

LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2019

Our Community



+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS IN REGIONAL NSW

Help keep your pet happy this Winter

An interview with CEO, Mark Slater

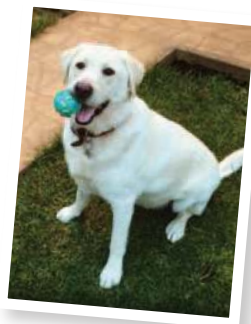




INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** AWL NSW at the Sydney Royal Easter show
- 4-5** Community assistance to those in need
- 6** Get to know your CEO: Five minutes with Mark Slater
- 7** Inspector Round-up
- 8-10** Around the Branches
- 10** Keep your pet happy inside the home
- 11** Help your arthritic pet this winter
- 12** Happy Tails: Nitro and Diesel

Message from Editor-in-Chief Ollie



Happy Birthday to me! It's June already – can you believe we are already half-way through the year!? This is my favourite time of the year because it is my birthday and my pawrents always spoil me with my favourite treats! This time of year is also very cold so we have some handy tips included in this edition to help your pet stay warm and cosy inside. This year can also be really bad for arthritic and senior pets so please be sure to give them some extra TLC. Lastly, AWL NSW has been very busy lately out-and-about with community programs so be sure to read about that too!

Until next time pawsome suppawters,

Ollie 

President's Message

DAVID HOPE, PRESIDENT



Welcome to the June edition of *LoveTails* for 2019. The year has already been a busy one, and as we head into the colder months, it is an opportune time to reflect on some huge successes already achieved in 2019. We have met incredible goals, such as our vet team visiting and offering support to the communities of Orange, Nowra and Moree through free desexing, vaccination and microchipping of hundreds of pets. Thanks also to Hawkesbury Hay Runners and Bayer for the additional support provided for these community programs, it has been great to see what can be done when we work together and you can imagine how thankful people of NSW are with the help they have received.

This year has been unfathomably busy, but I am immensely proud of our achievements thus far and cannot wait to see what awaits the rest of the year. ●

David Hope, President

About Animal Welfare League NSW

Animal Welfare League NSW is a registered charity that has been operating for over 60 years. We provide expert care to surrendered, neglected and abandoned companion animals across New South Wales. Our vision is that all companion animals have a safe and loving home. We strive for this through our work in rehoming, education and discount desexing programs. AWL NSW also has inspectors who are authorised to investigate allegations of animal cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTAA). We rely heavily on the generous support of animal lovers like yourself to care for thousands of animals every year.



LOVEtails

PUBLISHED BY NCP PRINTING

EDITORIAL CONTACT
Taylor Mahoney
media@awlsw.com.au



CONTACT US

For more information on the difference you can make by getting involved with Animal Welfare League NSW, visit awlsw.com.au or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AWLNSW

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW SUPPORT OFFICE

1605 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek NSW 2178
POST: PO Box 308, Kemps Creek NSW 2178
PHONE: (02) 8899 3333
FAX: (02) 8777 4488
helpingpets@awlsw.com.au

KEMPS CREEK SHELTER

1605 Elizabeth Drive,
Kemps Creek NSW 2178
PHONE: (02) 8777 4445
kempscreek@awlsw.com.au

VETERINARY CLINIC

1605 Elizabeth Drive,
Kemps Creek NSW 2178
PHONE: (02) 8777 4424
vetclicin@awlsw.com.au



Sydney Royal Easter Show

Animal Welfare League NSW™ attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year from the 12- 23 April 2019, located in the Pet Pavilion and surrounded by many like-minded animal lovers.

AWL NSW attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year with a main focus to help inform the public on the important work we do. We had several staff and volunteers attend the event to represent AWL NSW. Feedback provided from the experience was positive, with many of our stall attendee's commenting that they were overjoyed to gauge the public's thoughts and opinion on animal welfare. All those who represented us also appreciated having the opportunity to educate, as well as answer questions from the public.

