

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

CHINWAG

WINTER 2018

PAIN RECOGNITION

**THE GANG
OF NINE!**

**PUPPY PRE-
SCHOOL 101**

**WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?**

**RECENTLY
ADOPTED**

THERAPY DOGS





TRIVIA NIGHT

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

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2018, 7PM • CANBERRA LABOR CLUB, BELCONNEN
\$20 PER PERSON • TABLES OF UP TO 10 ADULTS

BOOK YOUR TABLE BY EMAILING
ARFTRIVIA@GMAIL.COM

SAVE
THE
DATE



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: RONNIE THE ROTTIE

Our cover is a tribute to Ronnie the Rottie who came into care aged 10 years and with a number of health issues. Sadly Ronnie went to doggy heaven in early May. Here he is enjoying himself at Beef and Barley, one of our 2019 calendar sponsors. Photo by LibCreative.

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

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communication@fosterdogs.org for information
and rates.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The change of season finds us still hard at work finding the best homes for our lovely dogs.

This edition of *ChinWag* will give you some very interesting reading about our activities, including a catch up on ARF dogs in their forever homes in Where are they Now. The wonderful work of therapy dogs is also featured. It's also been a bumper puppy season and there's a delightful story about a large group of joyful bundles; check out Gang of Nine.

We're also continuing our series of Puppy Pre-School 101, and this time we take a look at puppy behaviour and how you can set your training program in place. Plus some great info on recognising, and alleviating, joint pain in dogs.

A talented team of photographers, writers and designers is well on its way with ARF's 2019 calendar, to be launched in September—where does that time go?

ARF's fabulous Trivia Night is on again this year and yet another talented team is already working on a great program for us, so lock the date in your calendar now—8 September, Canberra Labour Club Belconnen, with our fantastic emcee Larry Appleby.

But the real stars of our organisation are the foster carers who never give up on their task. Thanks to one and all for continuing to support ARF's important work.

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



THE GANG OF NINE!

In our autumn issue of ChinWag, we included an article on Quinn and her DNA. Quinn was one of nine pups left at a local vet last year, and this is their story.

By Ruth Underwood

On 18 October last year we were contacted by West Queanbeyan Veterinary Hospital advising that nine large breed pups had been left in box overnight at the vet surgery. The pups were being checked out by the vets, but they asked if we could help in any way with temporary care rather than have to send them to the pound. So what did we do? That's right! We took the pups!

The pups were given a health check and eight were treated for dehydration. Colt, who was in slightly better condition, was immediately rehomed by one of the vet nurses, and the remaining eight were later collected by one of our foster carers and allocated to four ARF carers.

As the pups were so young, it was decided that each foster carer had to take two pups so they could continue their development and socialisation with a sibling. Bowie and Jett came to me, and have kept the names. Minnie (now Clover) and Daisy went to Kenny who ended up adopting Daisy. Lui (now Ted) and Eve (now the famous Quinn) went to Kally, and Burra (now Foxy) and Toast (now Sushi) stayed with Dallas who collected the eight from the vet.

The pups thrived in care and after a few weeks were placed (not without some hesitation...) on the ARF website. The hesitation came about as with eight gorgeous cuddly pups available for adoption, we knew we would be absolutely inundated with responses—so we took a deep

breath and braced ourselves as they went public. Each pup received over 25 emails—times that by eight and it's over 200 enquiries! There was also a huge interest through the vet's Facebook page.

My pups, Bowie and Jett, clearly loved children so I chose homes with mid-older primary age children and families who had some dog experience. When rehoming, we all had to consider how long the pups would be home alone, and if there was a resident dog to keep them company. Quinn was adopted through our Dog Wanted program.

As mentioned previously, Quinn had her DNA results in our autumn issue of ChinWag, and now we also have Ted and Jett's DNA results—see below.

“

IT WAS RATHER SPECIAL FOR ME TO SEE HOW THE PUPS HAD GROWN AND CHANGED BECAUSE AS A PUPPY CARER I DON'T OFTEN GET THAT OPPORTUNITY.

”

JETT



BOWIE

A couple of the other owners may also have their pup tested and it's certainly going to be interesting to see the results.

All the pups have ongoing training and catch ups with their siblings, and Ted's owner arranged a reunion that was attended by all nine pups (by now six months old) on Saturday 24 March. I don't know if they remember each other but they all play together beautifully and have very similar play styles and temperaments—happy, easy going, and no aggression—it's really quite lovely to see them all together again. And I'm not sure if it's nature or nurture, but probably both, as I really think the weeks in

IMAGE: Jett and Bowie now 6 months old.

