

Best Mates

Summer/Autumn 2022



Shelter pets will
love you for a lifetime

Beautiful kelpie cross, Jesse adopted
as a six-month-old puppy, now the
grand age of 16 and still going strong!

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THE
LOST DOGS
HOME

From One Friend to Another



Welcome to our Summer/Autumn Edition of Best Mates!

As I read through the stories in this newsletter, I couldn't stop a troubling thought from forming. What would have happened to the beautiful animals portrayed in this edition, and hundreds of thousands of animals just like them, if The Lost Dogs' Home didn't exist?

We have always been, and will always be, an open shelter. Our doors are open to all animals, regardless of any physical or emotional problems animals may be suffering from.

In this edition you'll read about Rogan who trembled uncontrollably at the back of his pen when he first arrived, elderly cat Neo, and devoted cats April and Autumn—inseparable because of April's disability and dependence on her sister.

We welcome animals like this into our shelter every day. We care for them, treat their wounds and illnesses, repair their broken confidence or shattered trust. In short, we give them love, compassion and respect.

Our joy comes in seeing them finding their new family and leaving us for their forever homes. But the joy doesn't stop there, because this is when lifelong friendships begin and the love our animals have received is paid forward.

There is nothing more wonderful than feeling the unconditional love from an animal. We receive so many stories back from our new adopters, who feel that their animal has saved them, as much as they have saved their animal.

We believe this is a phenomenon that is not recognised or acknowledged nearly enough as it should be.

I hope you will enjoy reading all the stories in this edition of **Best Mates** and in doing so join us in celebrating the love of animals.

Grant Robb
CEO, The Lost Dogs' Home

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Ruth, the unforgettable foster kitten

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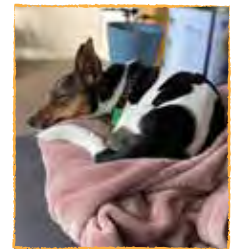
Why shelter pets are the perfect choice!

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"Tilly is a huge benefit to my physical and mental health"

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The purrfect home for this pair

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Front cover image:
Jesse and Victor

The Lost Dogs' Home is an open-intake shelter, meaning we will never turn away an animal based on health, age, breed type, temperament, or situation. We are a leading animal welfare organisation based in Victoria caring for more than 13,000 lost and abandoned mostly dogs and cats every year. For more information visit dogshome.com

Hearts of the Home



Meet Amanda, North Melbourne Shelter Supervisor.

Amanda has a big heart for animals. In fact, she has dedicated nearly 11 years of her life to The Lost Dogs' Home, working as part of the adoptions team, a vet nurse, cattery coordinator, and is now our North Melbourne Shelter Supervisor.

In her own home, Amanda has fostered four puppies and adopted two dogs. Her staghound, Ned, was picked up by our animal ambulance when he was just a tiny puppy. Today, he's a happy and healthy big boy with a larger-than-life personality to match. He likes to bounce around and wag his tail, telling Amanda, "Come on! Let's go to the park!"

Supervising a shelter that cares for more than 10,000 animals each year is hard work, made all the more enjoyable thanks to the company of Amanda's four-legged companions. She takes part in our Office Foster Program, sharing her office with cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies who are recovering from medical care, working on building their confidence, or those special animals that need some quiet time and more TLC.

It takes an incredible amount of care, motivation, and hard work to achieve the very best outcomes for the animals arriving in need of our help. That's why we are so grateful to have such a passionate team of people like Amanda.

“

Seeing Ned and thousands of other lost and abandoned animals find a loving forever home is one of my favourite things about working in animal welfare. The animals are clearly the biggest drawcard to working at The Lost Dogs' Home, but the wonderful people here are a huge reason to stay too. Every day I get to work alongside dedicated and caring people who have such compassion and kindness towards animals in need.”

— Amanda, North Melbourne Shelter Supervisor

Ruth, the unforgettable foster kitten

A dedicated foster carer shares why she opens-up her home to animals in need.

