

Best Mates

Winter/Spring 2022



Kindness when
it's needed most

Nicole suffered an unimaginably cruel act but, after coming to the Home, her life took a turn for the best.

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THE
LOST DOGS
HOME

From One Friend to Another



Welcome to our Winter/Spring edition of Best Mates!

We are absolutely delighted and honoured to welcome Lady Potter AC as Patron of The Lost Dogs' Home. Lady Primrose Potter has been a loyal and long-term supporter of the Home and has spent her whole life surrounded by animals. She hopes through her patronage to encourage others to experience the joy animals bring into our lives and inspire people to love them and protect them.

Which is exactly in line with our vision of 'giving animals the best chance of a happy and healthy life'.

In this edition of our newsletter we have stories that clearly show how our love of animals, and their love in return, means happy lives for both adoptees and adopters. Nicole the cat, cruelly doused in cooking oil, now living her best life after stealing her new family's hearts. Kelpie Lilah, adopted by Stephen, and their bond growing stronger every day, and big boy Diddy! A gentle giant, nervous of people because of his previous experiences, coming out of his shell as soon as he arrived home with new dad Shane.

The animals we welcome into our shelter all have their stories to tell and challenges to overcome. But no matter what these challenges are, be it acts of cruelty, neglect, bereavement of a beloved owner, or poor health, we are here for all of them. And thanks to so many very special people supporting the Home through donations, volunteering, or using our services, we always will 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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Front cover image:

Nicole and Jesse

The Lost Dogs' Home is an open-intake shelter, meaning we will never turn away an animal based on their 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

Lady Primrose Potter AC

A New Patron for The Lost Dogs' Home



Celebrating 'The Love of Animals'

I was absolutely delighted to be offered and to accept the position of Patron for The Lost Dogs' Home. As a long, loyal supporter and an animal lover, I have always been in awe of the Home's staff, their hard work and dedication to giving every animal that arrives scared, anxious, and alone, and the respect and care needed to turn their lives around to see them safely placed within loving homes.

My intention as Patron will be to promote and encourage others to seek out and celebrate the love of animals and experience the joy they bring into our lives. More than this, through 'The Love of Animals' campaign, I will be encouraging others to support The Lost Dogs' Home with significant philanthropic investments to make sure they can not only continue to care for the thousands of animals coming through the doors, but so that they can grow and expand and lead in the field of best practice animal welfare, for the benefit of all animals.

Such an outcome will have immediate positive impacts on animals' lives, caring for mental health as well as physical, rebuilding trust, reuniting families, and creating new ones. For the positive health and wellbeing not just of the animals, but also of the humans lucky enough to welcome a Lost Dogs' Home pet into their home.

Lady Primrose Potter

Lady Primrose Potter AC
Patron, The Lost Dogs' Home



Lady Primrose Potter is a renowned patron for philanthropy in Australia. She is a champion of various issues and good causes from science and medicine to the arts, and now animal welfare. She has delivered significant support for programs that benefit the wider community.

'The Love of Animals' campaign aims to raise \$3 million over three years for specialised Lost Dogs' Home programs and projects such as Shelter Medicine and Post Adoption Behaviour Training.

Kindness when it's needed most



Nicole suffered an unimaginably cruel act but, after coming to the Home, her life took a turn for the better.

Nicole the cat was brought to our shelter needing emergency care. She had been doused in oil—we don't know the whole story, but we were told it was deliberate. Our dedicated team snapped into action to give Nicole the care and kindness she urgently needed.

After three weeks of treatment and TLC, Nicole was ready for a new start to life. Emily and Jesse were looking to adopt a pet in need of a second chance, saying, "There are more than enough animals out there. They just need loving homes."

So, when Emily and Jesse heard about Nicole's story, their hearts broke for her. They didn't hesitate for a moment and came to visit Nicole at our shelter right away, ready to give her a new life full of love. Jesse and Nicole look beautiful together on our front cover!

We gave Nicole a thorough, but gentle, bath to delicately remove as much oil as we could from her coat and skin. Once she was clean and dry, we carefully moved her to our hospital ward where she could rest and start to recover from her traumatic experience. Our vets and nurses kept a close eye on Nicole to make sure she was okay. Despite what she'd been through, she was such a sweet girl in amazingly good spirits and purred up a storm at every pat.

