

Best Mates

Winter/Spring 2023



Jay Jay's
unforgettable
howl of joy

Sweet oldie Jay Jay
finds his perfect home.

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THE
LOST DOGS
HOME

From One Friend to Another

Welcome to our 2023 Winter/Spring edition of Best Mates magazine.



There's no doubt it's been a challenging time here at the Home. Inflation continues to push up the prices of essentials like pet food and medicine. The soaring cost of living has also meant so many people are no longer able to care for their pets—which means more animals are coming to us in need of loving homes. To add to our capacity crisis, the Home recently experienced our biggest kitten breeding season in almost a decade.

But we're pushing on through these enormous challenges, thanks to the support of passionate people like you and the dedication and hard work of our staff.

Since our last edition of 'Best Mates' we have had some uplifting milestones in the face of these challenges. In March, we had one of our most successful adoption months, finding loving, forever homes for over 900 animals! And in April, we hit a new monthly record placing 761 cats and kittens and 43 dogs in foster care—getting them one step closer to finding forever homes. And our amazing vet teams worked all through the night during an extraordinary 24-hour desexing marathon for cats and kittens, you can find more details about this on page 8.

Despite tough times, I'm also delighted to share wonderful stories you helped make possible. You can read about life-long mates, Polly and Darling, a cat pair who found their new forever home together. The uplifting story of Billie, a smiley pooch bravely battling heart disease who found a loving home to enjoy her golden years. And you'll just love reading about Jay Jay, a 13-year-old Husky who instantly captured the hearts of his new family.

It is my hope that these heart-warming stories are as inspiring to you as they are to me. Because it's only through the generous support of animal lovers like you, that we can continue to be a lifeline for lost and abandoned animals.

Please, read on and enjoy!

Grant Robb
CEO, The Lost Dogs' Home

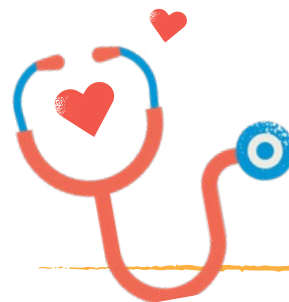
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Front cover image:

Sweet oldie Jay Jay finds his perfect home.

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

We'll never turn away an animal in need of help, and Jay Jay deserved the best help possible.

Jay Jay's unforgettable howl of joy

More animals like Jay Jay are arriving at the Home as the cost of living continues to rise. But we'll always be here for every animal in need of a loving forever home.

It would be difficult to find someone who hasn't felt the pinch of recent increases in the cost of living. And the heartbreaking reality is that for many families, taking care of their beloved pet has become unaffordable. Sadly, this has caused more animals to arrive on our doorstep in need of a new loving home.

At the Home, we will never turn away any animal who needs our help. Whether it be a kitten or a senior doggo, we will always do our best to find them the loving forever home they deserve.

When 13-year-old Husky, Jay Jay, was brought to us, we wanted to make sure we could help him in the best way possible.

For a sweet oldie like Jay Jay, the cost of a full health assessment can be expensive but it's worth it to give animals their best chance at a happy, healthy life. He underwent a series of tests—blood work, x-rays, vaccinations, desexing, and a behavioural assessment.

A month and a half later, we were contacted by Elsie and Andrew, who asked if we had a senior dog

in need of a home. We said we had just the right guy for them! They came to the shelter and instantly fell in love with this sweet boy. As Jay Jay walked out of the shelter that morning with his new family, he turned back to the team and let out a big AWOOO! In husky language we think it means he is a very happy boy!



Our doors are always open for animals like Jay Jay. Thanks to kind people like you, we're ready to provide special care and the chance for a loving forever home to every lost and abandoned animal.

Polly and Darling arrived at the shelter already bonded and best friends forever

Just like two peas in a pod

The importance of helping bonded animals like Polly and Darling stay together.

Here at the Home, we often get to witness the special bond that two animals share, whether it's siblings or inseparable mates. That's why we make every effort to help furry companions stick together when they're ready to find their loving forever home.

Polly and Darling arrived our shelter together. Through thick and thin, these two kitties had been together for nine years. So, we knew right away that Polly and Darling would be happiest if they found a new family as a bonded pair.