While attending the Sydney Royal Easter Show, we also had lots of fun being able to sell a range of amazing merchandise for both people and their pets. Some of the merchandise included pet bandanas, dog leashes, collapsible water bowls, plush toys, poop bag dispensers, cool it freezing and heating packs as well as some other amazing merchandise. Be sure to see the AWL NSW online shop to view (and buy) some of these items to help support AWL NSW.

Overall the show was extremely successful and provided an engaging opportunity to meet some of our supporters and share information with others. Pet Registry NSW were kind enough to include our flyers at their stall, and we displayed brochures and information on upcoming changes to advertising laws for selling and rehoming pets.

Members of the public were eager to learn about the work of our shelter and branches, with many people stating they had seen us on Facebook or that they heard more information coming from AWL NSW in the last few months.

Thankfully, the Sydney Royal Easter Show was the perfect event for us to

provide this information and let people know what our mission as an organisation is. Thank you to those who volunteered their time to attend the show, and big congratulations to all of AWL NSW on the positive comments received from members of the public.

AWL NSW hopes to be able to attend more events in the future to help spread the word on how our organisation assists the community. To keep up with upcoming events, please visit our website www.awlnsw.com.au or follow us on Facebook. ●





HELPING OUT NSW, Our Community

Animal Welfare League NSW™, has seen the devastating effects the drought has plagued NSW with farmers struggling to maintain their livestock and communities in despair. To help provide relief to those in need, AWL NSW has come together to provide assistance with initiatives to help support communities and ensure animal welfare is forefront.

In late December 2018, AWL NSW visited the drought-stricken town of Pooncarie and helped provide drought support in the form of hay, pet food and treatment. Following this success, AWL NSW visited the Moree community between 8-10 March with an even larger team and bigger goals.

A quick trip to Tamworth pound to rescue two needy pets was the first pit-stop. A 16 year old maltese terrier and a cattle cross pup were collected, to be driven hours to the AWL NSW Moree Volunteer Branch for much needed care. The cattle cross pup was found to be a suspect of animal cruelty, with potential burn scars present. We were happy to have come to this pup's aid. Cat condos were also transported from Sydney to help house cats separately and prevent unwanted litters.

The next day, bales of hay were delivered to Moree – to be donated to local farmers in desperate need of the support. Thank you to Hawkesbury Hay Runners for helping us transport the hay from Sydney to this needy community.



Over two long days, a dedicated and passionate vet team provided almost 100 free vaccinations and microchipping to cats and dogs owned by local pensioner card holders, and over 50 pets were also desexed by the AWL NSW vet team. Thank you to Moree Veterinary Hospital for allowing us to use their clinic to perform the desexing surgeries. Thank you also to Bayer for providing extra support to this cause and supplying flea and worming treatment – many locals were very thankful to receive this gift.

Following our visit to Moree, the AWL NSW Nowra-Jervis Bay volunteer branch held their own free vaccination and microchipping drive on the 23rd and 24th March. A community hall was used to provide this service which saw a staggering 200 cats and 125 dogs vaccinated over the two days. The Nowra-Jervis Bay branch was also generous enough to hand out discount desexing vouchers, to ensure everyone had access to subsidised desexing and highlighted the key health benefits of desexing animals.





Due to the success of previous visits to other communities, AWL NSW proceeded to visit the town of Orange to provide not one, but two weekends of assistance! The initial visit on the 12th - 14th April saw the AWL NSW vet team provide almost 300 free vaccinations and microchipping to pets owned by local pensioner card holders. A return trip a fortnight later on the 27th and 28th was just as successful, resulting in over 70 pets receiving free desexing and vet care. Thank you to local clinics, Summer Street and Orange Veterinary Hospital for supporting our efforts and allowing us to use their facilities. The AWL NSW Orange volunteer branch also played a huge part in spreading the word of this program to the community, and helped make it such a success!

We have received lots of great feedback and applause this year already from those who believe in the work we do, and recognise the immediate benefit we are providing these communities. Offering free vaccinations help reduce the prevalence of disease outbreaks, and free desexing can help prevent unwanted litters - reducing the exhaustion of local rescue resources. Many pensioners simply cannot afford

to desex their pets, and these type of programs can help alleviate financial hardships for those who want to do right by their pets.