“

Even though Nicole has had an awful past, she is so full of love, trust and joy. She hasn't let what has happened to her break her spirit. We love her curious nature and loving ways.”

— *Emily, Nicole's new mum*



Nicole arrived at the Shelter, cruelly covered in oil.



Nicole wearing her special little jumper while her skin and coat recovered to full health after being doused in oil.



Bailey and Cruiser are so happy in their new home—giving their family double the devotion!

Double the Devotion



Bailey and Cruiser found a wonderful home to enjoy their golden years together.

We believe every animal deserves the best chance of finding a loving, forever home. And it's not just about finding any home—it's about finding the right home. We go to great lengths to make sure each animal is matched with the best possible family to meet their needs.

Bailey and Cruiser are a pair of sweet seniors who arrived together, with no place to call home. They share an unbreakable bond, so we set about finding them a home where they could stay together, to live out their golden years in happy comfort. Their new home had to be extra-special because Bailey has a heart murmur and needs palliative care.

We were thrilled when Marion came along to give Bailey and Cruiser the joyful life they needed. Marion shared, "When I came across Bailey and Cruiser online, I fell in love with them on first sight. And once we met them, we just knew they should be with us."

Bailey and Cruiser have already brought so many smiles to their new family. Marion told us, "What I love most about Bailey and Cruiser is their continued love and devotion. Even if we have only been gone for half an hour, their excitement when we get home makes us smile!"

“

Adopting an older dog, you get much more than you give. Bailey and Cruiser have made our life and home happier. We find ourselves just sitting and laughing at their antics.”

— Marion, Bailey and Cruiser's new mum

Two-way love



Diddy the BIG dog with a BIG heart.



Diddy received lots of TLC from our staff while in the Shelter.

Diddy is a big strong boy, weighing a whopping 47kg. But despite his size, he was so nervous when he first arrived through the doors of the Home. Diddy would shy away from people—flinching and turning his head away. We don't know what had happened in the past to break his spirit, but we were determined to build his trust towards humans and help him be the happy, confident dog we knew he was inside.

We gave Diddy lots of gentle TLC at the Home, and he came out of his shell a little more each day. When Diddy was ready for adoption, our team started looking for someone who could continue supporting him on his journey towards trusting people.

When Shane came to visit our shelter, he told us about his beloved elderly dog who had passed away. We could see that Shane had the kind heart our sweet Diddy needed.

Shane shared, "I walked over to Diddy and started patting him. He looked at me with his big sad eyes and I knew the big fella just had to come home with us."

The Lost Dogs' Home is an open intake shelter, which means we will never turn away an animal because of their breed or size and we have far more larger dogs coming into our care than small.

It can be sad when we see our beautiful larger dogs overlooked for smaller breed types. Especially when there are so many reasons to consider if welcoming a big dog into your family is the right choice for you:

2

Large dogs are quieter

Big dogs are often much quieter and don't bark as much as smaller dogs. When they do though, you certainly know someone, or something is nearby!

3

Big dogs are gentle giants

Larger dogs can keep up with human youngsters in the household and tend not to mind more boisterous interactions. Although big dogs aren't as delicate as some smaller breeds, common sense should always prevail of course, and children should learn not to grab animals roughly and to treat their dog with respect.

1

Large dogs are loving and loyal

Large dogs are very loyal to their people, many have a heritage of rescue and protection and so they are hard-wired to love their families. There's something special about having a large dog come lay beside you, giving comfort and warmth!

