the more dogs come and go, the more



Banjo in foster care

I think I should stick to the three I have and continue fostering. The right one for me will come along and I don’t want to rush it, just because they have blue eyes!”

An especially inspiring line also comes from Schindler’s List, from the Talmud: “Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire.” When you let your foster dog go to a new home, you create an opening in your life for the next dog in need, and, believe me, that dog is out there. That dog needs you. Whenever you welcome a foster dog into your home and then let her go to a new home, you do your small part to save the world.

So, whenever people tell me, “I could never foster, I’d get too attached,” I want to say, “You might be surprised!” You won’t love them all. Some aren’t right for you, but they are right for someone else. Bonds take time to develop, and often the dog isn’t with you long enough for that to happen. Sometimes you do get attached, but so what? Yes, love hurts. Life hurts. Dogs are out there hurting right now. I want to say to those people, “You can do it! At least give it one try!”

You’d be saving the world entire.

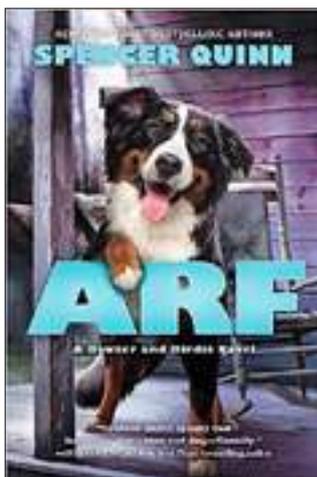
Lisa Lanser Rose is the author of the memoir *For the Love of a Dog* (Harmony Books) and the novel, *Body Sharers* (Rutgers University Press), which was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award for Best First Novel. Her publications and honours include the The Briar Cliff Review Nonfiction Award, The Florida Review Editor’s Award, and a Best American Essay Notable Essay. She trains trick dogs, fosters herding dogs, and blogs at TheGloriaSirens.com

BOOK REVIEWS

BY AINE DOWLING

Some great new books on the market for young readers, aged 8 and up, including a couple of ‘whodunnits’ from Spencer Quinn (author of the Chet and Bernie mysteries), and Tommy Greenwald (author of the Charlie Joe Jackson series), and a great new super-hero cartoon style book from Dev Pilkey creator of *Captain Underpants*. If you’re struggling to keep your kids away from computer games and get them into the world of imagination and character creativity; these are the books for you!

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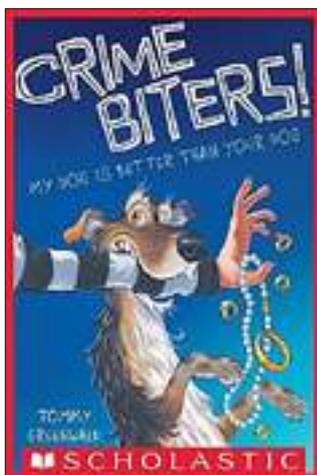


ARF

Well obviously, given the title, we had to include this book! Bowser and Birdie is the children’s version of Chet and Bernie, and the latest offerings from Spencer Quinn. This is the second in the Bowser and Birdie ‘whodunnit’ series, and stars Birdie, and Bowser the dog—with a nose for sniffing out trouble and paws for digging up the dirt. These books are great for kids aged 8 – 12 years, young adults, and those of us still young at heart!

ARF—a Bowser and Birdie series by Spencer Quinn, published by Scholastic Press 2016. Other books in the series are: *Woof* (2015), and *Bow Wow* (due April 2017). Books are available in paperback and hardback only.

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CRIMEBITERS!

Crimebiters! #1 My Dog is Better than your Dog is the first in a series of ‘whodunnits’ from the pen of Tommy Greenwald (author of the Charlie Joe Jackson series) and stars Abby the ever-so-slightly super-hero vampire fighting mutt and her owner Jimmy. Written diary style in the first person by Jimmy, this is a fun and fast action book that will keep the most reluctant young reader enthralled from beginning to end, and includes quirky illustrations by Adam Stower. Suitable for children aged 8 and up.

