

ACT RESCUE AND FOSTER

# CHINWAG

WINTER 2021



**DOGS WITH  
JOBS: KIRBY THE  
ASSISTANCE DOG**

**FOSTERING AND ADOPTING  
DOGS WITH DISABILITY**

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

**DOG SPORTS:  
DOGS-AS-THERAPY**

**PROSTHETICS FOR DOGS**

**RECENTLY ADOPTED**

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## ABOUT ARF

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

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## COVER: MAURI

Winter is coming, and in the Game of Bones, **Mauri**, first of his name, cover model of ARF, friend to all, was eager to ascend the three seater cou-, I mean, throne. Climbing from pound on 1 September 2020 to pampered on 21 January 2021, hold the door: Mauri is coming in from the cold. Read more about Mauri's story in the Where Are They Now section.

Cover Photo—Holdfast Photography

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Winter edition of *ChinWag*!

Things are slowly returning back to normal for ARF and we have been thrilled to be able to resume events large and small. We recently ran a stall at the annual event A Pooch Affair where we were able to showcase our new branded merchandise.

On a smaller scale, we've resumed our ARF walks and are inviting a different member each month to suggest the route.

This issue we explore dogs and disability. We meet a rescue dog who became an assistance dog, learn about the difference prosthetics can make to dog mobility, and hear about the challenges and rewards of fostering dogs with disabilities. We find out about Dogs-as-Therapy and the joy that adopting a dog with a disability can bring.

Thank you to all our supporters, and make sure you follow us on social media for all the latest in ARF news and available dogs.

### Kathleen Rampant

President, ACT Rescue and Foster



WE WELCOME FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ADOPTION UPDATES AND REVIEWS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FOSTERING OR DOG-BEHAVIOUR QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE ANSWERED OR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES, CONTACT OUR EDITOR AT [CHINWAG@FOSTERDOGS.ORG](mailto:CHINWAG@FOSTERDOGS.ORG)





## DOGS WITH JOBS

# KIRBY THE ASSISTANCE DOG

The special instincts and senses of dogs are used for all kinds of jobs: security, small businesses, farming and even ecology. However, some dogs are able to be trained to help care for their humans and assist them with everyday tasks. ChinWag spoke with writer and disability advocate Brianna Bell about her rescue dog Kirby and how with aptitude, intuition and training he became an assistance dog.

### WHAT IS AN ASSISTANCE DOG AND WHAT KINDS OF TASKS DO THEY DO?

An assistance dog is trained to alleviate the effects of their handler's disability, and to meet an appropriate standard of behaviour and hygiene. In Australia they don't have to be accredited or registered, but many handlers choose to do so in order to have extra assistance when they encounter discrimination.

Most people are already familiar with Guide Dogs, but there are assistance dogs for all types of disability! Their tasks are often grouped into five overarching categories: guide,

hearing, mobility, psychiatric, and medical alert. Of course, one dog might do tasks across multiple categories. For example, Kirby alerts when I'm about to faint, but also does mobility tasks like fetching dropped objects.

### BEFORE BECOMING AN ASSISTANCE DOG, KIRBY WAS A RESCUE DOG. CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND?

Kirby was a stray in Townsville before he ended up with the RSPCA. They brought him down to Brisbane where I was lucky enough to adopt him at the start of 2016. He was probably

about six months old at the time. I adopted him to be a pet, but he ended up being so much more.

### WHAT BREED IS KIRBY AND WHAT KIND OF SPECIAL TRAITS DOES HE HAVE THAT MAKE HIM SUITABLE FOR WORK AS AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Kirby's pure mutt! I get asked all the time what he is, so eventually he got DNA tested. Whether those tests are scientifically sound or not, it didn't clarify much at all for him. Apparently ¼ Shih Tzu, but from great-grandparents on opposite sides of the family tree.

## WHAT TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION DID KIRBY HAVE TO DO BEFORE HE WAS READY TO START WORKING?

Kirby was only supposed to be a pet, so he just started with basic obedience training and socialisation. He ended up being very trainable (highly food motivated), and extra training was the easiest way to tire him out, so we kept going with more obedience. Over time, I noticed that he was “misbehaving” nearly every time I was about to faint. I started to shape the behaviour so that he started by nudging me, then pawing, then barking, and he started to warn me further and further in advance.

I reached out to a Queensland organisation called Canine Helpers. They're accredited under the *Queensland Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dog Act 2009*, and support individuals to train their pets to be assistance dogs. This hugely reduces the cost of the assistance dog, which can otherwise be in the tens of thousands. Canine Helpers temperament tested Kirby to check if he was likely to be a suitable candidate for the job. They believed he was, so we started a six month training course with them. We took



the Qld GHAD Public Access Test in late 2017. A PAT isn't compulsory, but I wanted the extra protection we could get under Queensland law if we went through the process. It also makes lots of things easier travelling interstate, as airlines respect the system, and despite the fact they're not a legal requirement, many businesses expect assistance dogs to have an ID card.