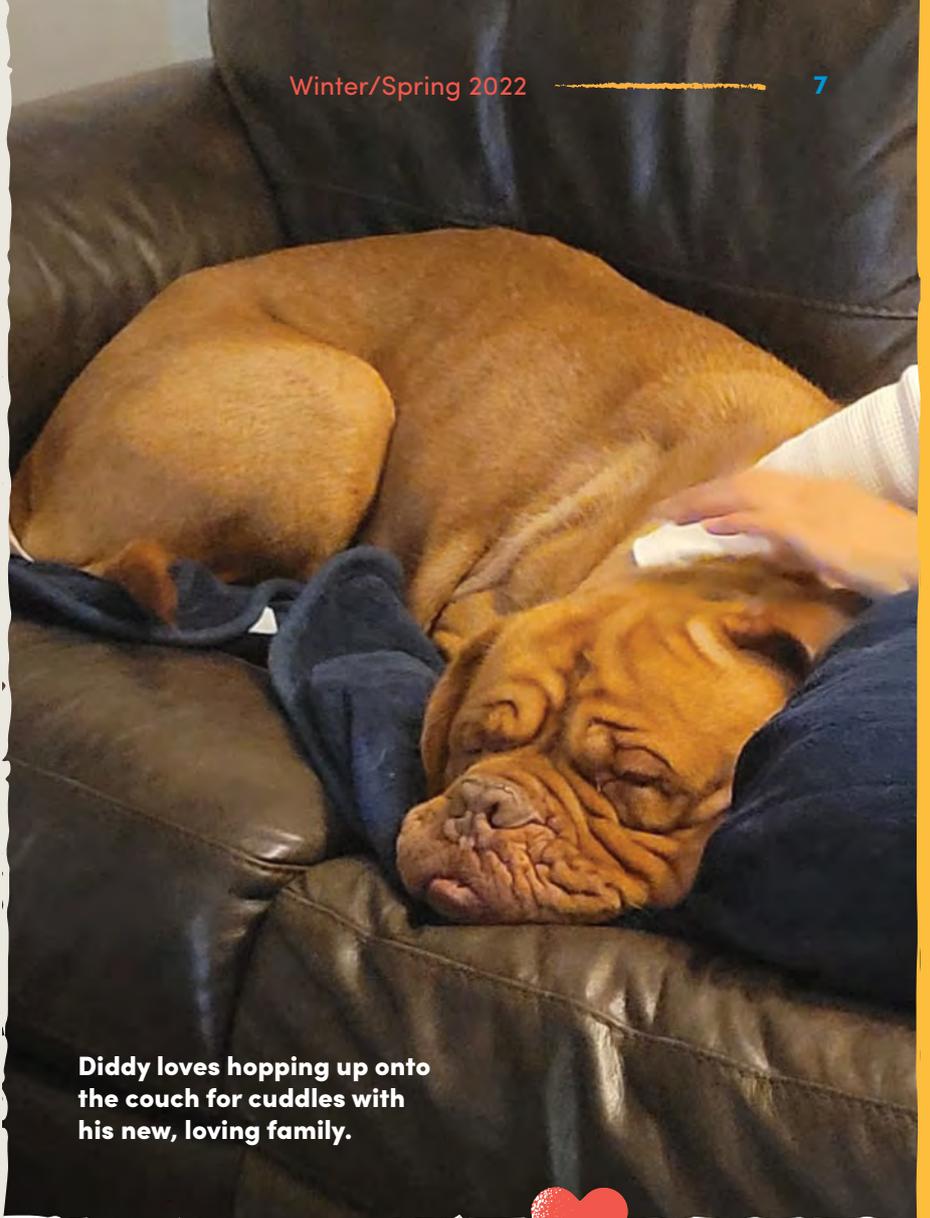


Shane has given Diddy a special forever home, where he can feel safe and loved. And the love is truly felt both ways, as Shane told us, "Once you've adopted a pet from a shelter, they will give you so much more than they ever take. Diddy has stepped straight into our house and made it feel like a home again. He's a big, loveable friendly giant."

“

Diddy knew he was home as soon as we pulled into the driveway with him. It was like he climbed out of his shell and came to life. The look on his face is a look I'll never forget."

— Shane, Diddy's new dad



Diddy loves hopping up onto the couch for cuddles with his new, loving family.

4

Big dogs are easier to train

Larger dogs tend to be easier to train than small dogs. They typically grasp concepts quicker and remember them faster.

5

Some big dogs love the outdoors!

A large dog can be a perfect companion for an active family, especially if the dog's heritage is one of working or sporting breeds, with long legs and expanded lung capacity, they'll have the stamina to go the extra mile with you.