Crimebiters! #1 by Tommy Greenwald (author) and Adam Stower (illustrator), published by Scholastic Press 2015. *Crimebiters #2 It’s a Doggy Dog World* published October 2016. Books available in hardback, paperback, audio, MP3 CD, and Kindle through Amazon Digital.

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DOG MAN!

From the creator of *Captain Underpants*, this is a brand new offering by Dav Pilkey. When Greg, the police dog, and his handler are injured, life-saving surgery creates super-hero *Dog Man*—half canine, half human, and with a nose for justice. The book is written cartoon style and is hilariously funny, and just like *Captain Underpants*, the cool humour will keep reluctant readers happily entertained! Suitable for children from 7 years up.

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey (author and illustrator), published by Graphix August 2016 and available from Amazon Digital in Kindle, comiXology, and hardcover. *Dog Man Unleashed* (#2) published December 2016.

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.



Tangles (about 5 months)
Premium special blend
Rescued 27 September 2016, adopted 6 November 2016



Kym (about 12 weeks)
Kelpie wolfhound mix
Rescued 29 December 2016, adopted 13 January 2017



Lenny (now Swampy) (About 5 months)
Goulburn gorgeous mix
Rescued 28 October 2016, adopted 18 November 2016



Jedi (about 12 weeks)
Kelpie wolfhound mix
Rescued 29 December 2016, adopted 13 January 2017



Pippin (about 12 months)
Tenterfield Terrier
Rescued 10 July 2016, adopted 10 November 2016



Tansy (now Alice) (12 months)
Maltese x poodle (probably)
Rescued 9 December 2016, adopted 22 January 2017



Daisy and Pepper (7 and 8 years)
Shih Tzu mix
Rescued 2 December 2016, adopted 23 January 2017



Big Ben (about 2 years)
Border Collie mix
Rescued 6 January 2017, adopted 21 January 2017



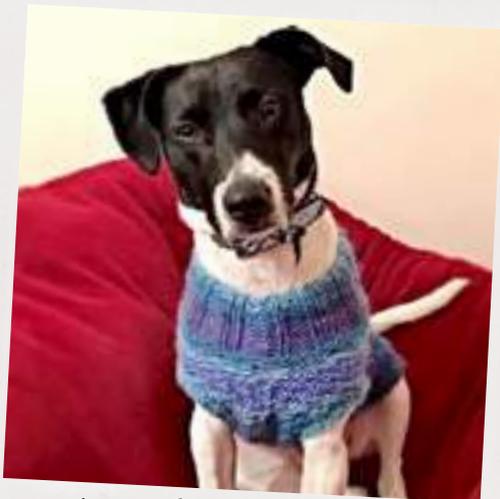
Ellie (about 3 years)
Terrier mix
Rescued 29 March 2016, adopted 11 November 2016



Panko (12 months)
Japanese Spitz
Rescued 17 November 2016, adopted 12 January 2017



Charlie (4-5 years)
Foxy mix
Rescued 20 December 2016, adopted 9 January 2017



Rocky (about 12 months)
Jack Russell x Kelpie
Rescued 31 May 2016, adopted 12 November 2016

RECENTLY ADOPTED (CONT.)



Mowgli (4 years)

Foxie x
Rescued 6 January 2017, adopted 20 January 2017



Bella (about 6 years)

Foxie mix
Rescued 27 September 2016, adopted 9 January 2017



Rustie (about 2.5 years)

Kelpie mix
Rescued 1 October 2016, adopted 8 January 2017



Benny (now Woodrow) (about 2 years)