## DOES KIRBY NEED ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OR CLOTHING WHILE HE IS WORKING?

Kirby wears a special harness when he's working so that he knows to get into work mode. When the work

harness comes out he gets excited and tends to do a whole body wag, but once it's on he's on a mission. This is part of why it's important people don't distract an assistance dog while they're working – it makes it harder for the dog to distinguish between “work time” and “chill/play time”. Regular distractions for a working dog don't just distract them from assisting their handler in that moment, they can undermine the dog's training. Sometimes it can become such an issue that a dog has to be retired early!

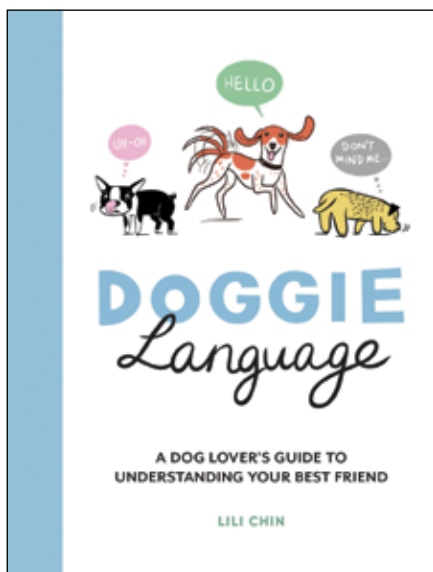
Aside from that, Kirby has a few pairs of socks or boots that he wears when the ground is unsafe or uncomfortable for his paws. That can be for a number of reasons, including hot pavement, broken glass, or lots of grates/grills underfoot.

## WHEN KIRBY ISN'T ON THE JOB, WHAT DOES HE LIKE TO DO TO RELAX?

Kirby's favourite place in the world is the beach, but his second favourite is the bed. He gets a walk along our local creek most days, and will rarely say no if a game with a squeaky toy is on offer. He's also recently started playing scent games for enrichment, and as soon as he figured out what he was supposed to be doing (what did I mean he was supposed to smell, not just look?) it became a huge hit with him.



# BOOK REVIEWS



## DOGGIE LANGUAGE: A DOG LOVER'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR BEST FRIEND

By Lili Chin

Renowned dog illustrator Lili Chin has published this fantastic guide to dog body language. There are a lot of misconceptions about what our dogs are feeling when they “smile”, lick or even wag their tail and the internet is full of “cute” videos of dogs behaving in ways that actually show they are very stressed. Understanding what our dogs are trying to communicate to us is critical to ensuring that we pick up their signals and avoid unhappy incidents. This is a very educational book that helps to decode dog body language by breaking it down to individual parts of a dog's body as well as different scenarios and postures. With her trademark illustrative style, Chin captures the softness and emotions of dogs. A lovely book for the coffee table or for anyone who wants to learn more about how their dogs feel.

*Published by Summersdale Publishers in 2020*

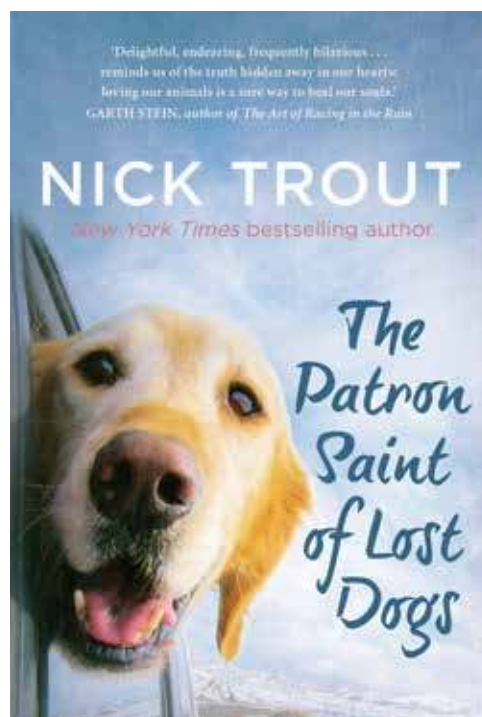
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## THE PATRON SAINT OF LOST DOGS

By Nick Trout

If there is anyone qualified to write about dogs, it is vets. Turning his hand to fiction, qualified vet Nick Trout's first novel is a heartwarming story about a veterinary pathologist called Dr Cyrus Mills who returns to his hometown following his estranged father's death. With seemingly insurmountable debts in front of him and a professional disaster in his wake, Cyrus has no choice but to work in his father's old practice. Used to working with samples and deceased patients, and with a reserved personality honed during many years as a recluse, working with living pets and their equally living owners comes as a shock. The town is full of strong personalities, and with his different surname and different accent, Cyrus doesn't know whether the people in town will recognise him and, if they do, whether they will accept him.

