

THE LOST DOGS' HOME

newsletter

AUTUMN 2018

This edition

Griffin's messy past life gets a new look

An untangled affair: Griffin's fairy tale ending

Plus... A lesson on perseverance: Percy's happy ever after and kittens | Celebrating volunteers: Peter's selfless acts | How Melbourne turned out to adopt many deserving cats

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Peter's experience at the Home has been a life-changing event for everyone affected by this remarkable person

A note from Andrew Israel Chief Executive Officer

The Home was a hive of activity over the warmer months, with staff and volunteers going above and beyond to keep our furry residents happy, comfortable and safe at all times, particularly during Melbourne's heat.

These people share the same passion and dedication as you; ensuring that every animal we come across receives the very best care and attention from the moment we meet them.

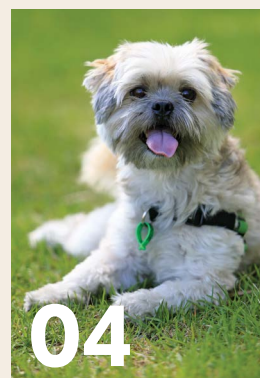
Together – and with you right behind us – our doors were always open for the 5,030 dogs and cats who arrived at our shelters over summer. Food, water and a comfortable bed were waiting for them, along with vet treatment to help alleviate any pain or discomfort. They may never have experienced human kindness until the day they arrived at the Home.

The only reason we can continue to be here to help these dogs and cats – to give them the best possible chance of a happy, healthy future – is because people like you care enough to donate.

I hope you enjoy the heart-warming tales in this newsletter, showcasing some very special people and pets. Thank you for making them possible.



Andrew Israel
Chief Executive Officer



04



06



10



12

Need to update your details?

If you would like to inform us of any changes to your details, please email fundraising@dogshome.com. Alternatively, you may write to:



Fundraising Coordinator
The Lost Dogs' Home
2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Please include your full name, address and postcode in your correspondence.

Connect with us online!

Keep up-to-date with our latest news, happy tails, pet advice and tips, events and much more!



Front cover image:

Griffin, a five-year-old terrier, has triumphed with lots of love and special care.

A happy Christmas and happy future for homeless pets

Christmas is a magical time for us to love, give and express our gratitude for the special people and creatures in our lives.

Hundreds of special creatures – lost and abandoned dogs and cats – came to us over the festive season. Although many of them had no family, they had you. Because, through your support, we were able to make sure they received shelter, vet treatment, care and love.

The Christmas spirit shone bright through the kindness of our wonderful supporters. We are truly touched that you helped raise \$316,408 toward our Christmas Appeal.

Your generous support is vital in keeping our life-changing



programs up and running – especially at a time of year when resources are stretched to the limit.

Not all dogs and cats came to us from a safe and caring home. It breaks our hearts as much as it breaks yours to know that some of them have never experienced proper care and love. That is what waits for them here at the Home, and it is only possible because of you.

Your donations are what keep our doors open. They help fund vet treatment and surgeries, foster care, and behaviour training. These programs play a crucial part in the journeys of many dogs and cats before they are ready to find loving forever homes.

Thank you for caring and taking action to help give homeless dogs and cats the happy Christmas – and happy future – they deserve.

Feeding hungry tummies

With hundreds of animals coming into our care over Christmas, we had a lot of hungry tummies to feed. As well as food for our healthy dogs and cats, special food was also needed for those that were very young, sick or emaciated.

Through our online pet food appeal, animal-lovers like you

raised \$25,922. Thank you for helping to keep tummies full.

Staff and volunteers at the Home are always touched by the response to our pet food appeals, with supporters not only donating money, but also dropping off a variety of food and treats for our dogs and cats.

Your contributions:

Throughout December, January and February, your support helped make possible:

 **1371**

Surgeries and procedures performed on homeless pets, including desexing, dental treatments, orthopaedic operations, eye surgeries, x-rays and ultrasounds, among others.

540 

Cats and kittens adopted into new homes during a month-long summer adoption drive.

 **213**

Cats and kittens desexed at four mobile desexing events, held across 11 days.