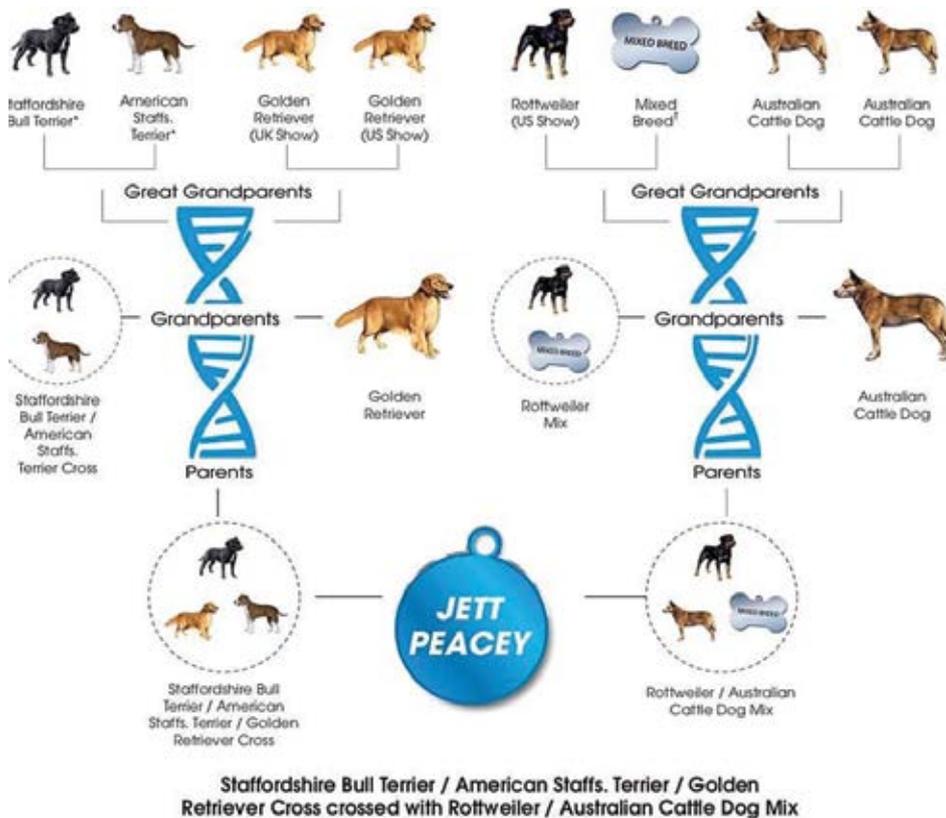
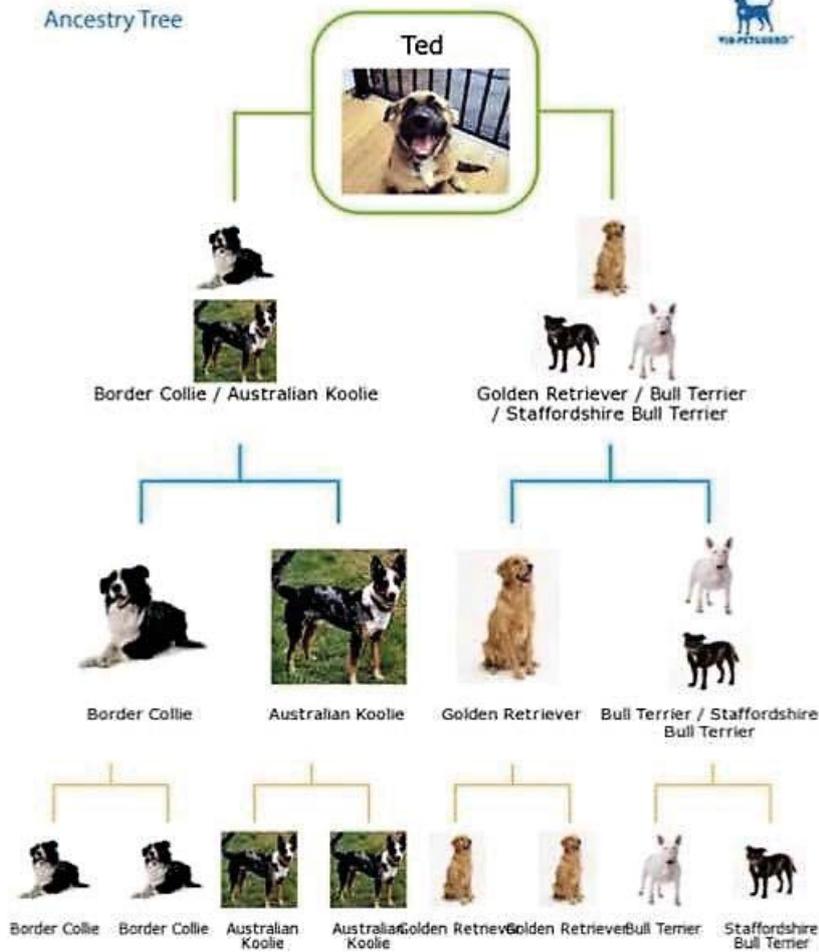
foster care had a positive effect. Some of the families also mentioned the similarities of their pup's foibles, for example, some of them grumble when picked up (my two certainly did!). I thought that was interesting. A Facebook page has been created for the families to keep in touch and share information and pictures.

The foster carers of the pups are also members of this Facebook group and most carers attended the reunion. It was rather special for me to see how the pups had grown and changed because as a puppy carer I don't

often get that opportunity. And interestingly, Foxy and Sushi now live two doors apart!

The owners absolutely adore their pups and I think enjoy being a part of something rather unique for the ARF community. They all had a great time meeting each other and all the siblings, and I'm sure they will be organising another reunion in the not too distant future!