*Published by Allen & Unwin in 2013*





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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## MAURI BY HELEN

This issue's cover model, Mauri (short for Maurice) came from a rural pound and bounced into my life in the most enthusiastic way. He proved to be a gentle and easy-going boy who settled into foster life quickly, accepting all the new experiences that came with his becoming an inside dog. He became firm friends with my tiny dog Poppy, and happily shared a bed or couch with her. Mauri stayed for about five months with me and became a much-loved member of my family before he found a wonderful couple who had a Kelpie puppy called Flynn. Flynn and Mauri have become very good friends and Mauri has found his forever home.

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## ZEUS AND BEAR

Just a quick note to ARF to let you know we are well. Mummy takes us for nice walkies every day. We stop sometimes to check out the ducks. But a few days ago we saw black swans for the first time. We wanted

to get near them but Mummy thought it would be better if we just sat on the grass and watch them from a distance.

After dinner we get a Greenie each and then we are ready to take over the sofa and wait for Mummy to put



a blanket on us to watch TV. We love home renovation shows and we get up to bark at the meerkats and animals on ads. Afterwards we come back to the sofa and Mummy has to rearrange the blankets. This happens a lot.

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## PIPER BY TIM

When I first adopted Piper she was so nervous that she would involuntarily pee anywhere—and everywhere—when she encountered someone new. She would grovel, roll on the ground and be so nervous and frightened that she couldn't enjoy herself.

Now—several years on—she is an affectionate, confident little dog with endless energy and endless love to give.

She is as comfortable in the city as she is working sheep as a part-timer on our family farm.

I am so happy that I adopted Piper from ARF and I can't imagine life now without her.



## SKODA (FORMERLY SCOUT) BY TIM AND TAS

We thought ARF might like a photo or two of Skoda who turned five today!

He is still an amazing little man who makes us laugh every day. He is fit and well, loves his days at Doggy

Day Care and loves bossing his big brother, defending his castle, walking round the lake and licking every kid he meets. His current favourite thing is sitting on our laps when we go for

coffee and banana bread at the local cafe on Saturday morning. He pays us back for all the attention in spades and just a lovely dog. Many more birthdays to come.



## XENA BY JOHANNA

We adopted Xena in October 2016, and it was one of the best things we've ever done. It took a little while to earn her trust, but she is now the most loving, loyal and perceptive dog. Xena loves her daily walks, either up Red Hill or Mount Ainslie. We cannot imagine life without her. Thank you ARF.



## JENKINS BY SANDY

Jenkins joined our family as an ARF foster in July 2020. One week after his arrival Jenkins ruptured his cruciate ligament and so began an intensive eight weeks of home care followed by months of physio and hydrotherapy. Talk about giving me a Covid iso project! Fast forward to December and it came time to find Jenkins a new home. My heart was torn. I had fallen in love with our old man "Pipe & Slippers" doggo who loved all things just so. With his helicopter wiggly tail that spins 100 miles an hour when you come through the front door to his love of swimming in the murkiest water but hates a bath. How could we let this crazy mixed breed furball leave our lives? On the 25th of December



we officially adopted Jenkins. Best Christmas present ever! Fast forward to March 2021 we moved north, and our foster fail is now living his best life in sunny Queensland enjoying an action-packed lifestyle heading to the beach, camping and lapping up all the "good boys" and pats he can get at the local cafes. Being an ARF foster carer has been a truly rewarding experience and I highly recommend it to one and all.







## DANTE BY KALLY

Dante was a tiny little puppy from Goulburn who came into care skinny and covered in fleas.

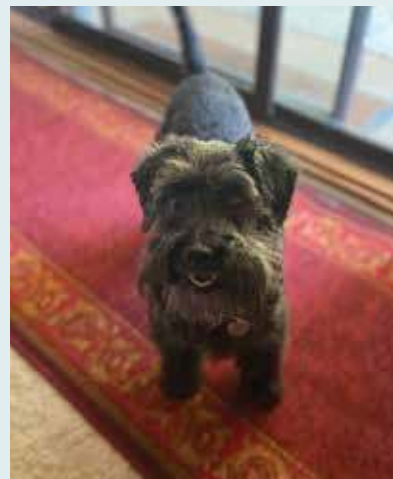
He has been in his new home for 18 months and is loving life with three beautiful girls to play with and three cats to harass.

## ROGER BY KATE

We are so grateful to ARF, and his foster owner Nerida in particular, for taking a chance and investing so much time and effort on Roger. He had been found in Bankstown (of all places) in a bad way and with a bad

attitude (understandable he'd been abused). As Nerida described it, he was on his way to the pound and given his fear response was to bite people, things weren't looking good for him. He got the name Roger because he'd dodge all contact in his first few weeks in foster care.

As a foster, Nerida took the time to rehabilitate him and screened potential owners heavily to make sure he'd go to a good home that understood his issues. That, for me, is the big difference between rescuing a dog from a pound versus via a foster. Nerida was able to really tell us what he was like and assess what he needed. We spent weeks walking him before we brought him home so he got comfortable with us. That made a big difference too.