Natalie is one of our dedicated carers and she has already provided a loving foster home to 25 animals from our shelters as they prepare to find their forever families. Natalie has cherished every one of her foster animals, but she couldn't help but form an especially strong bond with foster kitten, Ruth.

At only a few weeks old, Ruth came to us as a stray. This tiny kitten clearly had a rough start to life, and she needed multiple surgeries on her eyelids. Natalie kindly put up her hand to take Ruth into her home so she could spend six months recuperating in the comfort of foster care.

"Ruth and I became very attached to one another. She was special because she was incredibly affectionate with some quirky habits. She liked to sit on my shoulder all the time – even when I was cleaning the house or trying to brush my teeth!"

When animals are too young to be adopted, recovering from illness or surgery, or just not coping well in the busy shelter environment – a temporary home is exactly what they need in order to thrive.

We are so grateful for our network of incredible foster carers who volunteer their time to welcome animals into their home for the special care they need.



Natalie gave little Ruth a brighter future by becoming her loving foster carer.

“

I think the most wonderful aspect of fostering is the privilege you have to help shape a vulnerable animal's future – to be able to provide a safe space so the animal can go on to thrive in a loving home."

– Ruth's foster mum, Natalie

The power of gentle patience

Rogan loves spending time in the garden playing with his favourite toys and getting bundles of cuddles from Tim in his new forever home.



After a long journey, Rogan is a whole new dog thriving in his forever home!

When we first met Rogan, he was so afraid that he would sit at the back of his pen and tremble whenever he saw a person. We knew he was going to need extra support, so he was placed into our Behaviour Program.

Sometimes pets come to our shelter and we don't know what kind of traumas they may have experienced, but we do know that they will need compassion, dedication and patience to help them build up their confidence and trust, ready for the big world.

It can take quite some time to do this for a scared dog like Rogan. Our Behaviour Team works with dogs like Rogan to help them overcome their fear and set them up for success in a forever home, no matter how long this takes. Through gentle, force-free training methods, Rogan learned lots of new skills. Over time, he came out of his shell to show us the sweet, friendly, and happy dog he really is. His progress made us all so proud!

It took more than four months – 141 days in our care – for Rogan to reach the point when he was ready for adoption. He was going to need a supportive family who were willing to continue his training and help him thrive. That's exactly what he found in Tim. All of us at the Home shared in celebrating this long-awaited adoption!

“

Rogan's sweet disposition at the meet-and-greet was the clincher for me. When he is sitting next to you, he will pop a paw up on your leg or hand to let you know he wants a pat. He is so polite! My morning walks have a bit more purpose now and the pace is set to help Rogan. I can see the enrichment he has already brought to my home life. While he does need ongoing care for his anxiety, and plenty of patience, his presence is a delight.”

– Rogan's new dad, Tim

Why shelter pets are the perfect choice!

Setting the record straight, why adoption is the best option

Shelter pets are devoted creatures who want nothing more than a family to love and a home to call their own.

Sadly though, shelter pets are sometimes misunderstood. Myths about shelter pets suggest they are 'lesser' or 'not as good' as pets purchased from breeders or pet shops.

There are many reasons why a shelter pet is the perfect choice for your family, and why adoption is the best option.

We want to set the record straight!

Myth #1:

Purchasing from a breeder guarantees you'll get a perfect pet

Pets often end up in shelters through no fault of their own. Their owner may have moved into a nursing home, no longer have the money to care for them, or be dealing with other significant challenges that prevent them from giving their pet the time and care needed.

Shelter pets do sometime need extra support to help them settle into their new home and routine, but the same goes for any pet, regardless of where they came from.

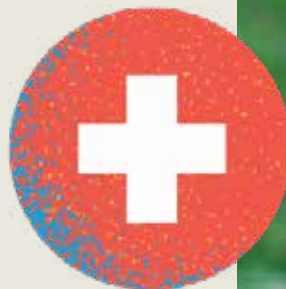


Myth #2:

Shelter pets have health problems

Most dogs and cats available for adoption at shelters are mixed breeds. As a general rule, mixed breeds have fewer genetic health issues and have been known to live longer than their pure-bred counterparts. Of course, a pet's health status can change over the years.