AWL NSW strives to offer these type of community programs throughout regional NSW, but can only do with the generous support of donors, and the dedication and commitment of AWL NSW staff and volunteers who give up their time and expertise to offer their services. A big thank you to the collaborated efforts that see these programs realised.

If you would like to stay up to date with upcoming community programs, please visit our website at www.awlnsw.com.au or follow us on Facebook. ●





Five minutes

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARK SLATER

Since his appointment twelve months ago, Animal Welfare League NSW™ CEO Mark Slater has employed multiple functional changes and many positive new initiatives to see our organisation go from strength-to-strength. To help our supporters learn more about our CEO, we sat down with Mark briefly to find out a little bit more about him and what motivates Mark to work at AWL NSW.

What is it like having such amazing staff and branch members?

It motivates me and gives me a platform to be ambitious, the depth of talent we possess as an organisation is immeasurable; I am genuinely inspired every day. I also enjoy communicating and joking with everyone I work with, as a work team I feel very comfortable with everyone within AWL NSW that makes it very easy for me to continually go the extra mile for our organisation.

What motivated you to work at AWL NSW?

I have always been an animal lover, I remember as a small child spending hours with Pat Gotch, one of our members who recently passed away. I have been able to work with a lot of different organisations since I entered the not-for-profit space, both domestically and overseas and this experience dovetailed perfectly with what the Board have asked me to focus on for the organisation.

How has your life changed since you commenced working at AWL NSW?

I have been challenged and inspired on a different level every day. I also get to share my work in a meaningful way with my family, especially my three-year-old son. Beyond that and just as importantly I have a new perspective on life, very simple things mean infinitely more to me, like a few minutes shared with an animal in our care.



Do you have any pets at home?

Yes, we have two dogs and some chooks at home.

Why do you think AWL NSW is so important?

Animals contribute to every part of human life. I think it is a privilege to be part of an organisation that is charged with the overall welfare of animals – our organisation is one of only three that holds this responsibility, and while there are many variations and principles of what animal welfare looks like, we have been a majority contributor for over 60 years. These things taken into account highlight that we could not be replaced, our service and responsibilities have to be considered in perpetuity.

What does your average day on the job for you?

Normally I am up around 5.30am quickly check my emails and meetings for the day, then I will do some sort of exercise either on my bike, running, swimming or the gym, or if I have an early meeting, I get going. During the day I check in with all facets of our organisation and make sure we are working as best as we can as a team. I travel a fair bit through our branch network as well, so sometimes I am checking in via the phone with the organisation. When I am in the office I will generally finish up about 6.30pm and head home to spend time with my family.

Do you have a favourite animal which you have met during your time here?

Yes, we had a legacy horse Judge, he was 43 years old and grumpy, but I loved spending time with him, he was a big character.

What is your favourite part of the job?

It is the people, the ones who are at the coal face of our organisation. We have many facets to the welfare work we do and so many people contributing positively, for me it is about getting to share time with our staff, members, volunteers - all the different experience and ways of caring for animals, I learn so much from talking with everyone.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I spend as much time as I can with my family and friends, but I really enjoy competing mountain biking and playing golf.

If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would it be?

Kruger National Park. ●



CAPTION: Mark Slater with some of the AWL NSW vet team.



Inspector Round Up

AWL NSW has a team of Inspectors who are authorised to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty offences. Here are just a few of the cases they've been working on over the past few months. If you want to report animal cruelty, please call 02 8899 3333.



Inspector Wakefield attended a Lugarno address to meet with an AWL NSW member and supporter, Agnes Webb. Inspector Wakefield spent over two hours with Agnes and thanked her for her amazing ongoing support.

On the 18 February 2019, Inspector Wakefield took Nitro to his new forever home. Staying with the owners for one hour to ensure Nitro had settled in. The Inspector can now confirm that Nitro loves his new home.