And yes, it's been 10 affection filled years now. Without ARF I don't think Roger would have made it much past 2011, he was too damaged, but he was so worth the effort both from the foster perspective and from ours.



## OTIS BY TAN

Our home is now full of wags and wiggles! This li'l bundle of joy has changed our lives!! His dreamy puppy eyes and face just melts our hearts and brings a smile to every day of our lives. Best bud, teddy bear, mate, bro, you name it.. he's got all of it. Otis is one of a kind. Definitely meant for us. We are not just saying it, we know it! Best TV buddy when my wife falls asleep halfway into a movie, a mate to talk while we have a shower (he just sits inside the bathroom) and very protective. Small but mighty Otis is defo a guard dog and has the bark for it. Otis loves the pet channel, car rides and to crawl.... literally like an army man crawling up to our faces in



the morning, AKA a 5am alarm! He is not just a dog, not a pet! He is Otis! Mate, fam and cuddle bud.



# GIVING DOGS

## A MORE MOBILE LIFE

By Rose Ciccarelli

**W**hen dogs need help with mobility, the people who love them turn to Elizabeth Cox. She creates orthotics (braces) and prosthetics (artificial limbs) for all kinds of animals, including dogs. Her company, Animal Tech, is the first orthotic and prosthetic clinic based in Australia. The aim is to provide high-quality Australian-made custom devices and a streamlined service.

Elizabeth grew up on a farm, surrounded by animals. She enjoyed working with her hands and learned at university how to make prosthetics and orthotics for people. After beginning work, she realised that although animals needed this service too, it could only be done remotely from the United States. "I thought I could do that work here and provide a better standard of care," Elizabeth recalled, and so she launched Animal Tech, where "everything is hand-

made and custom-made, to achieve a particular result. Nothing is off-the-shelf."

Often dog owners contact Elizabeth after finding her online. "People may not want to go the surgery route," she said, "or they can't because of the dog's age or condition." She also provides pre- or post-surgery treatment. Elizabeth collects a lot of information before any consultations, since many clients must travel significant distances to see her. She asks for photos or videos first, to determine whether she can help. The next step is to organise a referral from a vet "so we can work together as a team to provide the best care possible".

Although Elizabeth's clinic is in Shepparton, Victoria, she will travel as needed to see dogs who cannot fly by plane, or when it's too far for the owners to drive. At the initial



appointment, she meets everyone and assesses the dog's condition, movement, gait, and the shape of the affected limb. She also explains what orthotic or prosthetic management





involves, costs, and ongoing care. If everyone agrees, then she takes a cast of the limb, measurements, and video of the dog's movements. Generally, the favourite part for owners, Elizabeth noted, is picking out the colour or pattern to go on the brace, since every device is hand-made.

The next step is to fabricate the device, which takes two to four weeks. The cast is filled with plaster to make a positive model of the limb. Heated polypropylene plastic is wrapped around the model to create part of the orthotic or prosthetic. Elizabeth then cleans up the plastic and pads, joints, and straps.

In a second appointment, Elizabeth fits the dog with the device. She assesses how it functions with the dog's movement and gait, looking for pressure or rub spots. She also talks to owners about helping the dog adjust to the device by using a two-week wearing schedule.

In two to four weeks, she checks in to ask how the dog is adjusting. If there are fitting or rubbing problems, a consultation is arranged. Over the lifetime of the device, she provides



repairs and refurbishing when needed because materials can wear out.

Elizabeth described the most fulfilling part of her job as seeing a positive change in the dog: "Sometimes I have to make a fitting adjustment because the dog has gained muscle volume. The dog is happier. The dog can play and take part in normal daily activities. The owners are happier too, because now they can do things with their pets that they couldn't before."

## GET IN TOUCH

"If you're not sure but think orthotics or prosthetics might work," Elizabeth urged dog owners, "get in touch with me. It may be possible after all."

**Elizabeth Cox**  
Animal Tech

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**W:** [www.animaltech.com.au](http://www.animaltech.com.au)



# STILL GOING STRONG

By Rose Ciccarelli

James came to Pug Rescue & Adoption Victoria and Joanna Herceg's care when he was four months old. He was surrendered because genetic spinal malformations had paralysed his hind legs. Spinal surgery was successful, but as James grew, his spine curved again, putting pressure on his spinal cord. The cortisone required to reduce swelling on his spine caused muscle atrophy and loose joints and tendons. When James walked, his tendons and muscles couldn't support his knee joints, so they popped out, causing him to crouch and scuttle like a crab.

When Joanna learned that further surgery was impossible, she pursued physio and hydrotherapy for James. Then she heard about Elizabeth Cox. They explored whether stifle

braces could work to straighten and strengthen the knee joints. Elizabeth suggested making only one brace first, to see if it could help. Joanna recalled that Elizabeth was concerned about her expectations and the result: "I told her I didn't expect a marathon runner," Joanna said. "I just wanted James to be able to trot around the house and yard without being all hunched up."