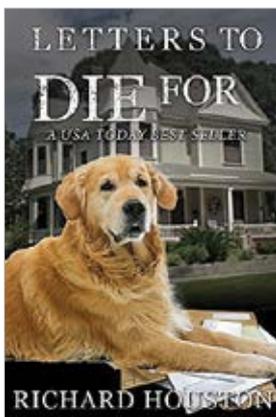
Ancestry Tree



BOOK REVIEWS

By Aine Dowling

Winter has arrived and it's time to hunker down, put your feet up, and enjoy a good read. Two of our books include mystery, murder, and mayhem, while the third is just mostly mayhem! Great reads for adults and older teens.



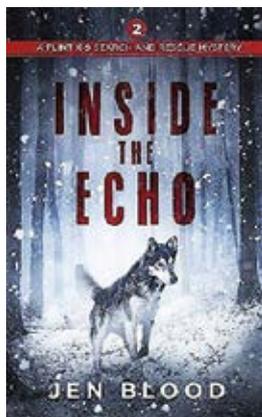
LETTERS TO DIE FOR

Richard Houston

Jake takes time out from his high pressure job and moves to an isolated cabin in the mountains with his Golden Retriever Fred. Together they find a bundle of love letters, and when people start dying around them, they enlist the help of a neighbour to help seek out the killer. This is a subtle murder mystery without the blood and gore, and complicated plot line, and with a Goldie as the star.

Love letters, romance, a dog, and a serial killer. What more could you want? This is book number four in the Books to Die For Series.

Letters to Die For by Richard Houston, published by Books to Die For Press 2016, and is available from Amazon in Kindle, paperback, and audio.

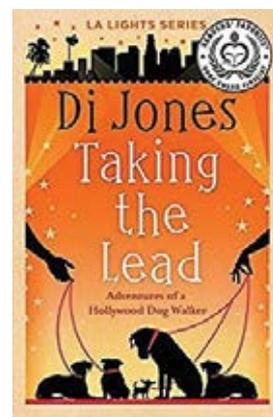


INSIDE THE ECHO

Jen Blood

Inside the Echo is part of the Flint K9 Search and Rescue Mystery Series written by Jen Blood who, as well being an author, is also a certified dog trainer. Search and rescue officer, Jamie Flint, together with her canine partners Phantom and Casper, is called in when a group of women go missing in the Mahoosuc Mountains in Maine. The theme throughout the book is one of domestic violence, and doesn't hold back. As well as battling the wilderness in the mountains and the Maine winter, Jamie must also confront her own demons as she tracks down the group.

Inside the Echo by Jen Blood, published by Adian Press 2018, and available in Kindle and paperback.



TAKING THE LEAD

Di Jones

Let's be honest—this is a 'chick lit' romcom, and if you've ever been a dog walker you'll love it! Tessa Taylor drops out of college to move to LA to become an actress, and when that falls through she decides she can make more money being a dog walker to the rich and famous; the only snag is ... she doesn't like dogs. Wrangling dogs of all shapes and sizes is a learning curve for Tessa, and this is very much a 'laugh out loud' book and one that many dog walkers can relate to. Author Di Jones lives in New Zealand with her two Great Danes, Dolce and Gabanna.

Taking the Lead (Adventures of a Hollywood Dog Walker) by Di Jones, published by Write from the Heart Publications 2016, and is available free on Amazon Kindle.

PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL 101

BEHAVIOUR

By Aine Dowling

Puppies are not born knowing how to behave. Some of our ARFers come into pounds as 'untrainable' by their owners—believe me, 99.9 times out of 100, they're not. Just like babies and children, in order to be a good adult canine citizen, they need to be taught the basics right from the start and while sometimes it can be a long haul with 'two steps forward, one step back', it's certainly worth it.

Dogs don't misbehave because they're bad dogs. They're just normal dogs with *undesirable* behaviours; such as jumping up, scratching at doors, and mouthing—generally in dogs that have not received the correct training, but these behaviours can be corrected with time, endless patience, and consistency—that's the hard bit. Behaviours that do not get the dog what they want will diminish, provided you are consistent. Puppies are babies and require a calm and consistent approach by every member of the family, so decide what behaviours you want to remove and work on those. Your puppy will not grow out of undesirable behaviour on its own.

Rewarding good behaviour

Do not correct your puppy after the event. It is pointless to punish the puppy after the event as they will not know why they are being punished. A puppy that looks guilty is simply responding to your tone and body language, and doesn't understand what they have done wrong. Reward your puppy for desirable behaviour



and especially reward calm behaviour. A reward need not be food based; it can be a 'good boy' or a gentle pat.

However, you need to correct the dog as early on as possible and be consistent in your correction. If your dog jumps up, you should correct the dog as they start to jump rather than once they've already jumped. Avoid sending your dog to his crate or mat as a correction; you want them to see their crate/mat as a happy, comforting place where they

can take themselves for quiet time, not a place of punishment. If you are attending a puppy pre-school class you can ask your instructor for advice and assistance.

Jumping Up

While jumping up may not be considered a problem when your best friend is still a cute and cuddly puppy, consider the situation when your dog is fully grown. A friendly and welcoming German Shepherd who leaps and greets everyone with paws on their shoulders may not

be seen as friendly and welcoming by your visitors. Especially if they have wet or muddy paws!

So why do puppies jump up? More often than not they're seeking attention or simply thrilled to see you if you've been out for a while and any attention is better than no attention as far as they are concerned.

Make sure all family and friends understand the dog is not allowed to jump up, and do not speak or touch the puppy while she is jumping.