The Inspectorate team were called to Jarvis Bay Road Greenwell Point for a kangaroo hit by a car in distress. On arrival, the kangaroo had not been hit by a car or injured, the kangaroo was simply laying in the grass near the side of the road having a rest. Due to the high level of tourist activity, the kangaroo was very friendly, and there was a good outcome for all involved.

The Inspectorate received a call regarding a cat who had been hit by a car and ran into a drain. Inspector Wakefield attended and spent a considerable amount of time attempting to catch the injured and scared cat. The cat was eventually removed from the drain and conveyed to a local vet, where the cat made a full recovery.

Inspector Mahon gave a presentation to Blacktown Council members about issues relating to cats and suggested ideas to reduce these issues.

Inspectors helped rehome 100 rats to a specialist rescue organisation.

Inspector Mahon attended a job for a galah with a suspected wing injury. The galah was taken to AWL NSW veterinary clinic for assessment and after x-rays, was deemed healthy. The galah was transferred to WIRES for further rehabilitation.



BRANCH UPDATES

EUROBODALLA BRANCH

We have been busy in the Eurobodalla! This year it was decided to hold a Car Boot Sale instead of our usual garage sale. It was very successful and best of all everyone took away their unsold items leaving us with little to clean up. We were thrilled with the generosity of the sellers as well as the buyers, and we look forward to doing it again next year. We also held a fundraiser with the Far South Coast Branch held at Kinema in Narooma. Almost seventy people watched "A Dog's Way Home" with food and drinks provided beforehand and a one-off raffle. We hold stalls in Narooma and Moruya markets, not just selling raffles tickets to raise money but to raise awareness of AWL NSW and what we do. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and carers. Eurobodalla has also been busy caring for and adopting out several kittens, cats, dogs and puppies.





FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

AWL NSW Far South Coast Branch has re-established its Cat Adoption and Rehoming Service. This has increased our workload, and we are on the lookout for more carers. One recent cat that has been rescued from the pound is Khaleesi (Game of Thrones fans anyone?) along with her four kittens. A very affectionate cat with loads of personality.

We held an Easter Raffle which was won by a lovely lady with four young children who was very grateful for our chocolates and the lovely bunny that was donated. Our team of volunteers are well organised, welcoming and committed to caring for homeless pets in the Bega Valley Shire.



GREAT LAKES AND MANNING BRANCH

Sissy, a female greyhound, was surrendered to our Great Lakes and Manning Branch last year after a life of racing. Gentle affectionate and a couch potato are probably the best words, to sum up, Sissy. She was great with dogs big and small and didn't require too much fuss. We didn't think it would take too long for a dog of her perfect nature to find a home. Weeks and months went by with little interest. She was advertised and promoted across every medium. Sissy eventually moved into



a foster home with two other greyhounds and within the first 5 minutes found a human bed to curl up on with her new foster siblings. She was happy and showed it! We shared a photo of Sissy in our local newspaper, and within a week she went on trial with a new family, and we are happy to announce that in March, seven months after she came into our care Sissy finally found her forever home.



HAWKESBURY VALLEY BRANCH

Sid is special like all pets are, but there is something about him that makes him a little more unique than a regular feline; his diagnosis with Cerebellar Hypoplasia, a condition that affects his brain, and well, makes him wobble. His foster carers weren't aware of the condition when he was first placed in their care, and along with a bout of ringworm and a dash of cat flu, there was worry that he might not make it to adulthood.

His owner and former carer laugh at this in hindsight as there is nothing that keeps Sid from running around (even if he stumbles and runs into things) and acting like he owns the house. Sid is a constant reminder of the perseverance that our pets possess and our need to have faith in the ability to thrive in spite of their differences – or perhaps because of it. He is also a reminder that even the most hardened foster carer will eventually have their first 'foster fail' and it will come when they least expect it.



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

Instructors and handlers of NDTC would like to pay tribute to two wonderful dog-loving men, Robert Loftus and Barry Macdonald, both of whom passed away in April.