6

And some big dogs are just couch-potato cuddle bugs

Regardless of their size and speed, Greyhounds are often big, goofy, placid couch-potatoes, loving nothing more than to snuggle up beside their people on a cosy sofa for a cuddle session.



Thinking of adopting?

Visit our adoptions pages on [dogshome.com](https://www.dogshome.com) and our wonderful adoptions team can help you find your perfect pal, whatever their size!

The very best care for every pet



Cuddle time with Tam.

Gnocchi could count on us for the extensive medical care he desperately needed.

At the Home, we see animals from all walks of life. That means some of the dogs and cats arriving on our doorstep need extra care beyond nutritious food, clean water, cosy beds, and cuddles! Thanks to the support of generous animal lovers, we are ready to do whatever it takes to provide every pet with the very best care.

When 10-year-old pug, Gnocchi, came to us, he was a sweet boy with a long list of critical medical needs. His check-up revealed he was partially deaf, had serious issues in one eye, and he was suffering from severe dental disease.

Our dedicated veterinary team advised that Gnocchi would need a number of urgent procedures so he could be free from his agonizing pain as soon as possible. We made a special call-out to our devoted network of foster carers so Gnocchi could find a nice, peaceful home during his medical care. Tay and Tam answered the call and kindly opened their home to Gnocchi.

When Tay and Tam brought Gnocchi home, they were gentle and patient with him. And it didn't take him long to make himself at home! He very quickly chose his favourite sitting spots around the house – even refusing to move for the vacuum cleaner.

Gnocchi was so brave throughout his medical care, and it made a big difference having Tay and Tam to support him on his journey to recovery. Gnocchi's eye was in

such a bad state that our vets made the difficult decision to remove it – to give him the best chance of a comfortable life. He also needed major dental surgery to allow him to eat without pain. He recovered well from his surgeries and was enjoying his time in foster care.

Gnocchi absolutely won the hearts of Tay and Tam. So much so that they decided to adopt him and became his forever family!

“

Tam and I run a wildlife shelter and we knew it would be hard to adopt a rescue dog that wasn't going to chase the birds, duckies and chookies – but along came Gnocchi! He's wonky like our other rescues and fits in perfectly with our blended family.”

– Tay, Gnocchi's new mum

The good things in life take time

After more than 100 days in our care after his devoted owner sadly passed away, Dudley finally found the home of his dreams.

We welcome every pet with open arms. Some animals, like sweet senior cat Dudley, take a little more time to find a loving forever home that's right for them—and we're always up for the challenge. Because Dudley has Feline Immunodeficiency

Virus (FIV), he needed to go to a particular type of home with no other cats. As the days passed in our care, Dudley watched so many of his fellow felines find their loving homes—but no one came to adopt him. He waited so patiently for his special someone.

Then, on his 102nd day in our care, along came Emily. It was finally Dudley's turn to be adopted!

Emily had been thinking about adopting a cat for a while. One night, she couldn't sleep so she hopped on our website to take a look at our cats in need of new homes. She said, "Dudley was the first cat I saw, and I knew he was the one I wanted to meet. He was so cute. It was love at first sight." Within hours of adopting Dudley, Emily told us he was very relaxed and made himself at home.

With the support of generous animal lovers, pets like Dudley can stay with us as long as they need. It was truly a special day to see Dudley finally go to the happy home he had waited so long to find.



“

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.

— Emily, Dudley's new forever mum

Dudley never gave up hope of finding a forever home, and neither did we, giving it all we could to eventually unite him with his new mum, Emily.



With Midnight's blessing

Remembering Midnight forever and welcoming Lilah to the family.

W Stephen will never forget his devoted dog Midnight, who passed away at 15 years old. A year after saying goodbye to Midnight, Stephen was ready to open his home and heart to another animal in need. He'd just missed out on adopting another Kelpie in our care, but fortunately for everyone another Kelpie named Lilah had just become available for adoption. Stephen's application was a wonderful match, so our team booked a 'meet-and-greet' between the pair as soon as possible. We didn't know at the time, but the given date happened to be the first anniversary of Midnight's passing.