432 

Pets placed into foster care to help them grow, recover from surgery, or gain more confidence to prepare them for adoption and a loving new home.

 **55**

Dogs placed into the Behaviour Program to help overcome their worries by building confidence and learning new skills.

Griffin's messy past life gets a new look

Imagine your pet being so derelict that you could not even recognise them.



Poor five-year-old Griffin had been neglected for a long time without proper care, leaving him in terrible pain and discomfort when he arrived at the Home.

"Our first priority was to administer pain relief to alleviate Griffin's suffering," said Dr Caroline Butler, senior veterinarian in the Home's shelter medicine department.

Griffin's fur was in such a horrible condition that he had to be groomed under general anaesthetic.

"Griffin's skin was red raw. It was very swollen and covered in painful ulcers," said Caroline.

"These ulcers covered a large area, measuring around 20cm by 20cm."

“Griffin's skin was red raw. It was very swollen and covered in painful ulcers.”

Even more heartbreaking, Griffin still had stitches from a desexing surgery that had been left for so long that his fur had completely grown over them.

"We had to gently and thoroughly clean the ulcerated area with antiseptic, and apply a topical treatment to help ease the inflammation," said Caroline.

“We felt really sorry for Griffin but it didn’t affect our love for him.”

"Griffin was placed on a course of pain relief and anti-inflammatory medicine to keep him comfortable and allow the wounds to heal."

Thanks to the care of our vets and nurses, Griffin is well on the road to a full recovery with his new adoring owners, Sarah and Breydon.

"We felt really sorry for Griffin but it didn't affect our love for him. We just wanted him to feel like a part of our family and not to worry anything bad will happen to him again as we will always keep him safe," said Sarah.

Griffin's affection for Sarah and Breydon is often expressed in his passion for countless cuddles. It is that sort of gratitude that is priceless when choosing to adopt a pet.

"They (adoption dogs) need a second chance. No one's going to give it to them unless you do."



Top right: Griffin with his beloved new owner, Sarah. Bottom left: Griffin when he first arrived at the shelter. Bottom right: Griffin with his favourite toy, Chewbacca.



Percy the perseverant

Sometimes inspiration comes from the unlikeliest of places. Despite having his front left leg amputated, Percy's spirit remains unquashed.

The two-year-old arrived at the Home in January with a shocking injury where he severely dislocated his elbow.

"Percy's injury was more than likely when he fell from a height, perhaps an apartment building," said veterinary surgeon Dr Ton Tancharoen. "We suspect the injury was a week old and Percy was in severe pain before it alleviated."

The decision to amputate Percy's leg was in the best interests of his welfare.

"The next day after the operation, Percy was as upbeat as ever," said Ton. "The staff loved him and his lovable personality. Percy was not afraid to come up to you and make friends."

New owner Lauren knows full well of Percy's infectious vigour for life.

“It's something special watching them warm up to you and their environment. They're just so appreciative of you.”

"Percy is unlike any cat I've had before. He's like a dog who is just super happy and loves friends. He's super friendly and curious of everybody."

“ He waits at the doors for me before I come home and follows me around everywhere when I’m with him. ”

