

Best Mates

Summer/Autumn 2023



The joy of animals
later in life

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all his life and he knows too well the
special love and joy they can bring.

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THE
LOST DOGS
HOME

From One Friend to Another

Hello friends! Some important news on the Arden Urban Renewal Precinct.



During the latter part of last year, we received confirmation that our North Melbourne shelter facilities will make way for the new Arden Urban Renewal Precinct and we must relocate. Although this may at first sound worrying, we see this as a potentially exciting opportunity for the Home.

The Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs opened on 28 February 1913 in Gracie Street, North Melbourne and since that time, the shelter facilities have been in a constant state of rebuilds, upgrades, and repairs.

Our staff have remained steadfast and determined to provide outstanding animal welfare care despite these challenges and we are leading the way in adopting 'shelter medicine' as the accepted procedure for how we care for our animals. We use 'herd health' principles to keep the large numbers of animals we have in our shelters healthy and safe. At the same time, we make sure the individual health and happiness of each animal in our care is catered for.

The chance to build a new, modern facility that can so much better support this kind of best practice animal welfare, as well as be a great place for our staff to work, is an exciting one.

We are continuing our intense negotiations with government to make the welfare of our animals remains at the centre of all decisions being made.

I'm looking forward to being able to update you on important developments as discussions progress. However, this will be a very lengthy process and our expectation is that we will be operating from our North Melbourne site for at least the next three to five years.

In the meantime, we will continue to operate business as usual in caring for the most vulnerable animals in Victoria. Please enjoy the many wonderful stories of 'happy ever afters' captured in this edition of Best Mates. They have all been made possible thanks to your wonderful and ongoing support.

Grant Robb
CEO, The Lost Dogs' Home

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Front cover image:
Wally and Rosemary,
new best mates, forever.

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 15,000 lost and abandoned mostly dogs and cats every year. For more information visit dogshome.com

Wally and Rosemary may have found each other later in life, but they've got so much love to share!

The joy of animals later in life

90-year-old Wally has had dogs all his life and he knows too well the special love and joy they can bring.

When Wally sadly had to say goodbye to his old pal and faithful dog, the retired driver, courier, and brewery assistant realised he missed the companionship only a dog can give. With the help of his stepdaughter Cheryl, Wally spent a lot of time searching for a close buddy. And when he came across our sweet staffy Rosemary, who needed a loving home, the pair proved to be the perfect match.

Cheryl shared, "Rosemary came right up to Wally several times, and

he thought she would be a great companion. Rosemary will be good for Wally as someone he can talk to and love."

At the Home, we will always make sure animals find homes that can provide all the love and care they need for the rest of their days. Not only can Rosemary count on Wally, but Wally also has a whole family more than willing to help care for Rosemary if needed—so she'll always have a loving forever home to call her own.

“

Rosemary has settled in well, really good. She's definitely the boss in my home! I live alone, so, she's great company for me."

— Wally, Rosemary's adopter

As you get older, inviting a pet into your home can provide love, companionship, and a reason to stay active with daily walks. Adopting an older dog can be the perfect match as they make great companions and usually need less training than a younger dog. Owning a dog has also been associated with many potential emotional and health benefits.





Ten years of helping animals like Owen in the community

After a long journey healing from his injuries, Owen heading home.



Our incredible facility, the Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic, is celebrating ten years of serving the local community and their pets, as well as supporting the life-saving work of our Shelters.

When Owen came to us, he was in bad shape. Danijela and her mum Gordana found this poor little cat shivering all by himself in a car park. Danijela recalls, "I stopped the car and called Mum, who came down with a blanket. And that's when his injuries became obvious." We don't know exactly what hurt Owen, but we suspect a car may have crushed his tiny paws.

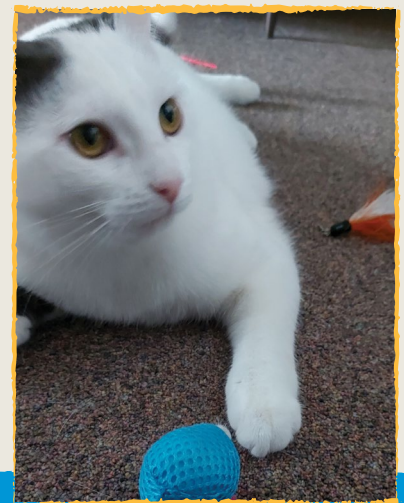
Dr Ton, Lead Veterinary Surgeon at Frank Samways Vet Clinic, was ready to do whatever it took to help Owen live a life where he could move around without pain or limitations. He said, "Owen fractured most of the long bones in his feet. He injured himself sometime before coming

to us." Dr Ton performed surgery to carefully realign some of Owen's bones while attaching small plates to others.

Danijela and Gordana were quick to open their home to Owen as his foster carers, so he'd have a peaceful place to recover from his extensive surgery. And we're so pleased to tell you that they decided to give Owen a loving forever home!

Danijela shared, "Since Owen's casts came off, his legs have healed wonderfully, and his active kitten spirit keeps him busy exploring around the home. He loves playing, talking, and splashing in his water bowl! He also adores smooching, nuzzling, and making a little cave out of the blankets to settle under."