Poodle mix - Dachshie?
Rescued 29 December 2016, adopted 15 January 2016



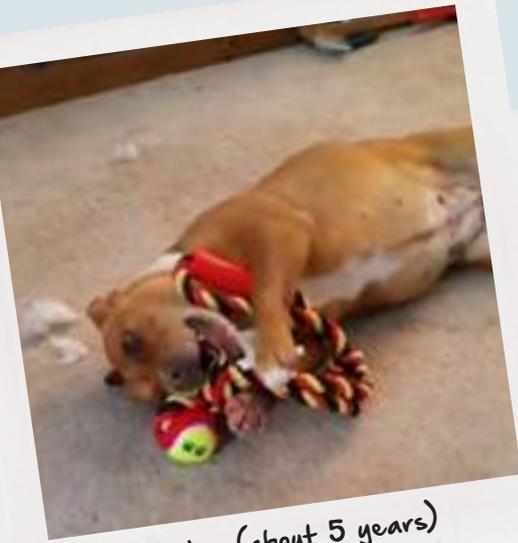
Panda (about 5 years)

Mini foxie Chihuahua mix
Rescued 31 December 2016, adopted 13 January 2017

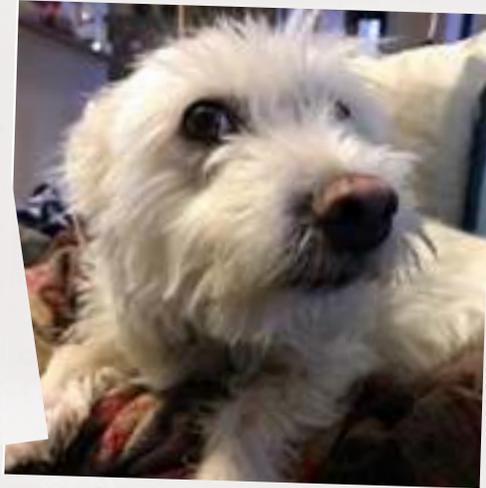


Pixel (about 12 months)

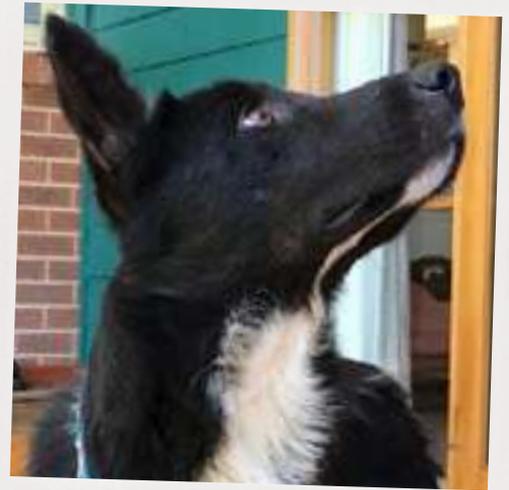
Kelpie
Rescued 29 November 2016, adopted 4 January 2017



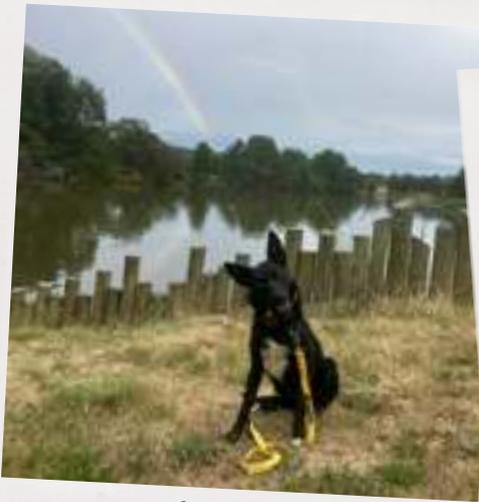
Giggles (about 5 years)
Breed: Staffy
Rescued 17 December 2016, adopted 2 January 2017



Maxie (about 6 years)
Jack Russell mix
Rescued 25 November 2016, adopted 28 December 2016



Lochie (2-3 years)
Border Collie mix
Rescued 9 December 2016, adopted 23 December 2016



Zion (about 3 years)
Breed: Kelpie
Rescued 16 December 2016, adopted 5 January 2017



Aggie (about 2 years)
Small Terrier mix
Rescued 29 March 2016, adopted 29 December 2016

