

Best Mates

Winter/Spring 2024



Gerald the Gentle Giant

This big beautiful boy is on his way to a healthier life.

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THE
LOST DOGS
HOME.

From One Friend to Another

Welcome to our latest Winter/Spring edition, packed with exciting news on developments at the Home.



Inside you will find uplifting stories about some of our most vulnerable animals that are now enjoying happy and healthy new lives, all thanks to the support of our wonderful donors.

We are especially excited to announce a new name and look for our community veterinary clinic and what this means for existing and new clients and their pets as well as for our shelter hospital. With the clinic and hospital now coming under the same banner, everyone will benefit from the shared experience, knowledge and expertise of our fabulous veterinary teams.

It is also incredibly uplifting to be able to tell you about our Home Together program. We believe this is an Australian first for an animal shelter. The program helps people who are going through really tough times to keep their pets. We know our pets are incredibly important to our health and mental wellbeing, no more so than when we may be at our lowest. The program is led by a qualified social worker and delivers a win-win... win. Person, pet and our shelter all benefit when solutions are worked through and a lost pet can go home with its loving family. Leaving a space in the shelter for another animal in need to be cared for.

I'm sure you will also enjoy reading the story of Sadie, Saber and Samuel, a bonded trio of cats we really hoped would find a home together. As well as a heartwarming story of loss and love, that will no doubt resonate with many of us. Jodi, had to say a very sad goodbye to her best friend Gene Kelly after many years of beautiful friendship. But she knew the time was right to open her heart and her home to new companion Nora Roberts.

These and many more stories are waiting inside for you. Please read on... and enjoy!

Grant Robb
CEO, The Lost Dogs' Home

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Front cover image:

Service Delivery Team
Leader Taylah and
Gerald the cat.

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 18,000 lost and abandoned mostly dogs and cats every year. For more information visit dogshome.com

Good things come in threes

Recognising the importance of bonded animals, like Sadie, Saber and Samuel.

Here at the Home, we understand the very special bond that can be formed between animals and their families. But there's also another bond that's just as special—the unique friendship certain animals share with each other. Sometimes they are siblings, and sometimes they are best buddies who have formed an inseparable connection.

Whatever the case may be, we will always do our best to keep furry companions together when searching for their forever home. So, when Sadie, Saber and Samuel

arrived at our North Melbourne shelter together, we knew we had a challenge ahead of us.

Sadly, their family could no longer look after them, and it was clear this bonded trio of cats relied heavily on each other for comfort and confidence.

By chance, Joyce and her partner visited our shelter wanting to meet a cat having a hard time getting adopted. So, we decided to show her three!

Sadie, Saber and Samuel all have their own quirky personalities, which had Joyce falling in love with them from the moment she met them. It was a perfect match, with the happy ever after of Joyce and her partner taking the precious trio home with them.

Recently we received a lovely update from Joyce, she told us:

“

Sadie, Saber and Samuel are a complete bundle of joy. They love to play and have even learnt to sit!"

—Joyce, Sadie, Saber and Samuel's new mum

"Saber can play fetch and when he wants to play, he drops the ball in front of us to let us know it's time".

We are filled with gratitude for the kindness shown by animal lovers like Joyce. Just thinking of Sadie, Saber and Samuel curled up together on Joyce's couch on a winter's day warms our hearts.



Why adopt bonded animals as duos... or trios!

A pair (or trio!) of animals adjust easier to their new home when adopted together.

Animals experience less boredom and separation anxiety when they have a ready playmate. Double (or triple!) the love.

A gift of love and joy



Joy with her beloved bulldog, Bullie.

Much of our vital work caring for lost and abandoned animals is made possible each year thanks to kind and thoughtful gifts left to the Home in the Wills of animal-lovers.

Last year we were grateful to have received a wonderful and very generous gift from long-term supporter, adopter and all-round animal-lover Joy Christensen. Joy loved all animals and adopted many of her beloved dogs and cats from the Home throughout her lifetime.

In a note to the Home back in 2012, Joy said:

"I want the home to be able to continue the wonderful and dedicated work they are doing to help all lost innocent animals. It's important for me to know that

all the lost animals are well cared for and given a second chance in a happy home."

Joy's thoughtful legacy gift is being put into action, helping to expand and develop our animal care facilities in Cranbourne. Her commitment to caring for animals will never be forgotten and her kindness will live on in her amazing legacy.

We believe that wherever Joy is today, she would be delighted to know that her final gift is going to be put to such good use. Her bequest gift is going to help thousands of

other people to experience the love and joy that she herself enjoyed with her many beloved companion animals whilst she was alive.

“

It's important for me to know that all the lost animals are well cared for and given a second chance in a happy home."

— Joy, Gifts in Wills donor

Although Joy's gift was exceptionally generous, each and every one of the kind and thoughtful gifts left to the Home in our supporters' Wills provide thousands of vulnerable animals with a chance of living a happy and healthy life, filled with the love they deserve.

The next time you're updating your Will, please consider including gifts to your favourite animal charities. Leaving even a modest percentage of your estate to the Home can have a lasting impact on the compassionate care we can provide to future generations of lost cats and dogs in years to come.

Joy in later years, with Hundi, her Blue Heeler/Corgi companion.



Keeping Families and Pets Home Together

New ways to support vulnerable animals and their families during challenging times.

Home Together is proudly supported by:



Loss of a job, homelessness, deteriorating mental wellness, physical sickness, mounting bills. For many, it can sometimes feel like there is no way out of the crisis they find themselves in.

When life becomes overwhelming, our furry friends can be a true source of comfort. There's nothing like when a pet cuddles up next to you and places a paw in your lap, as if to say, 'Don't worry, it'll be okay.'

It's during difficult times that we often realise how much our animal friends mean to us. Their simple presence often reminds us we are not alone and that we matter to someone.

No one should ever have to go through the heartbreaking experience of being separated from their beloved pet. But during a crisis or unexpected hardship, some pet owners are faced with challenges to keeping or reclaiming their lost pet.

That's why we started the Home Together Program, which aims to keep as many animals as possible with their owners in loving homes. Our Pet and Family Advocate, Katie, is a qualified social worker and is leading the program. Katie has fur babies of her own and fully understands the unique bond between pet owners and their special companions.

"My aim is to help people feel supported and cared for in their time of crisis... The connection between people and pets is so powerful, it can get people through a lot."



Katie believes the connection between people and their pets should never be broken.

The Home Together Program aims to help pet owners in severe hardship by providing:

- Short-term intensive support to help people address the immediate barriers to reclaiming pets.
- Provide information on, and referral to, local services that can offer further long-term support.

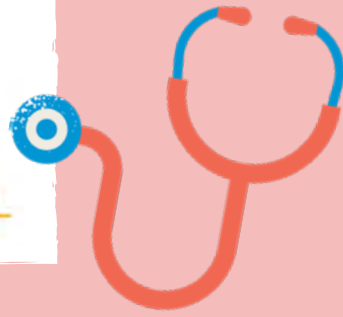
- Help people navigate these services and find the right support to help them through their situation.

Visit [Roadmap.dogshome.com](https://roadmap.dogshome.com) (Goal #7) to find out more about the Home Together Program.



I love my dogs so much, and to see people going through a hard time and having to possibly face surrendering their pet just breaks my heart."

— Katie, Pet and Family Advocate



New Name, Same Exceptional Vet Care

Frank Samways is now The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital.

Here at The Lost Dogs' Home, our vision is to give animals the best chance of a happy and healthy life. We have always been committed to providing exceptional care for all animals, regardless of whether they are being cared for in our shelter or are part of the community. Our vet teams are dedicated to ensuring that every pet receives the care and compassion they deserve.

This is why we have brought the expertise and resources of our community veterinary clinic and shelter veterinary services under the inclusive banner of The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital.

Every furry friend, whether they are a much-loved pet, or awaiting their forever family, receives loving, expert treatment from our team of devoted veterinary hospital professionals.

More than this, all proceeds from our community veterinary service go direct to caring for our shelter animals. By choosing The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital for their animals' care, clients not only ensure the wellbeing of their own beloved pets but also help provide special care for thousands of vulnerable lost and abandoned animals.

Decades of to animal love

Follow our journey of exceptional veterinary care for sick and injured animals.

1960s:

Thanks to donations from the community, our first shelter hospital opens to address a surge in sick and injured animals needing help.



Hearts of the Home:

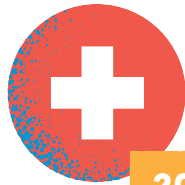


Meet Annette, our Clinic Coordinator

Visiting the vet can be a daunting experience for pets and their families, which is why we have kind-hearted people like Annette on our team at The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital.

Annette is our Clinic Coordinator for our community pet clients and their people. She spends her days managing our Client Care team, overseeing the schedule for appointments and surgeries, and making sure everyone involved receives the best possible care.

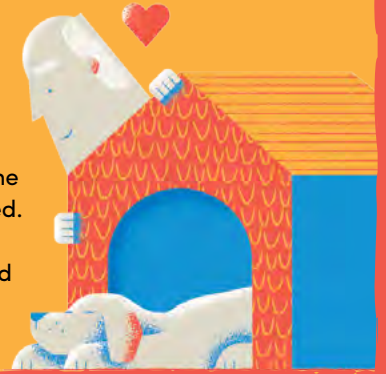
f devotion, thanks overs like you!



2012:

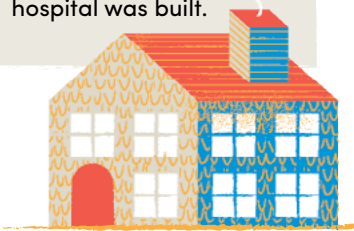
We received an incredibly generous bequest gift in the Will of the late Frank Samways to build a new public veterinary clinic, providing quality medical care for pets in the community.

Frank Samways was a kind-hearted man and a passionate pet owner who doted over his much-loved Jack Russell Terriers. He cared deeply about giving lost, abandoned and neglected animals the chance they deserved. A plaque in Frank's honour will be placed at the entrance of the Hospital.



1980s:

In dire need of refurbishment and no longer adequate to meet needs, thanks to generous animal lovers, Newman and Phyllis Strong, a brand-new shelter hospital was built.



Today:

Our Frank Samways public veterinary clinic has been re-named The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital and brought under the same banner as our shelter hospital.



Annette has been part of The Lost Dogs' Home family for three years. She spent one year working as part of the shelter veterinary team and has been caring for our private pet clients for the past two years.

Annette says, she loves her job!

Animals, and their people, can count on Annette and our veterinary team for the very best in professional and compassionate client care.

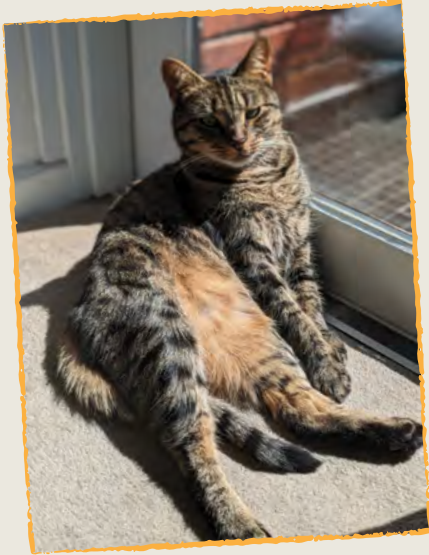
“

My favourite part is being part of a medical story and seeing people have a positive experience... It starts in the waiting room—we make sure any animals who may be stressed have their own space, we use gentle handling and use a fear-free approach to make their visit as stress-free as possible.”

— Annette, Clinic Coordinator

Saying goodbye and learning to love again

Adopting a new best friend can help when healing from the loss of a dear companion.



The passing of an animal family member is never easy. Earlier this year, Jodi sadly lost her dear 13-year-old cat, Gene Kelly, after he had battled cancer for a year. Gene Kelly was Jodi's first adoption, and after seven years together, they had become absolute best friends.

"It was heartbreaking having to say goodbye to him, and I knew I needed time before I could open my heart to another kitty," Jodi shared.

Old friends like Gene Kelly will always have a special place in our hearts. They also help us realise we

have so much love to give. Opening your home to another animal in need is a wonderful way of honouring the memory of your friend who has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

When Jodi was ready to share her life with another companion, she came to the Home and found a sweet tabby Nora Roberts waiting for her.

"It was love at first sight... After adopting a senior cat and then loving him for seven years, having a youthful and inquisitive younger cat has been.... interesting! She is into everything, and I just love her," Jodi told us after her five-week anniversary with Nora Roberts.

Gene will always have a special place in Jodi's heart. But Nora Roberts and Jodi are building a happy life together, and we are thrilled for all the memories they will share into the future.

Cheeky Nora Roberts offers her cutest pose as she rolls over on the sofa.



Things to consider when about adopting a new forever friend:

- Take time to work through your grief enough to look forward to bringing a new pet into your life.
- Consider any other pets and if they are likely to welcome a new friend.
- A new furry friend will be very different to your departed companion. Make sure you make allowances while you are bonding.

Half a Century of Love

More than 50 years of caring for lost and abandoned animals.



In May this year, we learned of the passing of a true icon at the Home.

There may well be many of our supporters who will remember Arthur Cachia as a much-loved figure around the home.

Arthur was just a teenager when he first working began working at the Home as an animal ambulance driver and dog collector, in the 1960's.

Over the years, he went on to take charge of facilities and operations at the shelter.

Arthur spent more than 50 years with The Lost Dogs' Home, caring for the lost and abandoned animals of Victoria with a passion and dedication that inspired all around him.

Described by many as the 'heart and soul' of The Lost Dogs' Home he could often be found working at the Home, from dusk till dawn – keeping the whole place running like clockwork. Whether it was making sure our animal ambulances were serviced or keeping our grounds clean and tidy, Arthur Was our 'go-to-guy'.