Owen is now having the time of his life chasing his favourite toys around his forever home!



“

Owen has brought an extra layer of life to our household and always greets us with a "meow meow". It's like he's always lived here!"

– Danijela, Owen's new best friend

Did you know

The Lost Dogs' Home's Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic provides exceptional veterinary health services to the caring pet owning communities of North Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

Importantly, the care pet owners demonstrate in choosing to bring their pets to the clinic is magnified. All proceeds from the clinic go straight back into funding our shelters, caring for Victoria's most vulnerable animals, just like Owen.

Meet one of our newest behaviour graduates

Millie has a whole new lease on life, thanks to the special care made possible by you!

As an open-intake shelter, the Home will always be here for every animal no matter their background. After living on the streets as a stray, Millie needed some nurturing behaviour support to overcome her anxieties. As always, we were up for the challenge!

Our dedicated Behaviour Team invested lots of gentle patience and loving guidance into Millie. After five months, she graduated from our behaviour training program and was ready for the big world.

Millie had come so far but she was still a little worried to be on her own, so she needed a family who would continue helping to build her confidence. We were thrilled when Tracie and Marcus came along to give Millie the loving forever home of her dreams.

Tracie shared, "Millie came to us as a nervous little girl, and she has shown so much improvement ever since. She responds very well to training and has even learnt some tricks, such as 'high five' and 'shake hands.'"

Sweet Millie has absolutely blossomed knowing she is safe and loved in her forever home. Tracie and Marcus make sure to include Millie in their daily activities, so she truly feels like part of the family. Tracie told us, "Millie loves going out and about in the car and to the beach with us. She loves spending time outdoors together, like helping Marcus cook on the BBQ. And she enjoys just relaxing at home on the couch or our bed."



Millie loves cuddle time with her new family!



“

Millie continues to amaze and delight us with her intelligence and her quirks. We are so grateful to have found her with the help of the Home.”

— Tracie, Millie's new mum

Roadmap to the Future!

Our vision is to give animals the best chance of a happy healthy life. Which is why we have created our Roadmap to the Future, a plan to provide exceptional animal welfare care to the 15,000+ animals that come through our doors every year.

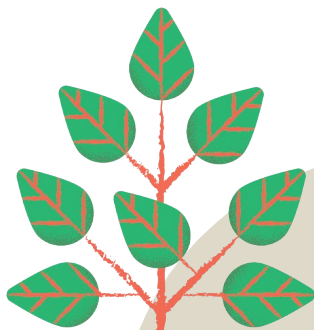
Our Roadmap consists of eight important key goals across animal welfare as well as how we engage with the community. They will help us to track where we are now, where we need to be and how we will get there.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our wonderful donors. Your support is already having an incredible positive impact on the lives of some of our most vulnerable animals, and it will have an even greater impact as will be shown through our Roadmap.

You can find out more by visiting: roadmap.dogshome.com



Our Goals:



4

We will make sure the way we operate aligns with the needs of the community

5

We will always alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions

6

We will respect the importance of the human-animal bond with safe placements and post-adoption support



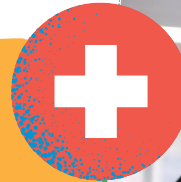
**We will reunite
or rehome every
adoptable
animal in
our care**

1

**We will accept every
unwanted homeless
pet seeking safety and
shelter with us, into
our care**

2**3**

**We will make sure the medical
and behavioural needs of
homeless animals are correctly
assessed and effectively addressed**

**7**

**We will work with the
community to achieve the best
outcomes for all our animals**

**8**

**We will operate in
a transparent and
ethical manner**



As an Adoption Ambassador, Tania and her family were able to help Cupcake find her forever home!



Say hello to our Adoption Ambassadors Program

Every dog and cat are welcome at the Home and we will continue going to great lengths to find forever homes for animals as soon as possible.

That's why, in July, we launched our Adoption Ambassadors Program to spread the word about animals in need of loving families. Because we will never turn away an animal.

The Adoption Ambassador Program is an Australian first for animal shelters. It is designed to get animals out of shelters and into homes quicker.

Liz Walker, our Director of Operations explains, "This is revolutionary in terms of not only freeing up shelter space for the 15,000+ animals that come through our doors every year, but it means animals will have a better opportunity to find a home quicker."

“

The biggest benefit is for the animal. Returning to a shelter environment could increase anxiety for a dog like Cupcake. With this program, we were active in helping find Cupcake a new home. And while she waited, she was able to be in a nice home with a family she is comfortable with.”

As an Adoption Ambassador, Tania was able to get to know her foster dog Cupcake so she could help find Cupcake's perfect match. It also meant Cupcake could be adopted directly from Tania's care without having to come back into our busy shelters.

This program is made possible with the generous support of the Petspiration Foundation.

— Tania, Cupcake's Adoption Ambassador

Barry's lasting legacy of love

Dogs and cats have played a huge role in Barry's life for as long as he can remember.