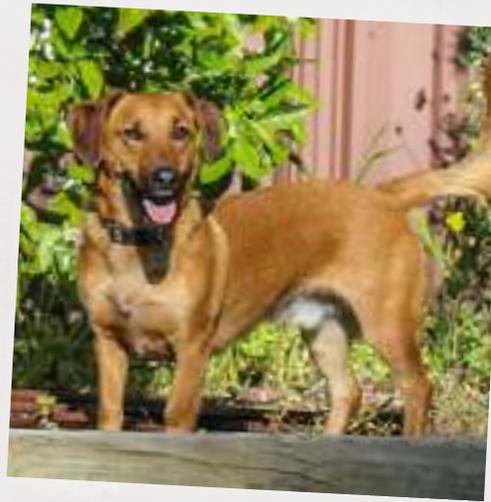


Harry (about 12 months)
Maltese mix
Rescued 18 September 2016, adopted 20 December 2016

RECENTLY ADOPTED (CONT.)



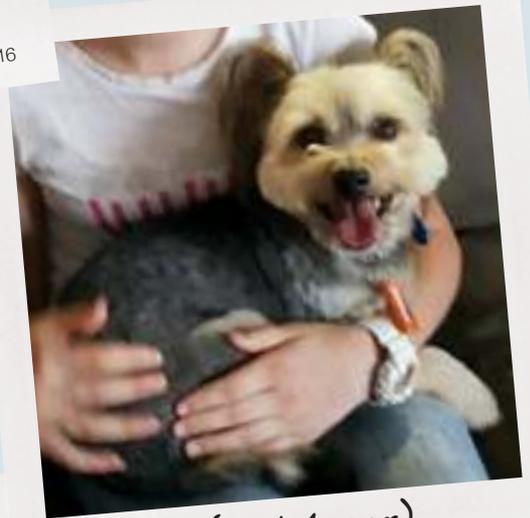
Pippy and Mary
Maltese mixes
Rescued 18 November 2016, adopted 18 December 2016



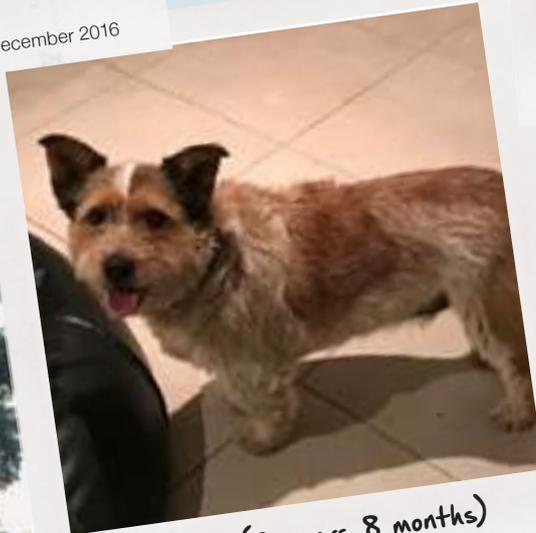
Marley (about 2 years)
Rescued 13 November 2016, adopted 6 December 2016



Jelly (5 -6 years)
Crossbred
Rescued 4 November 2016, adopted 9 December 2016



Leo (about 4 years)
Silky Terrier X
Rescued 2 December 2016, adopted 16 December 2016



Buddha (3 years 8 months)
Maltese Jack Russell Cattle Dog blend
Rescued 25 November 2016, adopted 8 December 2016



Buick (now Bailey) (about 2 years)
Greyhound
Rescued 28 October 2016, adopted 9 December 2016



Sammie (about 8 years)
Silky x Maltese
Rescued 22 December 2016, adopted 7 January 2017



Frodo (about 12 months)
Tenterfield Terrier
Rescued 10 July 2016, adopted 25 November 2016



Lulu (about 8 years)
Terrier mix
Rescued 7 November 2016, adopted 27 November 2016