Not everyone is looking for, or is able to adopt two animals together, so finding this precious pair a forever home together meant going the extra mile. It also makes the end result even more rewarding when it happens.

When Maria contacted us, she let us know that she had been wanting to adopt a bonded pair of cats for a while. She had spotted Polly and Darling on our website, and it was love at first sight! Polly and Darling are now enjoying their days together in their new home getting lots of love and cuddles from Maria.

What are the benefits of adopting bonded pairs together?

- A pair of animals adjust easier to their new environment when they have the familiarity of being with each other
- Animals experience less boredom and separation anxiety as a pair
- Animals engage in more positive behaviour (and less destructive behaviour) when they have a playmate and companion

Committing to adopting a pair of animals together is a big decision and one that requires plenty of thought. But if you have the resources and a big heart to take in a bonded pair, you can have double the love!





Mia found the purrfect home

Mia the amazing kitten has special needs that no one understands more than her new family.

Mia, a four-month-old kitten who is deaf, instantly stole the hearts of Lauren and Triin. After holding Mia in their arms at our North Melbourne shelter, they knew she was going to be a wonderful addition to their family.

Lauren and Triin have a special connection to Mia—they are deaf too. They understand her needs better than anyone. Since welcoming Mia into their home, Lauren and Triin said Mia is proving to be a very quick learner when it comes to communicating with her new family.

“

We fell in love with her straight away and couldn't wait to take her home. We are complete now. Mia is understanding simple signs already.”

— *Lauren, Mia's new best friend*

It's so important to find the right home for an animal with additional needs like Mia. Thanks to our kind supporters, we'll always make every effort to match our animals with families who can give them the special loving care they need.



Mia, quickly settled into her new home and with new buddy Miska

The sheer numbers of kittens coming into the shelter places immense pressure on our resources

Our biggest kitten breeding season in almost a decade

What is kitten season?



Kitten season is a time, usually during spring through to autumn, when warmer weather increases breeding activity amongst cats.

The result is a rise in unwanted litters that places great strain on the Home and our resources. And earlier this year, we saw our biggest kitten breeding season in almost a decade.

Of the roughly 10,000 cats and kittens coming into the Home last year, only 10% were reclaimed by their owners.

The enormous increase in the number of roaming cats across Victoria is likely a delayed effect of COVID lockdowns, which saw Councils reduce local animal welfare patrols and cat trapping services.

Our Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Jessica Wilde, explains how problematic it can be when a single cat isn't desexed.

"Kittens can start reproducing from as young as four months of age... One fertile female cat and her mate and their offspring are able to produce up to 2,000 kittens in just four years."

This alarming statistic highlights how a single cat owner can have a significant impact on the cat overpopulation crisis. That's why we are asking people to help ease the burden in the community by having their cats desexed as soon as possible.



What are the benefits of having your cat desexed?



This sweet mama cat and her babies came to the Home without anywhere else to turn



An all-too-common situation

Snuggled in her bed is a white and tabby mother cat feeding her two kittens.

For any animal lover, it's an adorable moment to witness. But sadly, there are increasingly overwhelming numbers of kittens being born, and this sweet girl had become a mum when she was only just out of kittenhood herself.

This beautiful cat was pregnant when she arrived at the Home without a name, microchip, or council registration. Someone may have once cared for her, but she hadn't been desexed.

Now this mama cat found not only herself in need of a forever home, but also her litter of kittens. Sadly, this is a situation we witness every kitten season, with hundreds and hundreds of mama cats and their kittens needing to find homes, placing immense pressure on our shelter resources and incredible stress on our dedicated staff.

In addition to eliminating the risks involved with your cat becoming pregnant and having to raise kittens, there are a host of other benefits to having your cat desexed.

1

Desexing lessens cats' desires to roam, protecting your cat from road traffic accidents and getting into fights, as well as protecting native wildlife against predation.

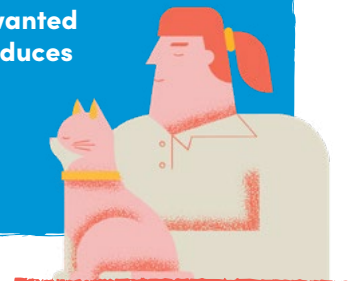


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The chances of some cancers and other potentially serious health problems can be reduced in both male and female cats by desexing. For example, desexed cats are less likely to get mammary cancer and will not get uterine infections.