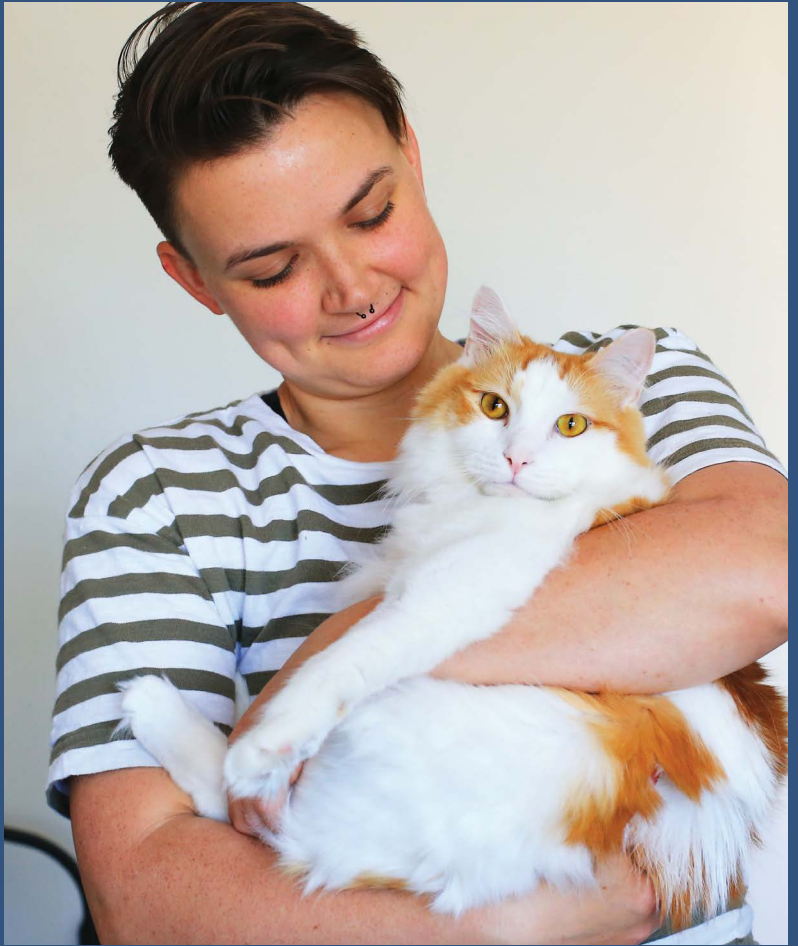
The two struck up an instant connection and Percy has been glued to Lauren since that initial meeting.

"I took notice of him because he was a three-legged cat and his situation was pretty fitting for my living arrangement," said Lauren. "When I came to the shelter, Percy was the first cat I met and connected with."

"He waits at the doors for me before I come home and follows me around everywhere when I'm with him."

As much as Percy has been blessed with his new doting owner, Lauren acknowledges the privilege of adopting an animal in need.

"It's something special watching them warm up to you and their environment. They're just so appreciative of you," said Lauren.



Top right: Percy with his beloved new owner, Lauren. Bottom left: Percy relaxing in his new home. Bottom right: Percy before his surgery.

HAPPY TAILS

our four-legged friends might not be able to talk; however, the enthusiastic wagging of a tail and the loud thrum of a contented purr speaks volumes. Here we share with you some of our favourite happily ever afters from recent months.



PEBBLES

Pebbles' story begins when she was found left in a box outside the Home's North Melbourne shelter.

Upon finding the scared kitten in the box, an attendant rushed her inside to be checked over. Thankfully, Pebbles was ok.

With a little tender loving care and time in foster care, Pebbles bounced back in a big way and has found her new loving family.

Initially frightened of certain toys, Pebbles has discovered her playful side as she enjoys leaping around and is now having a great time learning how to play.



LOLLIE LOULOU, BONNIE AND POOH BEAR

Lollie Lou Lou, Bonnie and Pooh Bear shared an unbreakable bond as three senior dogs that were adopted together into a loving new home.

Sadly, 14-year-old Bonnie, the eldest of the trio, passed away recently but was blessed to be in the comfort of her new loving home with her canine friends, and new owners, Casey and Duke.

"I always wanted a dog, originally just one, but we wanted to give them a good retirement home," said Casey. "We didn't want them to be separated and no one would adopt the three of them together."

Bonnie held an extraordinary connection with Lollie Lou Lou and Pooh Bear, and their adoration for each other was obvious. Lollie Lou Lou and Pooh Bear – both 10 years old – still share a special partnership that is infectious.

"They give me stress relief whenever I'm home," said Casey. "They're always happy and give a great vibe at home."



MR DARCY

Mr Darcy has certainly kicked on from when he arrived at the Home, suffering with ear mites and an enlarged right eye.

Mr Darcy underwent surgery at our hospital to remove his eye, and also received much-needed treatment for his ear mites.

Back on the road to recovery, it was love at first sight for Anna and Mr Darcy when they met at the adoptions centre.