Barry shared, "Animals were always part of my family growing up. I can't imagine not having one around. They bring so much unconditional love and joy."

When Barry bought his first home with his partner Stan back in 1974, it wasn't long before they adopted a new family member, Charlie, from The Lost Dogs' Home. Since then, they have adopted three other dogs from the Home, including

Barry adopted Buddy from the Home in 2008 and they've been inseparable ever since.

Barry's current companion, Buddy. Barry says Buddy has been a source of love and companionship, particularly after Stan sadly passed away back in 2010.

"Cats and dogs are the best medicine. When you're down, they're always there, ready to love you. They're great company."

Barry decided to include a gift in his Will to The Lost Dogs' Home, in loving memory of Stan and all the cats and dogs that brought so much love and happiness into their lives.



Barry's partner Stan in 1976 with their first new family member, Charlie

"I hope my gift will allow the Home to continue its marvellous and important work helping lost animals long into the future. I've been so grateful to all of the cats and dogs that have been part of my life and that gave me and Stan so much love over the years. Remembering them all in this special way is the very least I can do for them."

Thank you, Barry, for ensuring your life-long love of animals and compassion for others will continue for many years to come.



If you would like to find out more about how you can leave a legacy of love for lost animals in the future, please get in touch with Ross, our friendly Gifts in Wills Manager on (03) 8379 4496 or send a note to wills@dogshome.com

To read more about just how easy it can be to remember the Home in your own Will, please visit www.dogshome.com/wills

Danger on the Streets

When one year old Stan arrived at our shelter, it was clear straight away that he was in a lot of trouble and speed was of the essence.

Found wandering, disorientated and in a lot of distress, Stan had his head firmly stuck in an empty can of cat food. Most likely he had been living on the streets hungry and saw the can as an easy meal.

We don't know how long he had been in that position and with the can so tightly jammed, the team were concerned about his ability to breathe, they had to act quickly! Any delay could have been disastrous.

Keeping Stan calm and comfortable was challenging, but our team acted to reduce his stress while they carefully, but with as much speed as possible, cut around the can.

The moment of release was a glorious one for Stan and for the team! Everyone heaved a sigh of relief and in true cat style, he was very shortly walking around as if nothing had ever happened.

Despite his ordeal, a vet check revealed Stan was in good shape and we're pleased to report that he is now living his best life in his new forever home. Oblivious to his adventure, John and Annie fell in love this beautiful ginger gent as soon as they were introduced.



Stan can now relax and enjoy his new family life, and safe, regular mealtimes!

There are estimated to be around seven million stray cats living in urban areas across Australia. Life on the streets is tough for cats finding themselves in danger, or falling ill. If you are concerned a cat in your neighbourhood might be lost, the best thing is to try and get it back home.

Contact your council if you can't catch or handle the cat to check if it has ID. If it doesn't have ID take the cat to your local animal shelter or call your council. Shelter staff can scan the animal for a microchip.



Stan sleeping at his new forever home!



Could you be a foster family for a big dog like Clo?

We are always seeking people who could welcome our larger dogs into their homes while they wait for their forever family.

If you've got room in your heart and your home for a big dog, we'd LOVE to hear from you! Visit the 'How you can Help' section of dogshome.com to apply, specifying you are able to care for one of our wonderful larger residents.



BIG dogs mean BIG hearts ♥♥

Our biggest dogs are often the first to get overlooked for adoption.

But what people come to realise when they give these gentle giants a chance, is that big dogs come with so much love!

That's why we run special adoption campaigns to give our bigger dogs their best shot at finding a forever family to give them the love and care they deserve. Our most recent big dog adoption drive found loving homes for 167 dogs who were patiently waiting to find their very own loving family.

This is how Alex met German Wirehaired Pointer X, Clo. They were the perfect match! When Alex welcomed Clo into her home, she told us, "Clo is just gorgeous. I'm going to be able to live again. She's going to get me outside and walking." And Clo sure did!

We're so happy to share that Clo and Alex are living the dream. They walk an incredible 5km every day. Clo runs around in the sunshine and

salty air at the beach in the morning and they head to the park in the evenings where Clo likes to say hello to her new doggy friends.

“

I've had dogs of all sizes and I absolutely love big dogs. Don't be afraid of their size. The respect and love you give a dog, they'll give it straight back to you 100%. Dogs like Clo are wonderful, and they'll love you forever.”

— Alex, Clo's new best friend

MARCH WALKIES for THE LOST DOGS HOME.

Nicole adopted Ravi in 2021. They've both signed up to help more dogs like Ravi find their forever homes!



Get tails wagging this March and go walkies like never before!

Around 40 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens come into our shelters every day. They all deserve safe, happy, forever homes! But, before we can rehome these beautiful dogs and cats, they need food, shelter, medical care and a lot of special attention.

That's why we need your help!

This March, challenge yourself to walk further and go walkies like never before. Simply dedicate your walkies each day to helping lost and abandoned animals.

Step up to the challenge and push yourself to walk 2km, 3km, 5km or even more every day in the month of March.

To sign up or donate, scan the QR code below with your phone's camera!



Contact us:

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Connect with us online:

