



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

YEAR 21 No. 1, 2007

Marmalade came home – 11 years later!

*Marmalade, a cat owned and loved by Kerry Strauss of East Brunswick, went missing 11 years ago. Thanks to our National Pet Register we were able to return him to his astonished owner in February.
(see story page 4)*

**Annual
Supporter
Survey Results
Inside!**

A very merry Christmas indeed!

Thank you to all who generously gave to our Christmas Appeal – it was one of our most successful appeals ever, raising over \$500,000.

Concerned about the sheer numbers of dogs and cats being admitted to the Home over the Summer months, we appealed to supporters for help. We knew that to care for those lost, abandoned or neglected animals, required more of our resources than at other times of the year.

During Summer we admitted 2,783 dogs, 2,909 cats and over 100 other animals, above what we had anticipated and some of which were in need of immediate and ongoing veterinary care to treat various conditions like dehydration, skin conditions, heat stress, heartworm and other parasitic infections.

The call to our supporters did not go unheard – the response was overwhelming and as a result we were able to provide the very best care to all the animals who desperately needed us.

Thousands of Messages of Hope for the animals were also displayed at the Home. These caring and often

inspirational messages meant so much to our staff during the busy Christmas period.

To all of you who supported our Christmas Appeal, a sincere and resounding *thank you* from everyone at the Home.

Below: A few of the many thousand Messages of Hope, displayed at Reception.



Putt-ing their support behind the Home

Our second Annual Charity Golf Day was held on Monday 5th February at Greenacres Golf Club, East Kew.

The Golf Day is a great opportunity for our corporate friends to enjoy a relaxed and fun day and to meet other supporters and staff.

Despite the sweltering 38 degree day, 12 corporate teams played the 18-holes, with the team from Donovan's Restaurant winning.

Over \$10,000 was raised from the day – a wonderful result – and that money will go towards providing the best possible care for the thousands of animals that come to us each and every year.

On behalf of everyone at the Home, we would like to extend our thanks to the generous sponsors and participants who supported the event.



The Lost Dogs' Home Charity Golf Day will be held again in 2008 in March. If you would like to register your interest in the event, please email info@dogshome.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Incorporating:

**The Western Suburbs Cat Shelter
The National Pet Register
Animal Management Services
2 Gracie Street
North Melbourne Vic 3051
Phone: (03) 9329 2755
Fax: (03) 9326 5293
website: dogshome.com
email: info@dogshome.com**

PATRONS

**Daryl Cotton, Daryl Somers AOM,
Julie Somers, Marty Fields
Chairman: Dr Andrew Tribe
Managing Director: Dr Graeme Smith**

STRAY ANIMALS

**Monday – Thursday:
10.00a.m. to 6.15p.m.
Friday:
10.00a.m. to 4.45p.m.
Saturday/Sunday:
9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.**

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

**Monday – Friday:
10.00a.m. to 4.45p.m.
Saturday/Sunday:
9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.
Closed Public Holidays**

ANDORRA BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY

**9702 8322
920 Thompsons Road
Cranbourne (Melway: 128 K8)**

SOUTH EASTERN POUND SERVICES 9702 8055

**920 Thompsons Road
Cranbourne (Melway: 128 K8)
Impounded dogs and cats may be
viewed from 10am – 12pm and
4pm – 6pm (Monday – Friday)
10am – 1pm (Saturday/Sunday)
Closed Public Holidays**

THE LOST DOGS HOME AT WINGECARRIBEE ANIMAL SHELTER

**Phone: (02) 4868 1520
Fax: (02) 4868 1534
Resource Recovery Centre
Berrima Road
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Monday – Friday: 10.00a.m. to 4p.m.
Saturday/Sunday: 10.00a.m. to 12m**

VETERINARY CLINIC

**9329 2755 for appointment.
The Clinic is open to the public as
follows
Monday – Thursday:
10.00a.m. to 6.15p.m.
Friday:
10.00a.m. to 4.45p.m.
Saturday/Sunday:
9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.
Closed on Public Holidays**

DR SMITH'S COLUMNS

Like every enterprise that uses energy and water to do its job, we face challenges that can no longer be ignored.

We feel that we must face up to those challenges without delay. Everyone must. Such conservation measures are called for right across our entire community.

For our part, we must seek ways to reduce our use of energy and water resources without compromising the quality of our work.

Accordingly I am commissioning immediate professional detailed audits of the Home's present usage of energy and water.

When the results are to hand they will give us a clearer indication of the measures we must take, and their obvious priorities in our overall plan.

Meanwhile we are thinking about the more obvious ways to conserve energy and water so that we may be prepared to act on them quickly.

Water Conservation

To conserve water we are already collecting rainwater from building roofs to store in water tanks, but only at a fraction of the volume that could be captured and used on site as we also have the capacity to include a large water tank under our lawn area.

With the installation of the necessary pumps the collected water could be used for such purposes as toilet flushing, washing blankets and towels, cleaning pens, washing vehicles, cleaning sealed surfaces and watering our gardens.

We could use high pressure/low volume water cleaners for most of these tasks. Along with that it would be wise to institute regular water-fixtures maintenance. This would eliminate, or at least reduce to a minimum, leakages and other water wasting faults

We are already looking at the feasibility of treating and recycling water to clean our animal pens and vehicles. A new "grey water" system could serve our washing machines and front lawn. We are even investigating the feasibility of methane-production from collected animal faeces.



My family and I enjoy spending time in the outdoors and want to do as much as possible to preserve the environment and to reduce CO2 admissions.

Electricity

One simple method that we are currently considering to reduce our carbon emissions at the Home is to purchase a percentage of our electricity as 'Green Power' i.e. renewable energy produced from clean, renewable sources such as solar, wind, water and biomass.

Heating and Cooling

Right now, as a component of our facilities maintenance schedule, we are checking, with a view to upgrading, the insulation of our main buildings, and in weatherproofing all doors and windows.

We are also investigating the practicability and costs of gradually replacing our refrigerated air conditioning with ducted evaporative air conditioning supplemented with ceiling fans.

Solar heating hot water systems are the way of the future along with solar augmented room heating systems both of which are planned for new facilities such as the Sick and Injured Stray Dog and Cat complex. Automated light switches in all office areas would also reduce electricity use (and bills!).

The 21st Century "3 Rs"

The Home is planning several building projects, all of which will certainly feature all possible and practical built-in energy and water saving measures.

These measures are: Reduce (usage), Re-Use and Recycle.

They have already been rigorously applied to obvious items such as cans, paper, cardboard, milk cartons, plastic and the like.

Paper saving strategies are also already in place in our Administrative, IT, Fundraising and Clinic areas.

Formalised and routine staff training sessions on water and energy conserving strategies for their work are already being planned, and taking place as a supplement to other training sessions. These will cover suggestions as to how staff members can apply them in their own homes if they wish.

Right now it seems that it would make sense to offer bonuses that would encourage our staff to use public transport, bicycles, or smaller capacity energy powered vehicles such as motor scooters, diesel, electric or hybrid cars or – if petrol driven – vehicles with less than 1.5 litre capacity.

Our Vehicle Fleet

We are presently considering the practicability, and suitability of matching more closely our vehicles to their function and what effects this could have upon the adaptability and versatility of the individual components of our fleet.

continued on page 4

It could involve using 4 cylinder engines for most of our vehicles, plus 1-2 larger capacity vehicles for floats, stock trailers, etc and 4 WD vehicles only when and if they are needed in certain country areas such as to service our existing Bendigo Animal Management Services contract.

We will fully investigate the costs and benefits of using diesel fuel as against petrol or LPG, and the energy saving potential of any hybrid vehicles that come on to the market so that our overall carbon emissions into the atmosphere can be reduced considerably.

In addition to this we are investigating so-called Carbon Trading schemes through which we can offset our carbon emissions by financially supporting projects such as mass tree plantings. All living plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (and store it in the plants' structure as carbon) so not only will our carbon emissions be offset but there will also be positive, long-term and sustainable effects for our environment.

Finally we will encourage all of our staff to come up with their original idea for energy and water conservation. We intend to do this by paying bonuses for any that prove to be effective, genuine and original. This we believe will spark further creative thinking along the right lines as regards our 3Rs approach.

I invite any readers of my column to consider our ideas and apply them where appropriate to their own businesses and homes. And of course I would welcome any suggestions they might make to help us in our own water and energy programmes.

Strong challenges are already looming. They will certainly become more demanding in the almost immediate future. We should not meet them with faint hearts but with the creative energy needed to tackle them. We should also meet them together.

My daughter Marie is very angry that our generation is wrecking the world through global warming. Hopefully if we all work together we can turn it around.



Dr Graeme Smith
Managing Director.

Marmalade came in late for breakfast!



Cats are well known for staying out later than they should, but we reckon that *Marmalade*, a member of the *Strauss* family in East Brunswick, takes the prize as the longest absentee of this century.

That's not hard to figure, since he has been absent from his home for all of it and then some. Eleven years in fact!

He was found straying in Werribee, then brought to the Home, where our microchip scanner revealed his

microchip number and our National Pet Register held his owner's East Brunswick address and contact details.

To say that *Kerry Strauss* was surprised to receive a call from us is perhaps something of an understatement.

When we last spoke to her to see how things were going, she told us that *Marmalade* was settling down well.

He had recognised and was pleased to greet his feline childhood friend *Allegra* again but wasn't too pleased about a couple of interlopers *Teapot* and *Little Meow*, who had taken residence in his absence. The claws were out, and territorial claims needed to be renegotiated!

Kerry said that *Marmalade* had obviously been loved and well cared for in his "lost years" and, through the Herald-Sun story that reported this incident, offered to return him to those who had cared for him for over a decade.

No-one contacted her to take up the offer and it is unlikely that *Marmalade* himself will undertake yet another odyssey at his age.

Ziggy returns!

Ziggy is a great little dog well-loved by his famous owner *Molly Meldrum*. So you can imagine Molly's distress when his mate went missing one evening, escaping through the open garage door.

Collected from Richmond by our animal ambulance, *Ziggy* spent the rest of the night safe at The Lost Dogs' Home, whilst a frantic *Molly* searched his local area.

An alert staff member recognised the little fellow the next morning, after seeing *Molly's* plea for his return on Channel Seven's 'Sunrise' programme.

Shelter Manager, Sue Conroy made the phone call to *Molly* and gave him the happy news about *Ziggy*. *Molly* arrived at the Home a short time later and a teary reunion between the two ensued.



It is highly unlikely that his celebrity Dad will need to worry again. *Ziggy* is now listed on our National Pet Register. That means he can be readily identified and rescued quickly if he wanders off in future.

Ziggy now joins the ranks of one of the 9000 animals we reunited with their owners last year through the National Pet Register.

Orygen Youth Health at The Lost Dogs' Home

"What I like is walking the dogs, meeting new mates, learning about anxiety and how to beat it, having a good time and a laugh."

Members of the Pound Dog Group, run through Orygen Youth Health, have once again started visiting the Home to walk dogs.

Comprising youths suffering social phobias and other anxiety disorders, the group visits the Home each week and takes dogs out for exercise and socialisation. There is often real joy and spontaneity for the young people in connecting with and handling the dogs.

The dogs certainly revel in the attention shown to them and make full use of their handler's time - belly rubs, scratches behind the ears, treats and kind words abound.

It would be fair to say that this wonderful initiative benefits the dogs just as much as the participants.

Since we first published news of the program in a 2004 issue of the newsletter, many supporters contacted us with their thoughts and stories on just how much their animals mean to them and how important their companionship and love is.

Does your pet make you smile?

Our Supporter Survey, mailed in October last year, asked the question "Does your pet make you smile?" The overall response to the survey was magnificent (*see centre page spread for results*), and we were unsurprised when the majority of people indicated that their beloved pet or pets make them smile.

Some respondents took the time to write about just how their pet or pets enrich their lives.

"I don't know what I'd do without my cats, who give my family so much pleasure (in sickness and health)."

"Our pets bring such joy and happiness into our home - they are such wonderful companions."

"We were honoured a few Christmases ago when asked by extended family to please bring our dogs along for the celebrations. Our two boys gave everyone a chuckle when they arrived dressed in Santa hats and draped in tinsel!"

"I have three beautiful little dogs - they are a big part of my life and make my life what it is - happy!"

"My cat is always willing to 'converse' with me; I'll talk to her and she'll answer. I never get lonely with her around."

"I find you meet and talk to people when you walk your dogs and would recommend pet ownership to the isolated in the community as it brings social interaction into your life."

My two dogs and two cats all share my bed at night. We all fight for a spot. I wouldn't change my life for anything and I'm very lucky to have such beautiful pets."

Practitioners within medical and health fields have recognised the health benefits pets have on humans for some time now and it seems like so many of you out there, along with us, agree!



The Lost Dogs' Home Supporter's Survey

At the Home, we love hearing your thoughts on our work with lost, stray, injured and unwanted animals. Our annual Supporter's Survey is a fantastic opportunity for us to find out what you think about animal welfare issues and what you think we should be doing to help.

The services that were most important to you were:

- 1 Shelter and adoption services for unclaimed dogs and cats
- 2 Vet clinic
- 3 24/7 Animal Ambulance service that rescues lost, injured and stray animals and brings them back to the Home for treatment and care



You agreed that the best ways we can have an impact on responsible pet ownership are:

- 1 School programs to educate children about looking after pets
- 2 Running the National Pet Register and making sure that lost pets are reunited with their owners as soon as possible
- 3 Providing information to all pet owners about how best to care for their pet



Desexing:

Desexing is one of the best ways to reduce the amount of unwanted puppies and kittens being brought to the Home. 84% of you who replied to the survey agree and have desexed your dog or cat.

Microchipping:

At the Home, every dog or cat that is brought into us is scanned for a microchip in the hope that they can be returned to their worried owner. It was

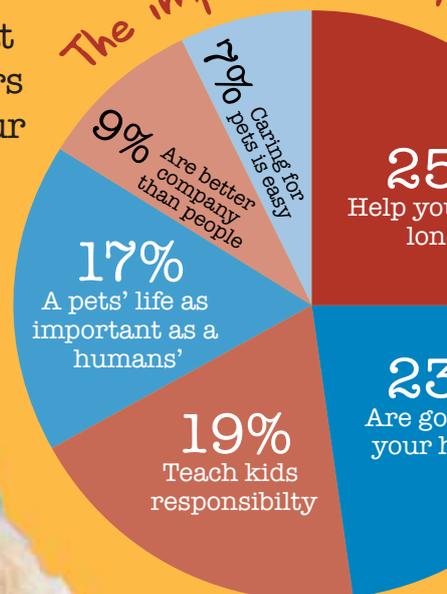
encouraging to see that 92% of the supporters who responded to our survey have microchipped their pets.



Statements that will help address the problem



The importance of



The Annual 2006 Results...



Achieve the Home's Mission



Bringing Happiness:

26% of you agree that your pet makes you smile at least once a day.

Companionship:

17% of you agree that your pet shows concern when you are sick or sad.



Adoption:

It is wonderful to know a lot of you have experienced first hand what it means to adopt an unwanted, stray or neglected animal. 44% of our supporters currently have a pet that was found as a stray or adopted from a shelter, including The Lost Dogs' Home.

National Pet Register:

It was wonderful to see that some of you have experienced the joy and relief of being reunited with your pet through our National Pet Register. It is equally encouraging to know that some of you have been able to reunite other pet owners with their dog or cat because of this service.

We were delighted to know that so many of you have registered your pets with the NPR. This free and national service is the easiest and best way to ensure that, if your beloved pet was ever to go missing, they are returned to you quickly and safely.

5% ... when ...

5% ... for health



Readers write

We receive correspondence from supporters that deeply touch us – this is just one of those letters:

IT'S NOT JUST A DOG!

“It’s just a dog. You’ll get another one”.

Do people realise how shocking this sounds? These words do not support one in a time of emotional upheaval, but rather cause further heartbreak at the coldness of the words.

I am never sure whether to be angry at or sad for the person who makes such a comment. Have they not experienced the love, happiness, joy and warmth that a four-legged ‘girl’ or ‘boy’ gives? If they have, did such giving go over their heads?

The death of a special little or large ‘person’ breaks one’s heart in no other way that life dishes out.

The death of a parent, spouse, child, friend or family member is completely shattering and at times filled with “what if’s”, wonderful memories, extreme sadness and every other emotion. We are allowed the time to grieve and are supported by family and friends to help us cope with the extremity of the pain.

When a pet dies, some people make the comment “It’s just a dog”; others feel sad on the day for you. Those of us who understand the emotions of such loss grieve with the person and try to help them work through the pain, no matter how long it takes.

My husband and I lost one of our ‘daughters’ in 2006. *Sarsha* had had three major operations and was back at the specialist for a procedure to see what was causing further discomfort. I was to pick her up at 5pm. At 1.30pm the telephone rang and the specialist said: “I’m so sorry but *Sarsha* has passed away”.

I admit to being hysterical, gut wrenched, devastated, angry with him, disbelieving and yet anxious to get to my little girl to bring her home.

Although we love all of our girls and boys equally, *Sarsha* had that little extra something. She was a ‘dot’ of a little



Sarsha’s photo appeared in last year’s Spring Picture Gallery.

person – a small purebred Shih Tzu. Spoilt? Oh, yes. Disobedient? Well, she would say, “No, I simply do what you want me to do in my own time”! Character – combination of a big heart and a beautiful nature. Loved? With a passion. She shared her home with her little (as in younger, not as in size)

sister, Miss Brodie and two brothers (cats), Dudley and Beau.

All these months on, do we still grieve? Yes. Do we still cry when we pass her grave? Yes. Do we delight in the single rose when it opens on her graveside? Yes. Do we still talk to and about her? Yes. Do we miss her? Oh, yes, yes, yes.

Although Georgia (our puppy) has taken a different place in our hearts, *Sarsha* has a part that will forever be hers.

I’m not sure that I believe in Heaven, but I do hope with all of my body and soul that there truly is a Rainbow Bridge where all pets wait for their ‘parents’. That is my life’s wish.

Those who have had the true experience of sharing life with a four-legged ‘child’ will understand what I am saying. It’s *NOT* just a dog. *It is a special love affair.*

By Dianne Baxter.

SHAH’S NEW LIFE

Below is an excerpt from Shah’s story – a Saluki who is enjoying a new life after being rescued.

A big thank you to all the lovely humans who helped me find a home.

I have learnt to sit at the kerb before crossing the road and look for traffic. They say I am very good because I don’t move until I’m told to come, unless I see a dog or another dog, then they make me sit until they go away. All I want to do is play. I don’t think it’s very fair.

I have put on at least two kilos! I am such a good boy. I go for two walks a day, sometimes three! I have a large yard to run around in, but no-one to play with. Humans are not the same.

I am being very good at not chasing bicycles. I have a made a Heeler friend. His name is Max and we go walking together three times a week. They never let me off the lead unless I’m in an area with a fence and gate.



I have been to the beach. I don’t like waves at all. I barked at them but they didn’t go away.

I’m still scared of some strangers. People come to visit and I get scared they will take me away. My humans say that this is my home now and that they love me. I really love them.

Lots of love, Shah.

DANIEL AND MINION

In 2004, my then 20 year old son, *Daniel*, went to the Home to find a new friend. As Daniel said, he went not to choose a friend but to be chosen. The one who chose him was a black Whippet cross who became known as *Minion* and was Daniel's constant companion.

The two could be seen in his home town together either running or exercising in the nearby park. Minion was also happy curled up on a chair beside Daniel, and although she had her own bed, she would often sneak into his on a cold night.

Sadly, in June last year, Daniel died. Minion has come to live with us permanently and of course, she attended his funeral. She steals my food, doesn't listen to a word I say and

I am always cleaning up after her. Minion is gutsy and a real comic, a wonderful reminder of my son.

I often walk all three of our dogs in a park near The Lost Dogs' Home and stop and chat with other doggy people. Many say they adopted their dogs from the Home and I tell them that Minion came from there too. It is like belonging to a very special club.

Minion was the one thing that Daniel treasured above all else and I see it as a privilege and an honour to look after her until she is ready to join Daniel again at the Rainbow Bridge.

I want to thank you, especially for giving Daniel the opportunity to find such a wonderful friend.

From Karen Ivory



In January I had a look on your web site for kittens for adoption as my fiance and I are avid cat lovers. As I was looking, I spotted the most gorgeous kitten I had ever seen.

We fell in love with Maiya the instant we met her at the shelter. She has been a perfect kitten, although we thought she was quiet and shy she's now come out of her shell. For the first 3 days Maiya purred and purred. We have taken her to a friend's house for a visit and she loves it. She loves mischief and playing. Best of all she plays by herself quiet contentedly so we have never worried about her when we are at work.

As you can see from the photo, Maiya is very much loved in our home. We just wanted to say 'Thank you' and let your know she is a very happy kitten.

From Laurene and Stefan

Autumn Pic



Reggie is a much loved member of the Gallea family and can understand Maltese and English. Owner **Grazio** describes him as “my very good friend,” and told us “My grandchildren like to hold Reggie and he returns their love.”



Beautiful **Cara** suffered a snake bite prior to Christmas and owner Rebecca says it was a very stressful time. “Two months on, she’s putting weight on and becoming her old self. To see my best friend happy again makes my day.”



“I’m forever talking about **Cauchi**,” says **Barbara**. Cauchi is 19 years old this year and Barbara doesn’t like leaving her alone for very long these days. This photo taken a few years ago shows Cauchi, enjoying a sunny day.



Joan Marie sent in this great photo of **Pushkin** – he’s taken for walks around the garden in his harness (“we couldn’t let him out as it would be the end of the wildlife”). He has many places to play inside, is the boss of the house and is completely spoiled, but he deserves it.



Steve has been keeping us updated with his new Shepherd pup, **Jessie**. Handed in to his local vet clinic, along with her brothers and sisters, Jessie has brought a lot of love and happiness into Steve’s life. Here Jessie is at 13 weeks (and her ears have always stood up like that!).



Roxy (Kelpie x Staffy) and **Khan** (Staffy) spent Christmas in Phillip Island, enjoying many walks, runs on the beach and swimming. Their owner **Brooke** mentioned that both dogs got Christmas stockings with their names in gold lettering!



Denise sent us a photo of her cat **Rastus**, who, Denise says, “is a beautiful cat – but we are the servants!” Rastus is curled up in her favourite sleeping spot, her cat igloo.

ture Gallery



Five year old *Bronte* lives with the *Anderson's* and he follows his owner everywhere about the house. Each week the delivery from the supermarket arrives and *Bronte* hops in and out of the boxes. He also likes sleeping in the sunniest patch of the cat enclosure.



Isaac (above) and *Remus* are part of the *Agnew* family – although they are the oddest-looking couple, the two get along very well. *Remus* has invented a clever game of “Steal the toy and catch me if you can”! The *Agnews* get so much pleasure from watching them play together.



Mrs Koper was ‘adopted’ by *Orphan Annie* who fell from a tree on their property. *Annie* was very sick, dehydrated, couldn’t walk and was brown from flea dirt and being outside. After plenty of TLC *Orphan Annie* is the *Koper's* “indoor girl; demanding but very gentle.” And much loved too.



Elle adopted *Eddie* from the Home a year ago. “He has grown into the most beautiful, happy and faithful dog and loves to play with all his toys. He’s a very much-loved family member and wanted you to know he has brought us so much joy. I love him.”



“I couldn’t imagine life without *Roxie* (right) and *Sumo* (left),” writes *Caroline*, “they give love and affection so unconditionally and to see their excitement when I return home from work just makes my day. I’m sure you’ll think they’re as beautiful as we do.”



In memory of *Snooks*, who passed away aged 16. “*Snooks* was absolutely wonderful and got me through some very rough times.” Wrote *John*, who also said that he considered *Snooks* to be his very best mate.



Trickie lived with the *Windows* and sadly passed away in January, at 13½ years. When she was brought home at 6 months old owner *Gay* said the only thing she had going for her was her sweet little face; she had long legs, long tail, small head and the most beautiful soft long ears. She soon grew into her body and make herself at home. *Trickie* was much loved and enjoyed a great life with the family.



What has two eyes, tutus and chews shoes?

By Kelly Ryan

A one-eyed widow has adopted a one-eyed dog four years after the death of her one-eyed husband.

Retired ballerina Laurel Lawton, 90, wanted the perfect mate to fill the hole in her life after the loss of husband Lloyd.

And she's found it in Little Pie, an injured stray who had to have an eye removed at The Lost Dogs' Home last week.

"We're Melbourne's one-eyed monster family," Mrs Lawton jokes.

Mrs Lawton, who founded Ballet Victoria and danced as Laurel Martyn lost sight in her right eye years ago.

Her late husband had been forced to have an eye removed because of disease a few years before that.

So when Mrs Lawton asked The Lost Dogs' Home to find her a mate, she had no idea how perfect she would be.

"I wanted an older dog who'd be a companion," she said.

"They matched me with Little Pie, who is six, and who has lost sight in the same eye."

Mrs Lawton and niece Helen Adam joked that Little Pie could be the late Llyod Lawton reincarnated.

"Except Lloyd was six foot four and not quite as hairy," Ms Adam said.

On her first venture into Mrs Lawton's back yard, the tenacious terrier caught and killed a rat.

*Image courtesy 'The Herald & Weekly Times'
Photographic Collection'
Story courtesy 'The Herald & Weekly Times'*