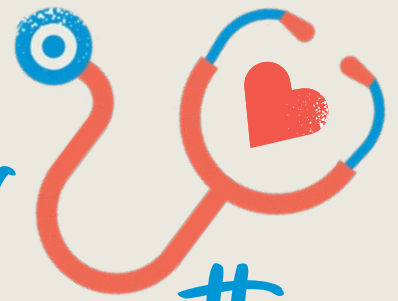
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Desexing prevents unwanted litters of kittens and reduces the number of animals who suffer from a lack of food, shelter and veterinary care.



For more information on the challenges The Lost Dogs' Home faces and what we are doing to overcome them, see our interactive Roadmap to Exceptional Animal Welfare on our website at: roadmap.dogshome.com

Australia's first ever 24-hour desexing marathon



Held right here at the Home's Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic.

With the overwhelming increase in cats and kittens arriving at our shelters, the Home must go to great lengths to ensure every animal has their best possible chance at finding a loving forever family—thanks to kind animal lovers like you!

That's why, earlier this year, the Home's Shelter and Frank Samways Veterinary teams dedicated 24 hours to desexing cats and kittens at our Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic.

Not only was the marathon event focusing on desexing cats and kittens at our shelters and in foster care, but we also provided the crucial service to community members, offering people the opportunity to have their pets desexed at a significantly reduced rate.

This was a vital way to encourage responsible pet ownership in the community—knowing so many families are already doing it tough, trying to keep-up with the rising cost of living.

It was all-hands-on-deck with a committed team of 10 vets and 20 vet nurses, plus administration staff members, working tirelessly together to achieve the incredible result of 243 cats and kittens desexed in the 24-hour period.

Wow! What an amazing effort to prepare so many lost and abandoned animals for adoption. As a result, our amazing Adoptions Team were able to place a record 77 cats and kittens into loving forever homes over the following weekend!

Special thanks to our sponsors Zoetis, Cenvet & Boehringer Ingelheim for supporting this momentous event and to everyone in the community who brought in their cat or kitten to get desexed.



Vets, vet nurses, Attendants and Adoption Teams all pulled together for an amazing result!

Maggie Mae is so loved and has brought joy to her new family

“Maggie Mae stole our hearts from the minute she came home.”

Maggie Mae went from being tied to a pole, abandoned, to finding love in her new forever home.



We may never know an animal's story before they come to us, but we are always ready to be there when they need our help. That's why 10-year-old Maggie Mae now has a second chance at happiness.

Poor Maggie Mae was found alone and tied to a pole outside our shelter. She was anxiously looking for her owners to return. But they never did.

We don't know what kind of situation had led to her being left outside the Home, but one thing was sure, Maggie Mae deserved to find a new loving forever home.

And we were going to make sure she was given all the TLC she needed until that special person came along to take her home.

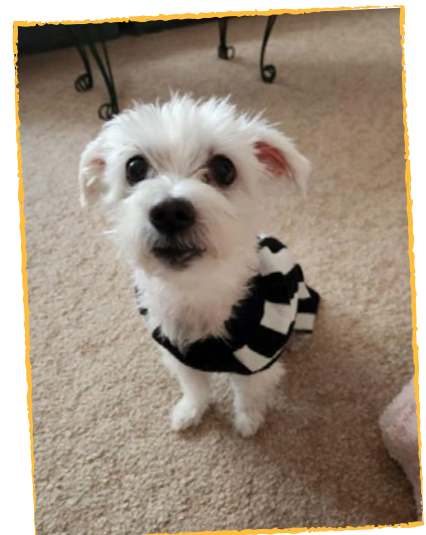
We were thrilled the day Maggie Mae found her new mum, Jasmine. The pair have since been inseparable!

“

She stole our hearts from the minute she came home and continues to be our love. Maggie Mae is so loved. We look at her and cannot believe how lucky we have been to adopt our girl... She is my shadow and she likes to be involved in everything, she has to sit in the middle of us and listen to everything!”

— *Jasmine, Maggie Mae's new mum*

It's such a heart-warming experience when we hear updates like this one. At the Home, we will always make sure animals find homes to provide all the love and care they need for the rest of their days. Maggie Mae has not only found a loving forever home—she has also brought a new sense of joy to Jasmine and her family.