You can offer rewards by making her sit or drop for a pat. You can also put a lead on her when people arrive to keep her by your side so she can't jump up. And again, seek further advice from your puppy pre-school instructor.

Mouthing, Biting and Chewing

Why do puppies bite and chew? Well, it's actually a learning process and mouthing and chewing are normal, natural dog behaviours that dogs need in order to develop what's known as **bite inhibition**. Bite inhibition is the degree of force a dog applies with their bite. Two well socialised dogs with good bite inhibition will often play together with their mouths without hurting each other, but a dog with no bite inhibition may hurt another dog or human when playing with their mouths. Many puppies learn bite inhibition during their early play with their littermates—around six – eight weeks. If you adopt your puppy before the age of eight weeks they may have missed this learning period so it's then up to you to teach them.

Provide your dog with appropriate and stimulating chew toys that prevent boredom and develop bite inhibition. Do not reward your puppy for putting their mouths on people—pushing the puppy away, squealing, and patting indicate attention—which is after all, what your puppy is seeking. Teach the puppy that you will only play with them when they don't put their mouth on you. Use a gentle but firm hold on their collar and place the pup in sitting or standing position and release only when she has calmed down, then redirect to an appropriate chewing item.



Toilet Training

Toilet training can often be challenging for both owner and puppy, but the following points can assist.

- A puppy's bladder is weak when compared to an adult dog. A young pup simply can't hold on for long periods of time. An eight week old pup is likely to be able to hold on for 2 - 4 hours while a 12 week old may be able to hold for 4 - 6 hours.
- Choose the surface you would like your puppy to toilet. Grass, dirt or mulch is usually the best option.
- Avoid using newspaper or puppy training mats unless you wish to use these long term. Toilet your puppy outside in the area you would like them to use regularly. Always take them outside after they have been sleeping, after eating, or if you notice them sniffing in circles or going into a corner or private area.
- Always praise your puppy for toileting outside. **Do not** punish your puppy for accidents when they are learning. Instead walk them outside (do not carry them) and gently lead them by the collar to the toileting area.

All ARF puppies come with ongoing training by professional trainers. Older dogs adopted from ARF may also receive trial training sessions if necessary. The following Canberra trainers and centres regularly assist ARFers and ex-ARFers to become good canine citizens.

*All Round Good Hounds
Canine Compass
Pups4Fun*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Compiled by Lauren Canellis

HAVE YOU ADOPTED AN ARFER?

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

SASHA FROM ANNETTE

I adopted Sasha, the little Staffy X, on 22 September 2016 and she has been such a joy. She just turned four this January. When I first saw her on the ARF website and read her profile I was instantly in love. Her story said she had previously injured her rear leg and had a metal pin inserted, and subsequently it had dislodged and was causing her to limp so the pin had to be removed. She has a large scar on her leg but she can now run and jump with the best of them.

Her big sister, Roxie (my 11 year old Border Collie) and her are inseparable. They love one another, and Sasha actually cuddles Roxie during thunderstorms to keep her calm. She sleeps on the bed with Roxie and me and is a real little cuddle bunny. She loves lying outdoors in the sun but makes frequent trips inside to check where I am. In the evenings she curls up beside me on the lounge, or climbs onto my lap. She is so affectionate.

Her favourite reward treat is raw carrot, and she appears out of



nowhere as soon as I open the fridge door. As a result, she quickly learned the commands 'shake paw', 'drop', and 'stay'. I initially had a problem with her rushing to the door and jumping up on visitors, but with the help of the carrots she has learnt to sit on her mat and wait for people to come in. She is so eager to please, so that made her easy to train. She has been fabulous with my

grandson (now 6) and he adores her. Everyone is highly amused by her 'Staffy talk', which is unlike anything I have ever experienced. She is quite the conversationalist.

I can assure you she is having the best life ever and could not be more loved. Once again, a big thank you to ARF for rescuing her, and for all the others that you give a second chance.

DUKE FROM LEIA

I just wanted to share with you Duke's adventures on the plane and how he's going in the snow. United Airlines was very accommodating and gave Duke his own seat since the plane wasn't full. He was very well behaved on the plane and all the airline ladies came by to give him a pat and say hello. I think he was their favourite passenger by far, and they shared stories about their rescue pups too!

Overall it was probably the best 14 hour flight I've ever had. He held his pee for 14 hours from Melbourne to Los Angeles, even though we had a puppy pad underneath him just in case! In total he's been on three airplanes (Melbourne-LA, LA-Colorado, Colorado-Boston), so he is quite the traveller. I didn't know there were so many dogs who travelled domestically in America. The LA airport and Colorado airport were full of dogs (it was like being at a dog park).



I'm so proud of him as he got along great with my sister's Bichon poodle during Christmas (her poodle is a bit of a trouble maker so she made Duke look very good in front of the family who all love him). He's not a big fan of the snow because his feet get very cold and he starts to pick each foot up and wobble back to the house like he's walking on glass, but since the

weather has been warming up he's really loving the freedom of running around my parents' property just by a lake.

I don't know what I would do without him; he has honestly kept me sane after such a big move and living alone for the first time. Always thankful to ARF for connecting me with him.



RUSTIE

Rustie is doing well! This past year she has become the highlight of our days. We are forever grateful for the opportunity you gave us to have her in our lives. She has become our fur child. Thanks to ARF for saving our much beloved goofball.