"We were introduced and hit it off immediately," said Anna. "He and our other cat, 'David Cattenborough', get along so well."

"He's very affectionate. He knows how to be cheeky but affectionate. He'll jump on the bench when he knows not to, and then comes to sit on my lap afterwards.

"Adoption is a better cause of support than going to a breeder – it just makes more sense to change a life."



BABY

When Baby first arrived at the Home's Cranbourne shelter, she was skin and bone and severely malnourished. At only 9.7 kilograms, Baby was a shell of the beautiful pup she has transformed into today.

She quickly gained two kilos within her first few days at the Home, and stole the hearts of everyone she met.

She also stole the heart of her new owner, Stacey.

"Baby was the opposite of what we were looking for originally," said Stacey.

"But we were introduced, she liked us and we got along really well.

"Baby's going really well, almost too easily. She got super comfortable at home very quickly."

Share your story!

We love hearing about our former residents. So if you get a spare minute, please send us an email and some photos of your happy pooch or feline at home. Our communications team may contact you for a brief interview and before you know it, you could be seeing your beloved companion's story here in Happy Tails or up on our website, dogshome.com.

Please email communications@dogshome.com



Can't stop this feline!

The Meownificent Garden Party more than lived up to its name, with the campaign helping a whopping 540 cats and kittens find new homes.

With the goal of finding well-matched homes for as many felines as possible, the Home waived the fee to adopt a cat and halved the fee to adopt a kitten, for 30 days.

The campaign involved an exciting adoption evening, where 71 cats and kittens were adopted in a single day.

Many Melburnians turned out to enjoy the glorious evening and meet their new companion. While they waited, they enjoyed tasty summer treats, games and prize.

Charlotte was one of the many hundreds of felines who found a happy forever home during the campaign. She was adopted by Rachel and her five-year-old son, Thomas.

"My son absolutely loves her," said Rachel. "On her third night at home, she went to sleep on his bed and has been sleeping there every night since."

With high levels of demand, our cattery and adoptions teams worked hard to ensure all cats and kittens were matched with suitable homes.

The Meownificent Garden Party was one of the Home's most successful adoption campaigns to date.

We are truly touched by the willingness of so many caring families, who opened their homes and hearts to a pet in need.

Without the support of our loyal donors, this campaign would not have been possible. Thank you for helping 540 cats and kittens find the happiness they deserve, and for bringing joy to hundreds of families across Melbourne.

However, kitten season is not over. Soon after a cat or kitten is adopted, another pet soon takes their place at the shelter.



Rachel with son, Thomas, and their newly adopted cat, Charlotte.



Guests enjoying The Meownificent Garden Party adoption evening.

Autumn Picture Gallery



I travelled from Ballarat to adopt Walter in 2015 and last year my now fiancée Kelly-Louise made the same trip to the Home to adopt Jasper. We all live together now along with my fiancée's two dogs.

– Craig and Kelly-Louise



We are so lucky to have Simba, he brings so much joy to our family. He is extremely affectionate and enjoys sleeping on our heads at night purring.

– Sarah



We adopted Betty just five months ago. Although she is a senior dog, she is enthusiastic about life and has settled in really well at home. She even loves her 17-year-old cat brother, Bert.

– Jan



I haven't had this much joy and laughter in so long! Ruffy absolutely loves his new home and as far as I can tell is very taken with his new mum as well.

– Sammi



Alice is a nine-year-old Spoodle who holidays with us in the caravan every winter so her favourite song is Willie Nelson's 'On the Road Again'.

– Rita



Betsy was adopted as a companion for Mum in 2012. They spent nearly five happy years together. When Mum had to go into care, Betsy came to live with my husband and I. We now share a loving bond that is heart-warming. Despite Mum's ill health she still asks of her special Betsy.

– Joanne

Best friends for life

Companionship is an essential part of enjoying life. The blossoming friendship between The Lost Dogs' Home bequestor Jan and best friend, Monty, is testament to that.

At 90 years young, Jan is the definition of living life to the fullest. She and Jack Russell Terrier, Monty, make the most of the Geelong beaches as they delight in daily walks by the seaside, sometimes twice a day.