His dedication inevitably had a long-term impact. We wouldn't still be here today, as the largest shelter in Victoria, continuing to care for the most vulnerable animals in Victoria, were it not for the very special people like Arthur, who have contributed so much in their lifetime to the welfare of animals.

Vale Arthur Cachia.



Arthur with one of the Home's past very special ambulance passenger's.

Gerald the Gentle Giant

See how this big, beautiful boy is on his way to a healthier life.

When gorgeous tabby Gerald arrived at the Home, it was clear he was no stranger to snack time! But we also saw this sweet boy had a healthy appetite for loving cuddles, so we set out to find him a forever home that would suit his special needs.

Gerald wasn't lacking in the cuteness department, but for the first few weeks, adopters were tending to overlook him for his younger, less-curveaceous friends. Being eight years old and a bit on the heavier side, Gerald needed a family who would help him work towards achieving a healthier weight.

Just like us, pets need a balanced diet and regular activity to have a healthy and happy life. When a pet becomes overweight, they are more likely to live a less active life—making them more prone to joint and mobility problems, putting them at greater risk of developing diabetes.

Thankfully, after just over a month at the shelter, Gerald captured the hearts of not one but three people. When housemates Cosima, Bella and Jas arrived at the shelter and laid eyes on Gerald, they were completely smitten with him!

Gerald getting ready to go home with his new mamas—Cosima, Bella and Jas.



These three young women knew immediately they weren't going home without him. And to top things off, Gerald's new family includes two other furry siblings to play with him every day. With a few less snacks and all the playtime he'll be enjoying, it won't be long before Gerald is in tip-top shape!

“

He's just so beautiful!"

—Bella, Gerald's new mum

Gerald's story is a lovely reminder that every animal, big or small, is worthy of love and a forever home. We know Gerald, Cosima, Bella and Jas will enjoy a happy life together!



Your pet might be overweight if:

- It's difficult to feel your pet's ribs.
- Your pet is reluctant to exercise.
- Your pet waddles when walking.
- Your pet struggles to go upstairs.

It may help to talk to your vet about a weight management program for your pet.



Toby, Pat and Ted make such a happy family!



Toby's journey from loneliness to love

Helping animals overcome fear and anxiety, so they can find the forever home they need.

Before coming to the Home, Toby was living in a unit. When he was left alone, he'd whine and bark. Poor Toby was showing signs of separation anxiety. And sadly, Toby's situation is common. Research suggests that eight out of 10 dogs find it hard to cope when left alone.

Toby needed nurturing support to help build his confidence enough to feel calm when he was on his

own. After more than three months of special care from our shelter team, plus loving foster care—all while training with our dedicated behaviour team—Toby was ready at last to find his forever home.

That's when the lovely Pat and Ted came along. The couple had adopted their previous dog Darcy from the Home 16 years ago, and she had sadly passed away.

They were looking to share their love again, so they visited our North Melbourne shelter.

When Pat and Ted met Toby, there was a beautiful chemistry between the three. As soon as Toby gave them one of his special little licks, there was no turning back for Pat and Ted.

As Pat and Ted headed home with sweet Toby, they shared, "He is just so beautiful. He will be so well taken care of. We can't wait to take him home and just shower him with love and everything he needs."

What are the signs of separation anxiety in dogs?

These are some of the behaviours to look out for both in the lead-up to leaving a dog, or while a dog is alone.

- Destructive behaviour like chewing and destroying furniture
- Howling, barking, whining
- Toileting in unusual places
- Trembling, panting
- Excessive salivation
- Self-injury
- Circling or pacing
- Vomiting
- Not eating or playing with toys
- Excessive excitement upon a person's return



More advice and information on pet behaviour can be found in the Resources section of [dogshome.com](https://www.dogshome.com)

New Name, Same Exceptional Vet Care



Frank Samways is now The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital.

The team at the Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital are skilled in diagnosing and treating all types of pet health problems and providing exceptional care. What makes us different to other veterinary health providers, however, is our approach.

We fully understand that all pet owners love their pets dearly and want the very best care for them.

At The Lost Dogs' Home Vet Hospital, we understand that not everyone is in the position to opt for a no financial limits care plan.

We take a collaborative approach to providing care for your pet. We work with you to advise and support you in making the very best decisions for your pet's health and wellbeing - within your capacity to do so.

This approach is even more important in the current cost of living climate, with people struggling to keep up with household bills.

Our services include general health and care such as vaccinations, desexing and parasite treatments, to complex orthopaedic surgeries. Our facilities feature modern

diagnostic, imaging and surgical facilities, as well as high quality pathology and anaesthetic technology.

Most important of all, our team are highly qualified as well as friendly, and 100% focused on making sure your pet receives the very best care possible, and that you have peace of mind that you are doing the very best for your pet.

**To book an appointment
call our friendly team on
(03) 8379 4498**



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