FIFI

I just wanted to let you know that Fifi 'Moo' is still with me and doing really well. She eventually settled in with Suki and not long after I got Fifi I met my now partner who had a small Shih Tzu cross named Duke (Duke and Suki absolutely love playing—constantly). So we now have three Shih Tzu's. They all get on very well, although Fifi is still more of her own dog and prefers snuggles with people.

I love Fifi dearly (like the others) and she has certainly added considerable joy to our lives. She is a floozy for men in particular and absolutely loves to cuddle with Michael, my partner. They all get walks every second day and

dinner is fresh chicken, cooked chicken, mince, chicken necks and sometimes some cheese. Fifi LOVES her food. They all have inside/outside access constantly and probably get fed too many treats! So, all in all, I think life is pretty good for the old girl.



RECENTLY ADOPTED

Compiled by Joh Dunn

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



INDIANA

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2018



HOUSTON

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2018



CHEYENNE

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2018



ASPEN

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2018



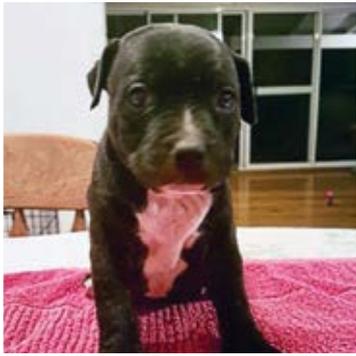
BOSTON

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 14 April 2018



DAKOTA

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 10 April 2018



MEMPHIS

Staffy mix Border Collie | 8 weeks
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 16 April 2018



PUMPKIN

Pitbull mix | 10 weeks
Rescued: 24 January 2018
Adopted: 9 February 2018



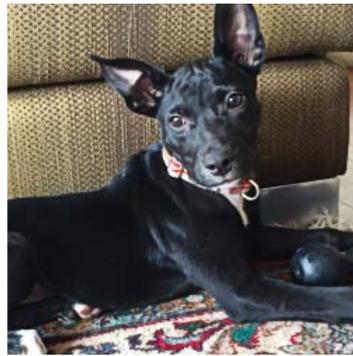
DITTO

Kelpie | 10 weeks
Rescued: 30 January 2018
Adopted: 17 February 2018



OLLIE

Staffy mix | 11 weeks
Rescued: 1 May 2018
Adopted: 23 February 2018



LANEY

Working breed blend | 12 weeks
Rescued: 30 January 2018
Adopted: 16 March 2018



TULIP

Bull Arab mix | 14 weeks
Rescued: 23 January 2018
Adopted: 12 March 2018



SID

Queanbeyan wonder dog | 14 weeks
Rescued: 9 February 2018
Adopted: 10 March 2018



FRANKIE

German Shepherd mix | 4 months
Rescued: 31 December 2017
Adopted: 10 February 2018



OLIVE

Bull Arab mix | 6 months
Rescued: 2 December 2017
Adopted: 2 February 2018



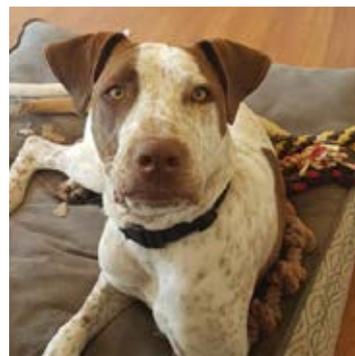
LOFTY

Premium Blend mix | 6 months
Rescued: 20 January 2018
Adopted: 8 February 2018



HUEY

Long, tall and lanky gorgeous blend
9 months
Rescued: 16 June 2017
Adopted: 11 March 2018



JELLY

Bull Arab mix | 11 months
Rescued: 25 January 2018
Adopted: 16 March 2018



SETH (NOW FERGUS)

Goulburn booby wolfhound mix
10 to 12 months
Rescued: 13 October 2017
Adopted: 20 January 2018



RALPH (NOW BARNEY)

Shih Tzu | 2.5 years
Rescued: 7 February 2018
Adopted: 23 February 2018



PRESLEY

Shih Tzu | 2½ years
Rescued: 5 February 2018
Adopted: 6 March 2018



ANNIE

Greyhound | 2 to 3 years
Rescued: 25 September 2017
Adopted: 26 January 2018



KOBAR

Canberra Premium Blend | 3 years
Rescued: 31 October 2017
Adopted: 23 February 2018



FERGUS

Shih Tzu | nearly 3 years
Rescued: 7 February 2018
Adopted: 24 February 2018



LIONEL

Shih Tzu | 3 years
Rescued: 7 February 2018
Adopted: 7 February 2018



ASHA

Border Collie mix | 3 years
Rescued: 3 February 2018
Adopted: 28 March 2018



BOOTS

Great Dane x Bull Arab | 3 years
Rescued: 3 March 2018
Adopted: 14 April 2018



MISSY

Kelpie mix | 3 years
Rescued: 5 November 2017
Adopted: 18 March 2018



NELLY

Greyhound | 3 years
Rescued: 10 February 2018
Adopted: 7 April 2018



CAELAN

Border Collie
Rescued: 12 October 2017
Adopted: 17 January 2018



BUDDY

Staffy mix | 4 years
Rescued: 25 January 2018
Adopted: 14 April 2018



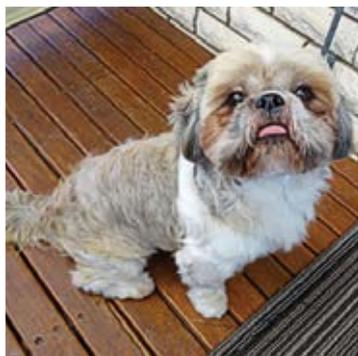
HONEY

Greyhound
Rescued: 7 April 2018
Adopted: 11 April 2018



LEO

Cattle dog x Italian Greyhound
5 to 6 years
Rescued: 7 December 2017
Adopted: 30 January 2018



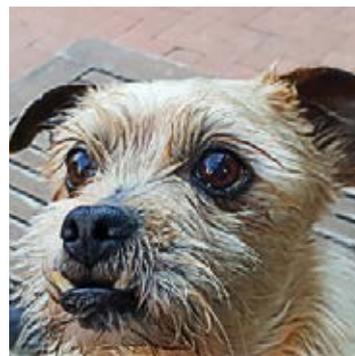
WILBUR

Shih Tzu
Rescued: 5 February 2018
Adopted: 17 February 2018



PEPPER

Canberra premium blend | 6 years
Rescued: 11 November 2017
Adopted: 10 March 2018



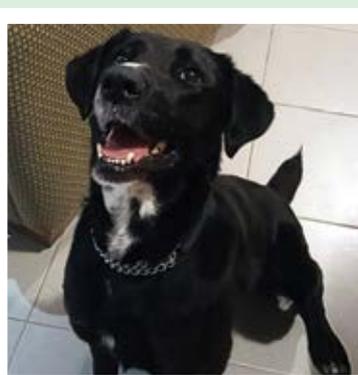
THE GRUFFALO (AKA GRUFFIE)

Terrier mix | 6 years
Rescued: 25 November 2017
Adopted: 15 January 2018



HUXLEY

Jack Russell/Cattle Dog | 8 years
Rescued: 30 January 2018
Adopted: 4 March 2018



LOULOU

Lab/possibly Border Collie mix
8 years
Rescued: 8 March 2018
Adopted: 29 March 2018



BARNEY

Staffy | 9 years
Rescued: 25 January 2018
Adopted: 23 March 2018



POSSUM

Terrier mix | 10 years
Rescued: 27 November 2017
Adopted: 10 February 2018



AUTUMN

Cattle dog mix | 11 years
Rescued: 30 November 2017
Adopted: 25 February 2018



TOTTIE

Jack Russell/Silkie Terrier mix
14 years
Rescued: 13 January 2018
Adopted: 24 January 2018

JOINT PAIN IN DOGS

By Aine Dowling

It's easy to forget that our dogs age faster than we do and therefore may start having joint pain from arthritis or simply old age, sooner rather than later. This is especially true for:

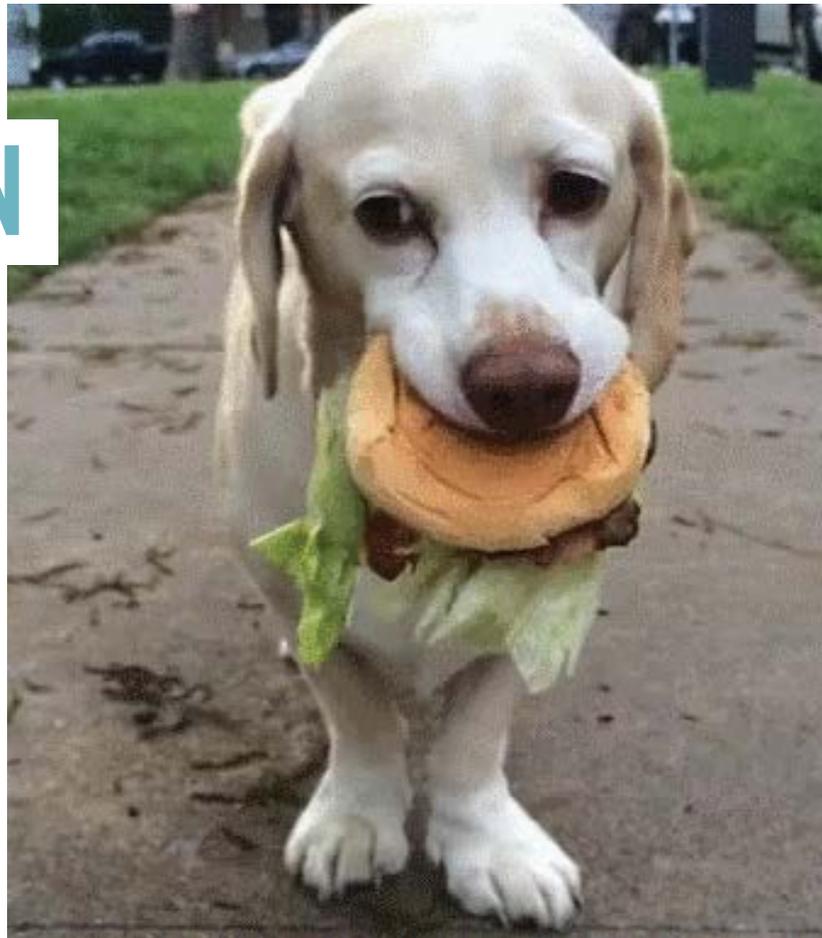
- Large breeds
- Very active dogs
- Dogs with previous injuries to joint areas
- Dogs with hereditary conditions
- Overweight dogs.

Even if your dog was very healthy in his younger years, he can still end up with aches and pains as he ages, and arthritis/hip or joint pain can show up in young dogs, so it's important for all owners to know the signs of joint pain in dogs.

Signs of Joint Pain

The following signs may indicate that your dog has arthritis or joint pain.

- Slowing down of movements—he may take longer or have difficulty getting into, or up from, the sit or down positions
- Difficulty going up or down stairs
- Inability to jump up
- Limping
- Lack of interest in activity including play
- Discomfort when touched in certain places or made to move in certain ways
- Decreased appetite
- Licking, chewing and biting places on his body that hurt
- Doesn't settle into a position—especially if on a hard surface.



Without knowing the problem it's important to first take your dog to your vet for assessment. A dog who is 'bad tempered' may simply be trying to tell you he's in pain. When you take him to the vet, ask about holistic approaches to pain management. Many people have found natural supplements and changes in diet can make a real difference.

Dogs that are overweight may experience more joint pain, so if your dog is on the tubby side, cut back on large meals and frequent treats and seek out moderate exercise. Think about the weight bearing on your dog's joints. Short but frequent leisurely strolls are better for joint pain than running after a ball or jogging alongside. If you have a breed that is food motivated—such as a Labrador or Beagle—it's good to reduce their intake right from the start so the weight doesn't pile on in the first place.

Look for dog foods and/or natural supplements that contain cartilage

and Omega 3 fatty acids (fish oil), which reduce inflammation. Natural supplements, such as gelatine or natural green mussel, may help, but check with your vet first.

Make sure your dog is not resting or sleeping on hard surface. If you have a tiled or wood floor you could put two beds down (one on top of the other) for more comfort. If your dog is crate trained put an extra bed or blanket in the crate.

Note: these symptoms and approaches are only suggested for dogs with arthritic type joint pain. They will not help with degenerative diseases such as degenerative myelopathy, intervertebral disc disease, or spondylosis deformans. These conditions do require veterinary diagnosis and treatment. Although there is no cure for degenerative myelopathy, and surgical intervention may be required for other degenerative diseases, the above recommendations may offer some relief in the early and post-surgical stages.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

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



COLLECTOR PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

6 MAY 2018

Ex-ARFer Louie (image left) turned up at the Collector Pumpkin Festival on 6 May. This festival just gets bigger and bigger every year and is hugely popular with people from Canberra, the Southern Highlands, and Sydney coming to the event. Louie is an Italian Greyhound who was born in ARF care and adopted in 2012. So great to see our ex-ARers out and about!

RSPCA MILLION PAWS WALK

20 MAY 2018

More ARFer fun at the RSPCA Million Paws Walk on 20 May with Winnie, Gretel, and friends. Winnie has now been adopted and Gretel is checking out her options.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 16

A Pooch
Affair EPIC.

SEPTEMBER 8

ARF Trivia Night
Canberra Labor Club
Belconnen.

SEPTEMBER 23

ARF 2019 Calendar
Launch Beef and Barley,
Kingston Foreshore

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

Check our website for more information www.fosterdogs.org

COULD YOUR DOG BE A THERAPY DOG?

Therapy dogs are used for many reasons such as guide dogs, illness recognition, and disabilities. This article follows Robbie, and his owner/handler Lyn, who works with Delta Society Canberra to visit people in local aged care and hospital facilities.

By Lyn Boyer

It doesn't matter what size or breed your dog is, however, some dogs are more suited to therapy work than others. For Delta Therapy Dogs they need to be calm and friendly around unfamiliar people and faces, and in the presence of other dogs. They need to be unfazed by loud noises and crowds, and have a good recall from around five metres away. The training involved includes working with both the dog and handler.

A dog assessment and health screen is essential. The assessment exercises show how the dog handles a variety of situations and how relaxed they remain. Assessment exercises may include crowd scenes, tempting with food, umbrellas, hats, a wheelchair, and then a wait and recall. Although a high level of obedience training isn't a prerequisite, the owner should be able to control their dog at all times. They also look at the relationship between owner and dog. The health assessment is quite in depth! I took Robbie to my own vet where he had to follow the examination provided by Delta and tick the box either *accepts handling* or *dislikes handling*. They touch every part of the dog and are also asked to manipulate the head and neck, and check their anal glands, then tick each box accordingly. The vet also has to sign a form confirming the dog is up-to-date with vaccinations, and give their



IMAGE: ACT Rescue and Foster.

overall general health. If you qualify and are accepted you then have to do a full day's Delta workshop.

Once qualified you are assigned a facility agreed upon by Delta, and the team—dog and handler. Our first facility was Calvary Hospital Aged Care Rehabilitation, and we later moved to Adria Village Nursing Home in Stirling. Robbie and I have become a familiar face there now and know a lot of the residents.

The residents in Adria Village who love dogs are pretty special. Their faces light up and they always want

to pat Robbie; who always does a few tricks which they love. One lady is over 100 years old and always reaches out to pat him, which is really rewarding and very heart-warming. Robbie enjoys it too!

There is annual dog reassessment and health screen if your dog is seven years or older.

I can honestly say that this is one of the most rewarding jobs Robbie and I do together.