All pets up for adoption at the Home have been examined by our vet team to ensure they are healthy and ready for adoption.



Myth #3:

Shelter pets cost too much

Adoption fees help to cover only a very small portion of the total cost of caring for and preparing a pet for adoption. All pets adopted from The Lost Dogs' Home are microchipped and desexed before they go to their new homes.

**Myth #4:**

Shelters only have older pets, not puppies or kittens

Pets of all ages arrive at shelters, from newborns to seniors, and everything in between. Puppies and kittens are very popular and are generally adopted very quickly, while adult and senior pets often wait a little bit longer to find new homes.

**Myth #5:**

Shelter pets won't bond with their new family

Shelter pets are equally as loyal and devoted as pets purchased from a breeder or pet shop. In fact, our adopters often say their pets seem to know they've been given a second chance at having a happy life, and they're all the more loving and grateful for it.



Now that we've cleared up some of the common myths about shelter pets, what are you waiting for?! Change a life and adopt a dog or cat today.

Visit our adoption pages on dogshome.com



“Tilly is a huge benefit to my physical and mental health”

The incredible impact of pets on our wellbeing.

Tilly was picked up by our animal ambulance when she was found wandering the streets by herself. When we first met her, she was very nervous about being handled by people, whilst also getting anxious if we left her alone. The hustle and bustle of the shelter environment was a bit stressful for Tilly, so we placed her into a quiet foster home where she could relax. It also gave us a good opportunity to learn more about her behaviour in a home environment.

During three weeks of foster care, Tilly's carer gathered lots of valuable insight into Tilly's personality. Although she was shy and unsure at first, Tilly soon settled in and adjusted to her new surroundings. She began to show her love of people and her favourite thing to do – relaxing on the couch.

When Tilly was ready for adoption, we already knew the type of home and lifestyle she would need to help her thrive. So, when Elyce came along ready to offer a loving forever home to a dog in need – and continue working on Tilly's confidence and independence – it was a perfect match.

“Tilly is an absolute sweetheart. I love how curious and playful she is. When we're out on walks, she stops to give everything in the neighbourhood a sniff and is very excited to say 'hi' to anyone we pass. She gives me companionship and makes sure I get up and moving to spend plenty of time outside.

Adopting Tilly has been a huge benefit to both my physical and mental health. There are so many dogs out there who are in need of homes, and it's incredibly rewarding to be able to help out.”

It's always wonderful to hear about the life-changing impact of adopting a pet – not only for abandoned animals, but also for the wellbeing of people.



Neo's second chance at love

Neo recently found herself without a home after her owner sadly passed away. At 18 years of age, this beautiful senior was understandably feeling lost and bewildered, her whole world was turned upside down.

When Neo arrived in our animal ambulance, our team was ready to give her the kindness and reassurance she needed.

After several weeks of care – including tests, treatment and two surgeries, this super sweet old girl was ready to find a loving retirement home, where she could enjoy a quiet life, snuggled up with her new family, drifting off for a nanna nap or two.

Like any elderly pet, Neo had some health conditions that needed extra care. Luckily her perfect new family had already decided they could give Neo the wonderful retirement home she deserved.

Laura and John recently had to say goodbye to their beloved cat, Mr Bingley, and were desperately missing the company of a feline friend. Having always adopted mature-aged pets, they didn't think twice about welcoming home elderly cat Neo.

“

I just couldn't think of anything worse for a dear little cat to have spent 18 years with a loving person and then be left all alone. They just don't understand why.

Who knows how long little Neo will be with us. But John, I and dog Dexter will make sure it's a safe, warm caring home. Thank you, Lost Dogs' Home, for putting your trust in us to do the right and best thing for Neo.”

Laura, Neo's new forever mum



The purrfect home for this pair



April and Autumn spend their days happily relaxing and playing together with their new loving family.