James adapted well to his first brace so the second was fitted in February. He now wears his braces (paid for by generous donors) for several hours at least twice a day. Joanna reported, "In the short time James has had his braces, they have improved his quality of life, and you can tell he actually loves wearing them." When he visits the vet in his braces, Joanna noted that it is wonderful to see him

walking with a straighter, smoother gait. James lives with a disability and he enjoys his life. A cheeky little guy at only four kilograms, he likes bananas, sunbaking, Nylabones, and his toys. Thanks to the unconditional support and care of Joanna and Pug Rescue & Adoption Victoria, James will turn two in July.

Joanna had this message for those caring for disabled dogs: "Don't give up. Think outside of the box. That's what Elizabeth does."

To learn more about James' story and other rescued pugs, visit:

[www.pugrescue.org.au](http://www.pugrescue.org.au)

**Facebook:** Pug Rescue & Adoption Victoria Inc

**Instagram:** @pugrescuevic



# ADOPTING A DOG WITH A DISABILITY

ChinWag met up with local Canberran Whinnie to talk about their decision to adopt Charlie, a blind dog nobody wanted but who has so much love to give.

**W**hen Whinnie first saw Charlie, it was on a Facebook post shared by Hear No Evil, Australian Deaf Dog Rescue. Charlie isn't deaf, but does have a disability: he is blind. Charlie had been in foster care for six months and had not received a single application. Despite his loving nature and his zest for life, nobody had been willing to give him a chance. Whinnie wanted to adopt a dog with a disability because they felt like they could give one a really good home.

Although Whinnie wasn't sure they would be able to care for a dog at the time, they were so taken by Charlie's story that they showed the post to all their friends, talking about how in love they had fallen with Charlie. When Charlie's story was shared again a month later, still with not one single application after seven months in care, Whinnie knew they had to apply.

Charlie was located in Townsville, Queensland, and although his adoption fee had been reduced to



only \$99, he was going to have to be transported interstate. Luckily, someone else wanted to help get Charlie into a forever home and offered to pay his transport fees to fly him down to Canberra. \$99 is not a big price to pay for your best friend.

For the most part, living with Charlie (or Charles as Whinnie calls him now he has matured into a stately gentleman) is a breeze. Whinnie thinks that it may be easier in some ways to care for a dog who was born blind rather than loses his sight over time because there is no stress of losing a sense to manage.

Charlie is good at mapping out his surroundings, and has an excellent sense of hearing. He plays fetch by hearing the direction the ball falls and sniffing it out. His hearing is so acute that he can hear the sound of a banana being unpeeled: his favourite snack! Unfortunately, because Charlie is able to see dog body language, his dog manners aren't great. That doesn't matter though since his family adopted a boisterous and tolerant cattle dog called Max

who is more than happy to play with his new brother.

Training a dog with a disability like Charlie takes some creativity. Whinnie said that keeping things consistent in the house is key, and having Charlie is great motivation to keep the floor clean so he doesn't trip on anything. They pat the floor to show Charlie it's safe to get down and click their fingers if Charlie gets stuck somewhere to show the way. Whinnie uses both verbal and touch cues to teach Charlie tricks, and claps rhythmically for recall (something Charlie is still working on!).

Charlie is an affectionate dog who is extremely easy to please. He loves to nap and cuddle, and one of his most favourite things is the heater. Whenever he gets upset, Whinnie puts the heater on and he curls up and falls asleep.

The perfect winter dog, Charlie shows just what you can get if you take a chance on a dog with a disability.



# FOSTERING DOGS WITH DISABILITY

ChinWag spoke with long-term ARF volunteer Karen Swan about the special skills required to foster dogs with disabilities.

## WHAT KINDS OF DISABILITIES CAN DOGS HAVE?

Dogs can have all types of disabilities, just like humans. A disability is a condition that can impact a dog's life. ARF fosters dogs with all kinds of disabilities such as sensory issues, congenital conditions, severe medical conditions and behavioural issues. ARF volunteers often care for older dogs with significant health problems and it can take a lot of effort and veterinary care to get them well enough to be rehomed.

## WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS DO FOSTER CARERS NEED TO CARE FOR DOGS WITH DISABILITIES.

As a former veterinary nurse, I already had a lot of experience caring for dogs however since joining

ARF I have taken more courses and gained more experience with behavioural issues. One of the most important skills is making sure to seek plenty of advice from other experts as well. We give dogs with disabilities to more experienced carers and make sure that they receive plenty of support and advice from mentors. We regularly consult with veterinarians and a lot of money goes into vet work. We will also often call in trainers or send dogs with severe behavioural issues to live temporarily at "board and trains".