Stephen adopted Lilah and told us, "For me, it was love at first sight. I'd like to think Midnight was checking in and giving her blessing as well. Now, I really can't imagine how I got along without Lilah. She has brought so much love, warmth, and fun into the household in such a short amount of time... Even though Lilah has a beautiful comfortable bed of her own, she has decided she likes my bed better. The minute the lights go out, she's up and stretched out along the end of it!"

Lilah now spends her days (and nights!) by Stephen's side. They go for walks and swims together, and Lilah enjoys an abundance of toys and tummy rubs. While Midnight will always be remembered, Lilah's adoption has brought so much joy into both Stephen and Lilah's lives.

“

Lilah might not have had the perfect first year to her life, but it's now up to me to make sure the next 15-plus years are full of love and fun-filled.”

– Stephen, Lilah's new dad

Lilah loves going on new adventures in the car... and snuggling with her favourite teddy bear.



Wobbly Cat Syndrome explained

Cerebella Hypoplasia, better known as 'Wobbly Cat Syndrome', is a rare condition some cats are born with.

It affects their ability to balance and happens when the cerebellum, the part of the brain responsible for coordination and balance, doesn't develop properly. The condition is not contagious but the stalled development in this area of the brain can be caused by some viruses which are passed to the unborn kitten from their mother.

While the condition has no treatment or cure, in most cases it usually doesn't cause any serious harmful effects. Despite their lack of coordination, cats with this syndrome can live full and happy lives with support from their adoptive family.

Special needs
means special love

When May visited our shelter, she wasn't looking for just any cat.

May had her heart set on adopting a cat who'd been overlooked and needed some extra help. We introduced her to four-year-old Pavlo, who has a neurological condition and is also deaf. His condition – Cerebellar Hypoplasia (also sometimes known as Wobbly Cat Syndrome) – gives him an unsteady walk.

Pavlo had spent a month waiting to be adopted, so he was over the moon when May came to meet him. May said, "Pavlo came straight up to me wanting all the pats in the world and he wouldn't let me go! When we closed his door to go meet another cat, he kept crying his head off for us to come back... Pavlo is the most loving, playful, adorable cat I've ever met. I love how brave and fearless he is. He never lets anything slow him down."

Today, Pavlo is not only a devoted companion and cuddle-bug for May, but he is also a doting big brother to her foster cats. Every day, his loving and lively personality reminds May why she chose to adopt a pet with special needs.

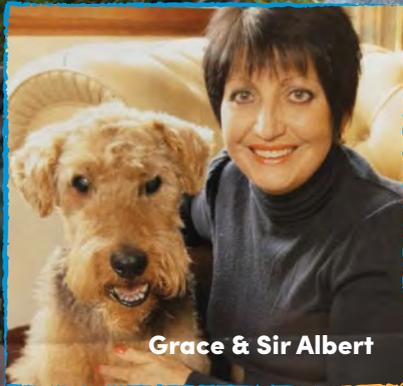
In fact, nothing stops Pavlo from living each day to the fullest and showing his family just how much he loves them!

“

Animals like Pavlo don't know they're any different, nor do they care. They are very capable of living a fulfilling life. They let nothing stop them. If people are just willing to learn more about their conditions and their personalities, they will be amazed and inspired by everything that they are.”

– May, Pavlo's new mum

Gifts In Wills



Grace & Sir Albert



Grace & Penny



Grace & Harley

Let your love of animals live on

We all know that there is nothing quite so special as loving an animal and being loved unconditionally by them in return. 

Grace, pictured above, is a passionate animal lover and a big fan of adopting dogs that need some extra love and care.

After saying her final farewell to her beloved dogs Harley and Sir Albert, Grace has now welcomed Penny, a white Greyhound-cross, into her home. Grace says that all of the dogs in her life have provided her with much-needed companionship and unconditional love, each in their own special way.

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. Grace firmly believes that every animal deserves a safe, loving place to call home.

Leaving a small percentage of your estate can make a big difference to The Lost Dogs' Home's vital animal welfare work. Even a kind gift of just 1% of your estate left 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 just how easy it is to make a difference to the lives of lost animals in this special way, Ross from our friendly Gifts in Wills Team would love to have a chat with you.

You can call Ross on (03) 8379 4496, email him at wills@dogshome.com with any questions you might have or visit www.dogshome.com/wills for more information.

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