April and Autumn, together for always.

When April and Autumn arrived at our shelter as strays, we knew something wasn't right. Poor April could barely open her eyes, leaving her with almost no vision.

It was clear these sisters shared a very special bond. Not only did April depend on Autumn for company, but she also relied on her sister to find her way around. Everywhere Autumn went, April went too. Without her sister by her side, April didn't have the confidence to get up and move about.

Thanks to generous supporters, our qualified vets were equipped and ready to take immediate action and fully examine April. We discovered April's condition was caused by a developmental disorder of her eyes, along with a congenital defect in her eyelids.

To give April the best possible chance of a healthy, happy future free from pain and discomfort, it was decided by the vet team to have both her eyes removed.

Our vets successfully performed the delicate surgery, and April was moved into a special ward to recover under the dedicated care of our nurses. We knew she would have felt totally lost without her sister, so we moved Autumn into the ward too. With Autumn by her side, April recovered wonderfully!

With April's special care needs and trying to find this beautiful pair a home together, it was going to take someone extra special to be the loving forever family they deserved. We were absolutely thrilled when Jamison came along to welcome these two sweet cats into her home!

“

Autumn and April have settled in beautifully! April was outgoing and confident the day she came home. Autumn was a bit skittish at first but after a while she became more comfortable, with the help of her loving sister.

Adopting Autumn and April has been amazing. It has been a new experience dealing with a blind cat and making her feel at home but altogether so enjoyable!”

— April and Autumn's new mum, Jamison



Shelter pets will love you for a lifetime

An update on Jesse who was adopted from the Home 16 years ago!

It warms our hearts to know our pets go to forever homes for a lifetime of love. Thanks to kind supporters, we can give every animal who comes to us in their time of need the hope of a happy future.

Beautiful Kelpie cross, Jesse, was adopted as a six-month-old puppy from The Lost Dogs' Home way back in 2005. She's now reached the grand age of 16 and still going strong!

A few years after welcoming her home, Jesse's family adopted another pet – a cat named Lola. Jesse and

Lola formed an immediate bond and are still best friends to this day.

In her younger years, Jesse loved playing ball, doing zoomies, and catching a wave at the beach. She may have slowed down a little since then, but she still makes the most of life's simple pleasures, as Jesse's adopter Victor explains.

"Jesse has added more joy, companionship, love and fun to our lives than anyone could have imagined. She's an incredible pooch. These days, she's very happy with a run around the block

followed by snuggles on the couch. Since COVID and working from home, she has helped me out on many of my work video calls. Pets give so much more than they take. You need to do it for the long term and be there for your dog no matter what life throws at you in the years to come."

Our adopters are truly special! When Victor adopted Jesse, he promised he'd stick by her for the long haul – and he has done just that. He hopes many other families will do the same and adopt an animal in need of a home. We thank Victor and everyone who has given a forever home to a shelter pet who is ready to love you for a lifetime.

16 years on and Jesse still loves her family just as much as she did when they first welcomed her into their home!





Gifts In Wills

Turning Lost into Loved ❤️



As animal-lovers, we all know that there is nothing quite so special as loving an animal and being loved unconditionally by them in return.

Buddy, pictured above, was found wandering the streets neglected, alone and distressed. Today, he's enjoying his best life, being loved and cherished by his new family!

Including a gift to The Lost Dogs' Home in your Will is one of the most powerful ways to help create a more loving, kinder world for frightened and vulnerable animals. Every animal deserves a safe, loving place to call home.

Leaving even just 1% of your estate can make a difference to The Lost Dogs' Home's vital animal welfare work. A kind gift in your Will can provide compassionate care for lost, neglected, and abandoned cats and dogs in the future.

If you would like to know more about how you can make a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable animals in this special way, Ross from our Gifts in Wills Team would love to have a friendly chat with you about how we can make this possible.

It's easy, just call Ross on (03) 8379 4496 or email him with any questions you might have at wills@dogshome.com



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