Jan can't go far without nine-year-old Monty by her side – and she wouldn't want it any other way.

"I have Monty, or as I like to say, Monty has me," said Jan.

Jan has been part of the family at the Home for nearly 20 years.

She first adopted her dog Mitzi

over 17 years ago and has been a regular supporter since.

While Mitzi was Jan's dearest companion for 15 years, she has found another lifelong friend in Monty, who she adopted from the Home last year.

As a passionate marine biologist, Jan continues her vocation on a daily basis and isn't often away from the beach. It's something Monty has fully embraced.

"He is fascinated by the sea and races along the beach yapping at the waves before he is frequently bowled over," said Jan.

As Jan and Monty enjoy playing fetch by the sea, the companionship between them grows stronger by the day.



Jan with her best friend, Monty.

Peter's touching story a gift for all

After a life of great hardship and adversity, devoted volunteer Peter has found his purpose.

Suffering a near-fatal stroke in 2014, Peter was well and truly down and out on his luck. Living on his own and bravely trying to support himself, the 63-year-old has battled to make ends meet while working on his rehab to physically recover from the stroke.

However, a chance opportunity in a voluntary gardening role at the Home was presented to Peter in May last year.

"I'm not the type of person to sit and do nothing – I've always needed to be active," said Peter. "I thought 'I'm good with animals and gardening'."

Peter has made a quick impression with his commitment and tireless effort across Wednesday to Saturday – something he is hopeful develops in a full-time role – and he was deservedly

rewarded the Home's 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award for his wonderful transformation of our gardens.

"I love this place," said Peter. "The people I work with get along so well. I have so much pride in the job here."



Peter with adoption dog Dot.

Earlier in his life, Peter tragically lost his younger son due to illness and was sadly estranged from his older son for 20 years before finding him online during his time at the Home.

The pair recently reunited as Peter proudly showed his son around the shelter and shared his admiration for his work and love for the dogs.

"(At the shelter), you see the joy in some wonderful people," said Peter.

In the meantime, as Peter dutifully completes his many tasks, the Home is certainly grateful to have him as one of the many dedicated volunteers who lend a helping hand.

It is only fitting that Peter has enjoyed the many blessings that have come in return.



Become a Friend of PAWS

Your monthly gift will help provide treatment and care to neglected and abandoned pets, just like Butch. Butch was 12 years old when he arrived at our shelter, suffering from severe dental problems. His surgery and recovery were only made possible thanks to donations from caring people like you.

Friend of PAWS Registration

Yes, I would like to become a Friend of PAWs donor.

Please accept my monthly gift of ☐ \$8 ☐ \$13 ☐ \$20

or my choice of \$ (please specify)

Full name:

Address:

State:

Postcode: Phone:

Email:

Pet name/s:

Please complete this form and return it in the enclosed envelope to:

Friend of PAWs Coordinator
The Lost Dogs' Home, 2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Direct Debit Credit Card Authorisation

Please debit my/our credit card every month beginning

(please specify month)

and at monthly intervals thereafter until further notice.

Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Card number:

Name on card:

Expiry: /

Signature:

Your credit card will be debited on or around the 20th of each month.

Receipts will be issued at the end of each financial year.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



You can help transform lives today

Butch was 12 years old when he suddenly found himself without a home. The sweet little senior arrived at our shelter with severe dental issues. Butch was missing 10 teeth, and most of his remaining teeth were in such poor condition that our vets had to remove them during surgery. After a special feeding plan and lots of TLC from our nurses, Butch found a loving new home. Become a Friend of PAWs to help homeless pets like Butch recover and find the happiness they deserve.

Visit dogshome.com for more information.



The Lost Dogs' Home
2 Gracie Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
T: 03 9329 2755 | F: 03 9326 5293

Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic
1 Boundary Road
North Melbourne VIC 3051
T: 03 8379 4498 | F: 03 9321 8793

The Lost Dogs' Home Cranbourne
920 Thompsons Road
Cranbourne West VIC 3977
T: 03 9702 8055 | F: 03 9702 8655

Connect with us online!



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