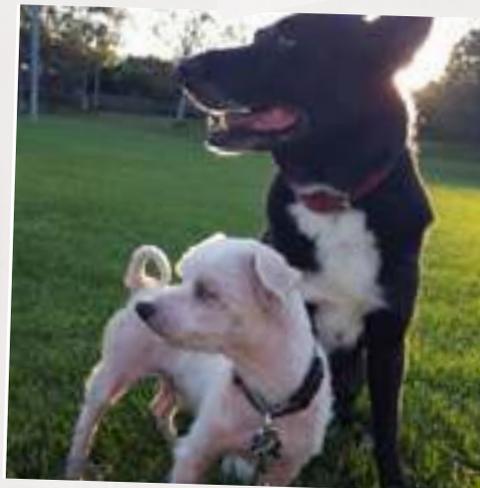
Grace (about 12 months)
Greyhound mix
Rescued 27 September 2016, adopted 19 November 2016



Honey (14 years)
Goulburn gorgeous girl
Rescued 6 July 2016, adopted 6 November 2016



Tully (14 months)
Beagle / Pug mix
Rescued 18 November 2016, adopted 27 November 2016



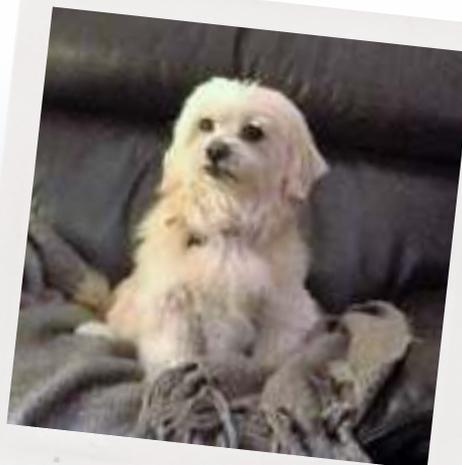
Larry (10 years)
Maltese mix
Rescued 20 November 2016, adopted 6 December 2016

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Rocky was born into ARF care on 14 January 2006 and was adopted by Narelle on 18 March that year. His mother was Sharnie and there were three other pups in the litter. They were such gorgeous pups and we are saddened to learn of Rocky's passing.

'Rocky was our beloved friend whom we lost to a pancreatic tumour on 21 July 2016; too young at the age of 10. Even from a puppy Rocky had a quiet, unassuming and affectionate character but he was also cheeky and intelligent. He was fascinated by David Attenborough programs and lions, tigers and bears were his favourite subjects. He loved his walks and riding shotgun in the front seat of the car (wearing his harness and seatbelt of course); expected a life of comfort (which he got, three beds not counting mine and the lounge), and developed a taste for all manner of cuisine (one favourite was to suck baked cheese off the lasagne dish). Yes, he may have been spoilt but never acted the brat, too much good sense and style, and really bad behaviour would have involved too much effort. My children always thought he was part dog and part cat, the best of each. He brought out the best in us, and we will always miss him'.

– Narelle Cartledge



Rocky

Hi, I'm Gemma, and I'm modelling my new coat from Café Press.