## IS IT DIFFICULT TO REHOME DOGS WITH DISABILITIES?

ARF advertises dogs with disabilities, but we are clear about what the issues are. When someone applies, we discuss what it will take to care for the dog. Older dogs are often easy to have around the house, and

adopters just need to manage age-related issues. Behavioural issues are often more challenging, and dogs with behavioural issues can often need a "unicorn" home: a home that is impossibly perfect for them.

## WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR FOSTER CARERS AND POTENTIAL ADOPTIVE HOMES FOR CARING FOR DOGS WITH DISABILITY?

Think about what you are taking on. Do your research and take advice from carers and mentors. Be prepared to do what it takes to look after that dog and provide what the dog needs. You should also be prepared to go and see a trainer. It is rewarding to give these dogs a chance, but it is hard work too. Dogs with disabilities don't deserve to be put down because they have emotional and medical issues due to neglect and abuse.



## RECENTLY ADOPTED: ROISIN

ARF dog Roisin (pronounced Ro-SHEEN) the Shar Pei had to have an operation to treat her eyelid entropion, a condition which can cause pain and interference with vision. Roisin was adopted into her new home in June 2021





### PALLIATIVE: BIRDIE

Princess Birdie was given a terminal diagnosis three years ago at the approximate age of sixteen. Birdie has a heart issue, is incontinent (so requires constant cleaning up after her) and bites (though luckily has no teeth) and is not suitable for rehoming. Birdie lives permanently with Karen, who secretly adores her.



### HAPPY TAILS: LUCY

Lucy was left behind in a backyard in regional New South Wales when her elderly owner went into care. Lucy was a lovely dog who had a bladder problem caused by a lump which resulted in incontinence. Luckily Lucy found a lovely family willing to adopt her and commit to caring for her and providing her with medication for the rest of her life.



#### PRIVATE LESSONS

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Phone: 0424 314 352

 Canine Training & Enrichment - Canberra

# RECENTLY ADOPTED

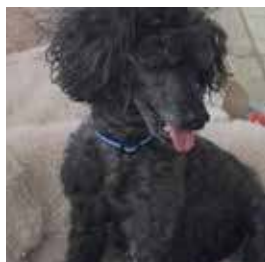
Compiled by Kathleen Rampant

ARF has a range of dogs in care from young puppies to mature dogs. If you are interested in adopting an ARF dog, please go to [fosterdogs.org/adopt/available-dogs](https://fosterdogs.org/adopt/available-dogs) and contact the carer directly. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer for ARF, please contact [carer.recruitment@fosterdogs.org](mailto:carer.recruitment@fosterdogs.org). We also work closely with other rescue groups and pounds in the Canberra region including New South Wales. If you are looking for a dog of a particular breed, size or age, please contact us via [info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org) and we may be able to assist you in your search.