Dot's Legacy of Love



Dot made the thoughtful decision to leave a kind gift in her Will for animals in desperate need of love and care.

When Dorothy passed away at the age of 96, she was fondly remembered by all those who knew her for being kind, social and a lifelong animal-lover.

"Dot", as her friends called her, thought of her pets as members of the family and they happily accompanied her wherever she went. Dot's affection for animals extended well beyond her own. She supported many animal charities, but it was the Home that held a very special place in heart—so much so that she was inspired to include the Home as a beneficiary in her Will.

Dot's niece, Michele, remembers, "One day, when she was reminiscing about her beloved dogs and cats, Dot told me that she was so looking forward to being reunited with all of them and spending more happy days together once she had gone."

There's nothing like the unconditional love and companionship of animals to fill our hearts with cherished memories. No one understood this more than Dot. The final gift that she so generously left to the Home was her special way of ensuring more lost and abandoned animals can receive love and care long into the future. Dot's kind legacy will also give other people the opportunity to experience the joy of loving and being loved by an animal.



Dot with her beloved dog Suey in 1961 & her cats, Jezebel and Cleopatra



If Dot's story has inspired you to consider leaving a gift to the Home in your Will, your kindness would make a huge difference for generations of lost and abandoned animals to come.

To find out more, our friendly Gifts in Wills team would love to hear from you. Please get in touch to discover how you can create your own kind legacy for animals:

Website: www.dogshome.com/wills

Email: wills@dogshome.com

Phone: (03) 8379 4496

Did you know you can write your Will for free online through our partner **Gathered Here**? To find out just how easy it is to leave a legacy, visit www.dogshome.com/freewill





Billie's special smile touched all our hearts

Billie's best life for the rest of her days



How Billie found a loving forever home in her golden years.

Nine-year-old Billie is one of the sweetest dogs you will ever meet. When she first came into our care, poor Billie was terribly unwell battling untreated heart disease. But she wagged her tail like an excited pup who was eager to bring joy to everyone she met.

The little lady was quickly put on medication and given round-the-clock care from our shelter and vet team. As Billie began to feel better, her smile seemed to grow each and every day.

Despite Billie's health improvements, we didn't know how much longer she had left to live. But she still had lots of love to give, and we were determined to find her a loving home to live out her golden days to the fullest.

We were thrilled when Hugh visited our shelter and instantly fell in love with Billie. Hugh told us about his beautiful senior Kelpie who had sadly passed away. Hugh was so excited to be Billie's new dad and give her the best life possible for the rest of her days.

At the Home, we believe every animal deserves the chance for a loving forever home. It's stories like sweet Billie's that remind us how much love senior animals can give.

Thanks to supporters like you, Billie and Hugh are building precious memories together.





Dr Jess with Good Girl Harper having her regular check up



Frank Samways
Veterinary Clinic

August is dental month

at The Lost Dogs' Home Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic.

Dental health is so important to our pets' overall wellness. A yearly check can keep your pet happy and healthy.

“

Around 70 per cent of pets aged 3 and over suffer dental issues which can be life threatening if not picked up”

— Dr Jess Wilde, Director of Veterinary Services.

“Periodontal disease is the progressive inflammation of the supporting structures of the teeth. It causes bad breath, gingivitis, and tooth loss. If left unaddressed, bacteria in the mouth can enter the bloodstream and travel to the internal organs, causing liver, heart, and kidney problems”.

Tips for good pet dental care:

- Regular brushing will help prevent the build-up of bacteria.
- A healthy 'dental diet' can help control plaque and tartar.
- Dental treats can make dental hygiene fun!
- Annual check-ups with a trusted vet are vital to help keep your cat's or dog's teeth pearly white!

To encourage more people to get their dogs and cats dental health assessed, The Lost Dogs' Home's Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic in North Melbourne will be offering FREE dental health assessments throughout August.

To book your pet in for their free dental check call the clinic on (03) 8379 4498 or email an enquiry to vetclinic@dogshome.com.

All profits made from our Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic are invested straight back into caring for the over 15,000 animals that come through our doors every year.



Contact us:

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