For more information contact Delta Society Canberra via their website at www.deltasociety.com.au

IMAGE: ARFer Bean snug and secure in her crate



WHY I CRATE TRAIN

By Dallas Burkevics

Reprinted from ChinWag 2016

I still remember the first time someone suggested **crate training** to me. As a fairly new foster carer I couldn't imagine a single reason why anyone would want to put their dog in a crate, which is essentially a dog sized cage or doggy prison. The thought of caging my little mate away from me was just horrendous and cruel, until the day I had to use one and realised all was not as bad as it seemed.

As a trainer now working with dogs with behavioural issues, and as a foster carer rehoming pups and older dogs, crate training is something I recommend for almost every home. Our human mind has a preconceived notion that cages are bad, but to a dog a crate is a neutral thing and will end up being whatever you make it.

My foster puppies start crate training the minute they get home and we start creating the mind set for them that the crate is where everything awesome happens. Their bed and toys are in there, they get

fed in there and every time we walk past it I throw a handful of treats in there for them to pop in and have. By the end of the day the dog thinks the crate is a bit like a resort in Bali, all you have to do is lie on your comfy bed in there and people bring you all sorts of nice things.

Pups are not the only ones who love crates, my two older dogs were crate trained at age 10 and both will now choose to go and get in their crates for a snooze when they feel like it.

I hear you saying 'but why, my dog doesn't need a crate'. There are so many reasons I recommend crate training for pretty much all dogs, and here are some listed on the opposite page.

I really can't recommend crate training enough and as a trainer, it's the one thing that the majority of my clients come back to say 'OMG, I can't believe how much they love the crate'.

For more information on crate training, talk to a trainer and get the low down.

“

THE DOG THINKS THE CRATE IS A BIT LIKE A RESORT IN BALI,
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LIE ON YOUR COMFY BED IN THERE
AND PEOPLE BRING YOU ALL SORTS OF NICE THINGS.

”

Independence training: It's super important for our dogs to learn to be confidently independent from both their owners and the other dogs in the house. For dogs with any form of separation anxiety or fear issues, crate training shows them that they can be OK when alone.

House training: For puppies or older dogs learning house training, crates are your best friend! Dogs don't want to toilet where they sleep so the crate can be used as a holding pattern of sorts until you take them out to toilet. This creates less opportunity for mistakes and is an easy way to be able to keep your pup safe when you can't directly supervise them.

Visitors: Got friends or family who aren't so keen on dogs, or can your dog get a bit annoying when you are having a BBQ? Pop them in their crate and you can all enjoy the time to yourselves without any stress.

Travel: Crates are a great safety measure for travelling in the car and give the dog a safe place to retreat to when and if you travel to a new destination. I have been allowed to have my dog inside at accommodation across Australia purely because I said she will be in her crate. For dogs who feel a bit unsure about their new place, their crate can easily be set up as a place for them to go and feel safe.

Multiple dog households: Crates are great for multiple dog households as you can feed dogs in crates without any possibility of resource guarding issues, and when you want to do training you can put other dogs away until it's their time to train. Older dogs who might need a break from younger dogs can also retreat to their crate when they've had enough and know that they won't get bothered in there.

Other: If your dog is already crate trained it makes staying at the vet so much less stressful for them at a time that they may be injured or sick. It will also help with stressful things like flying, or if you need to keep your dog quiet after surgery or illness. For pups you can use the crate as a short term solution when they are at the chewing stage and you can't fully supervise them, but it's not a remedy for this or something that should be used for long stints of time.

BASIL RAINBOW BRIDGE

In November 2004, along with our three young children, we sat looking at photos on your website and fell in love with a scruffy little fox terrier cross called Basil; he was around 1-2 years old at the time. Sadly, today, just over 13 years later, Basil passed away.

He has been the best dog I've ever had. Loving and responsive from the outset, he's been a great buddy to my husband and I, and helped raise three children. He greeted them every morning and every afternoon (and in between) and literally sat with each one of them while they fell asleep each night, and then would come and sit with my husband and I each evening for 'adult time'.



He could not have been more a part of this family and our lives. As he aged he became blind over the past four years and the kids/young adults, as they now are, would go to him every morning and every afternoon (and in between) to greet him.

To the end he was always with us and very much a part of our family

His health has been deteriorating for some time and today was his last.

Like I said; he's been the best dog I've ever had and we are all a very sad and sorry lot but we will always be thankful we chose to adopt him. We often wondered if he felt as lucky as we did for having him.

I'm not sure if you get many people write to you like this but please pass on to your members a good story about a long and happy life one of your dogs, BASIL

Kind regards, Melissa.

ARF BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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How Kids SHOULD Interact with Dogs

Use common sense.

Be polite and kind to pets



Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious

Play appropriate games with pets, such as:

Fetch



Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc.)

Walking and running with a dog



Playing hide-n-seek

Always remember:

Supervise all interactions. Accidents can happen in a split second.



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.

Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS

The Art and Science of Animal Behavior

For additional free dog bite prevention resources and more dog behavior books and products, visit www.drSophiaYin.com.





ACT RESCUE & FOSTER



FREEDOM!

In the last days of our gorgeous Indian summer, Winnie makes the most of a run on the south coast beaches. Winnie is an 18 month old medium-size Canberra special blend, who came into ARF care on 18 March and is now in her forever home.



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