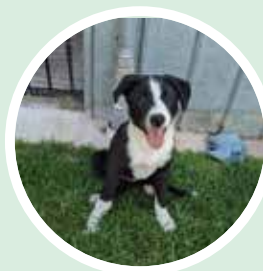
**TIFFY**

Rescued: 18 October 2020  
Adopted: 3 December 2020



**SAM**

Rescued: 18 October 2020  
Adopted: 3 December 2020



**JOHNNY**

Rescued: 8 November 2020  
Adopted: 4 December 2020



**CASH**

Rescued: 8 November 2020  
Adopted: 13 December 2020



**ALICE**

Rescued: 4 December 2020  
Adopted: 15 December 2020



**ARCHIE**

Rescued: 4 December 2020  
Adopted: 15 December 2020



**FLORENCE (FLO)**

Rescued: 8 November 2020  
Adopted: 16 December 2020



**JOEY**

Rescued: 8 November 2020  
Adopted: 16 December 2020



**ROXY**

Rescued: 28 August 2020  
Adopted: 17 December 2020



**JENKINS**

Rescued: 27 July 2020  
Adopted: 22 December 2020



**BINDI**

Rescued: 18 April 2020  
Adopted: 27 December 2020



**EVIE**

Rescued: 28 November 2020  
Adopted: 3 January 2021



**NOVA**

Rescued: 27 November 2020  
Adopted: 6 January 2021



**LUCY**

Rescued: 27 October 2020  
Adopted: 21 January 2021



**MAURI**

Rescued: 1 September 2020  
Adopted: 21 January 2021



**TIL TIL**

Rescued: 9 November 2020  
Adopted: 29 January 2021



**MURPHY**

Rescued: 17 January 2021  
Adopted: 31 January 2021



**BEAU**

Rescued: 2 January 2021  
Adopted: 31 January 2021



**HEMI**

Rescued: 6 January 2021  
Adopted: 12 February 2021



**NISA**

Rescued: 29 January 2021  
Adopted: 15 February 2021



**LEO**

Rescued: 13 January 2021  
Adopted: 15 February 2021



**BREE**

Rescued: 18 December 2020  
Adopted: 17 February 2021



**THE COLONEL**

Rescued: 23 October 2020  
Adopted: 20 February 2021



**JEZZA**

Rescued: 23 November 2020  
Adopted: 21 February 2021





**WRINKLES**

Rescued: 30 January 2021  
Adopted: 22 February 2021



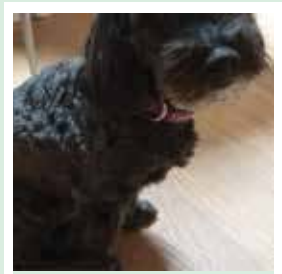
**LIZZIE**

Rescued: 30 January 2021  
Adopted: 25 February 2021



**MOLLY**

Rescued: 29 January 2021  
Adopted: 28 February 2021



**OTIS**

Rescued: 26 November 2020  
Adopted: 3 March 2021



**SKY**

Rescued: 7 November 2020  
Adopted: 4 March 2021



**LUCY**

Rescued: 18 January 2021  
Adopted: 7 March 2021



**ELLIE**

Rescued: 4 September 2020  
Adopted: 7 March 2021



**SUZY**

Rescued: 18 February 2021  
Adopted: 9 March 2021



**MOLLY**

Rescued: 17 February 2021  
Adopted: 11 March 2021



**MACK**

Rescued: 30 January 2021  
Adopted: 15 March 2021



**HOLLY**

Rescued: 9 March 2021  
Adopted: 18 March 2021



**MARSHALL**

Rescued: 12 December 2020  
Adopted: 26 March 2021



**LEXI**

Rescued: 19 January 2021  
Adopted: 27 March 2021



**INDIANA**

Rescued: 15 March 2021  
Adopted: 29 March 2021



**CHOPPER**

Rescued: 22 January 2021  
Adopted: 3 April 2021



**TRUFFLES**

Rescued: 22 January 2021  
Adopted: 3 April 2021



**BANJO**

Rescued: 17 February 2021  
Adopted: 7 April 2021



**BENJI**

Rescued: 19 March 2021  
Adopted: 21 April 2021



**MACEY**

Rescued: 19 April 2021  
Adopted: 25 April 2021



**FLOKI**

Rescued: 11 July 2020  
Adopted: 26 April 2021



**PABLO**

Rescued: 21 December 2020  
Adopted: 2 May 2021



**JOCK**

Rescued: 26 March 2021  
Adopted: 6 May 2021



**LOCHIE**

Rescued: 12 December 2020  
Adopted: 9 May 2021



**TUCKER**

Rescued: 27 February 2021  
Adopted: 17 May 2021



**HONEY**

Rescued: 19 March 2021  
Adopted: 21 May 2021



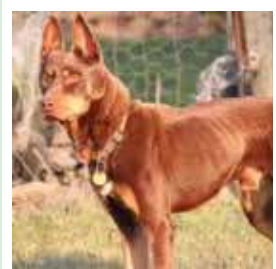
**SKYE**

Rescued: 16 April 2021  
Adopted: 28 May 2021



**JESSIE**

Rescued: 20 January 2021  
Adopted: 22 May 2021



**BRUCE**

Rescued: 30 April 2021  
Adopted: 4 June 2021

# DOG SPORTS

## DOGS-AS-THERAPY

Not all activities we can do with our dogs are competitive. There are, in fact, some “sports” where everyone is a winner and Dogs-as-Therapy is one of them. ChinWag spoke with Kathryn (Kath) McQuarrie AM, long term Dogs-as-Therapy volunteer, about Dogs-as-Therapy and the joy dogs can bring to older and vulnerable people.

**T**he Dogs-as-Therapy program at the ACT Companion Dog Club is a team of handlers and their dogs who visit aged care facilities (with the exception of Kath and Rocky who visit hospitals as well). The team brings comfort, joy and delight to residents and patients and rekindles memories of their own pets. According to Kath, Dogs-as-Therapy dogs often rekindle memories of people’s own pets. The dogs are conversation openers, and smaller dogs sit on people’s laps or beds bringing body-to-body physical contact and warmth to people who may be socially isolated. They can also be a big comfort to staff in stressful and emotionally taxing jobs such as in the ICU or Brain Injury wards.

Dogs-as-Therapy was started in 1988 by Margaret McNicol and for over 30 years dogs have been visiting people to brighten up their days. Over the years, demand for the program has increased and there are a number of teams of 4-5 dogs each. In 2020, Kath received the status of Honorary Member for actively participating in the Dogs-as-Therapy program with her Miniature Schnauzers for 25 years, photographed at the ceremony with her dogs Hope and Rocky.



Photo of an aged care resident with Hope and Rocky provided by Kath McQuarrie.

Kath has observed the diversity of the program over these years and was the first person to bring a dog to visit Calvary John James Hospital which resulted in a permanent volunteer program. She is also a Committee Member of Pets and Positive Ageing and was previously Vice-President.