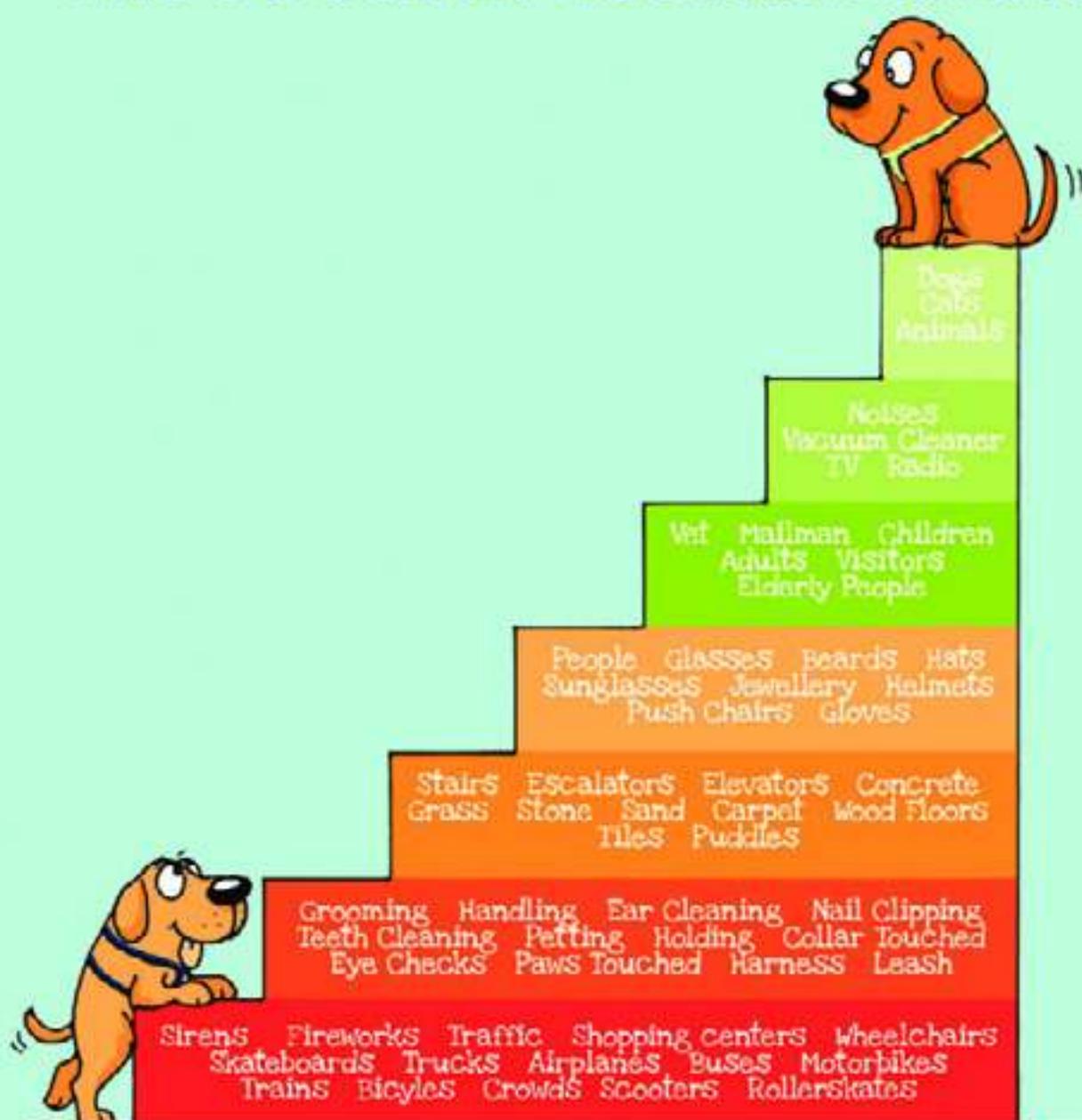


You can get heaps of ARF stuff on line and donate at the same time. You can get water bottles, bags, clothing, mouse mats and geeky stuff—and a fabulous coat like mine!



Visit www.cafepress.com.au/actrescueandfoster and get your cool ARF stuff today!

Simple Steps to Successful Socialisation



Early socialisation is an essential part of your dog's development.

By pairing these associations with treats (or games with toys, providing options and rewarding good decisions)

you will help your dog become more confident and well adjusted. Putting the time in early will help prevent behaviour problems at a later stage.



www.simplybehaviour.com



ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

ARF AT VERSAILLES

Marie-Antoinette and ARF rescue dog Mash got the royal treatment for the National Gallery of Australia's Paws for Art event to celebrate *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace*. The dogs of Versailles had their own portrait painters and were a revered part of palace life.



Versailles: Treasures from the Palace at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra until 17 April. Tickets \$27 adult/\$20 members/Kids Under 16 free



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