Kath has a particular interest in the role pets can play in pastoral care and has served as a Pastoral Carer for many years and has even brought her own dogs along for extra support. She shared a particular story of visiting Malkara Special School years ago with her dog

Coffee and meeting twin boys who used wheelchairs and who were mostly non-verbal. The boys enjoyed the visits so much, and one of them was so taken with Coffee in particular that he said her name.

Kath has four dogs: Hope (12), Rocky (11), Boadie (8) and Ash (2). Hope is now retired and Ash is in-training, but Kath and her dog Rocky currently visit St Andrews Village weekly and Rocky is known as Rocky the Wonder Dog at Calvary John James Hospital which is printed on his ID. Rocky is also on the End of Life Comfort Plan at the Canberra Hospital for patients or their families.



It takes a particular type of dog to be a Dogs-as-Therapy dog, and it has nothing to do with size, shape or breed. Instead, Kath said that dogs should be calm, reasonably obedient, able to put up with the noises and smells of the environment, confident in crowds, and tolerant of rough pats, wheelchairs, buzzers and being picked up.

Most of the Dogs-as-Therapy dogs complete behaviour training at ACT Companion Dog Club, though some complete Delta Dogs tests as well. They must be toilet trained, able to wait for an invitation to be greeted, polite around other dogs and able to leave things dropped on the floor - especially tablets.

If you are interested in joining this program, visit the ACT Companion Dog Club website: <https://actcdc.org.au/activities/dogs-as-therapy/>.



Photo of Kath McQuarrie with Hope (L) and Rocky (R)

## UNTITLED POEM

**By Gordon, an ACT residential care resident**

Did you leave a dog you loved  
When you came to live here?  
Was it difficult to part from your friend  
And did you drop a tear?  
If so, on a Friday when the Dog Walkers Club arrives,  
Do you want to hug or pat the dogs  
And does your love for them come alive?  
So many different breeds and colours and sizes

All ready to play  
Doesn't that make your day!  
Once I was able to walk my own friend  
But now I must wait  
As they bring their dogs through our gate.  
To send me dreaming and wanting to be  
Back where my dog loved to walk with me



# RAINBOW BRIDGE

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.



## IZZIE

Izzie came into foster care in December 2020 with suspected tetanus, but after blood tests she was found to have kidney disease with numbers off the charts. After a long chat with the wonderful vets at The Gables in Monash and our vet liaison Karen, it was decided that we would try diet and medication to see if we could give her some extra time. She would spend the rest of her days in foster care, but as far as she knew, she had found her forever home.

Izzie was loved not only by her foster family and her four foster fur siblings, but also all the people she met at the vet (and there were a lot of vet visits!), at Bunnings and everywhere else she went. She was the epitome of the saying “she lights up a room”, and people couldn’t help but smile when they saw her with her confident little strut and her funny little face.

You see, Izzie didn’t act sick; she didn’t mope around and she certainly wasn’t grumpy. She was that dog; the one who, when you went out of the room for a minute and then came back, would bounce around in happiness as though she hadn’t seen you in a year. She was the dog who would wriggle and worm until she

was in the exact right spot: just in the crook right there. It was impossible not to pat her and leave her there, no matter how uncomfortable you may be. She was the dog who knew that if she lay just so, the biggest of her fur siblings would clean her face for her and the smallest wouldn’t mind being her pillow. She was THE dog and she was loved.

On the 22nd of February after 56 days in her (foster) forever home, Izzie was given her last cuddle and scratch behind the ears and she was sent off to the Rainbow Bridge. The outward signs were just too many and she showed us in the only way she knew how that she had had enough and she was ready.

Izzie, you were greatly loved and you will be missed. We shed a tear for you.



## ELLA

In April we said goodbye to our beautiful Ella, adopted from ARF five years ago. Her quiet and gentle soul brought so much joy to our lives; her steady, constant companionship like a warm blanket around our hearts. We will miss her goofy smile and the face that always greeted us at the door. Thank you for giving us the opportunity for Ella to join our family, we miss her terribly.

## MACEY (FORMERLY DORA)

Macey was adopted from ARF in 2015 after being rescued from the Golbourn pound. After many beautiful years with her person Victoria, Macey had to go to doggy heaven. She was the love of Victoria’s life.



## ARCHIE

Archie could be willful, stubborn and aloof and show all the traits of a Husky, but he was also exceptionally loving and sweet. One of his favourite things to do was put a foot on each of your shoulders and press the side of his face against yours while you gave him head scratches. He loved digging holes in the middle of the yard, burying socks and tea towels, throwing around soft toys and catching tennis balls. However, his favourite thing to do was to go on a hike. Thanks for the potholes Archie, I think of you every time I fall in one.







# HELP A DOG IN NEED

BECOME A FOSTER CARER TODAY!



Have you had previous experience with dogs? A secure yard?  
Time and a willingness to help a foster dog adjust to a home  
environment and basic training?

Scan the code or visit [fosterdogs.org](https://fosterdogs.org) for more information.





ACT RESCUE & FOSTER

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