Robert Loftus – a great friend and colleague of NDTC's Chief Instructor Yve Robinson, Robert was the driving force behind the establishment of the Batemans Bay Branch. Robert retired to the region from Sydney just a few years ago, yet in that short time managed to establish a dog training branch of AWL NSW, the second only in the state. He was an International Dog Agility Judge in Europe and spent much of his life working for the wellbeing of animals. His expertise as a dog trainer, coupled with his passion for improving a lot of dog owners within his community, were behind the protracted negotiations he undertook with Eurobodalla Shire Council to establish a dog park in Batemans Bay. NDTC hopes that the work Robert began will continue - we will do what we can to support his vision.



Barry Macdonald – NDTC remembers with great fondness the visits that Barry made to our branch. A resident of Wagga Wagga and long-serving member of Kyemba Kennel and Training Club, Barry freely gave his knowledge and expertise to our branch. He had a strong belief in the importance of skill sharing not just within his community but with other regional dogs clubs, establishing the Country Link Agility Competition in which NDTC has participated for several years. In 2007 Barry's club recognised his momentous contribution and importance by naming their newly erected clubhouse in his honour. As a canine instructor, Barry was a strong advocate of positive reinforcement training.

NORTH COAST BRANCH



The North Coast Branch is fortunate to have two special people with literary skills, willing to put them to use for the benefit of the branch. Ailsa is a busy, working mother, tends a menagerie of rescued animals at her home, and is a volunteer carer at our cattery. She also makes time to write an appealing story every week, for 52 weeks, advertising one of our adorable felines ready for adoption, in the local newspaper. Her writing, with photographs of our felines, brings a succession of people to our door, looking to find, and take home their 'purrfect match.'



Since 2008, Jenine, our branch Newsletter Editor, has been converting our varied stories into an interesting publication. In full employment, she volunteered as Minutes Secretary at our meetings and conducted a weekly adoption shift at the cattery. In 2011, Jenine shocked us by announcing her impending departure for life in Qatar. Our concern was unfounded. She volunteered to continue to produce a branch newsletter, three times each year, with Ruth undertaking to collect and send 'raw' material from Mullumbimby to Qatar. Our system has worked well. We are now delighted to welcome Jenine and family back home to Australia. While she hasn't quite made it 'home' to Mullumbimby yet, at least Melbourne is on the same continent and in the same time zone. The work and success in our branch and all branches I suspect is dependent on the goodwill and generous nature of skilled people who volunteer to 'go the extra mile.'

ORANGE BRANCH

We never anticipated how much our communities in the Central West would need us and how large we would get. In a short amount of time we have assisted in rescuing 102 dogs/puppies, rehomed 43 foster kids and currently have 80 animals in care, 16 of which are already on trial or have confirmed adoptions. The majority of the work revolves around the accepting of surrenders, rescues from our local pounds and assisting with difficult neglect cases. We have just accepted our first colt surrender (Bruce) and shortly will welcome a 27-year-old mare (Cheyene) to our foster family. Orange has also been very busy with a vaccination and desexing drive, find more information on page 4-5.



SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

Ruby came into Shoalhaven branch through our local shelter. Stealing the hearts of the shelter staff while waiting for her owner to come back and claim her. When Ruby's owners never came to claim her, the shelter asked if we could take Ruby on as she needed surgery and a foster home to recover in. Ruby arrived in our care with a severely infected ruptured eye, as well as multiple hernias that required repair during desexing. After the initial surgery for an eye removal, a second surgery was undertaken for desexing and hernias. Unfortunately during the surgery multiple masses were found on her mammary glands. She would need a further operation. Unfortunately the final surgery didn't go to plan, and the situation became touch and go. Eventually Ruby started to improve, and in no time she was running around her yard and jumping up for lots of affection. Ruby got not only a new chance at life but a new family too. She was adopted by a lovely family whom she chose herself taking straight to them the first time they met.



WESTERN SUBURBS BRANCH



Director, Glyn, was recently able to help a lovely young cat called Fizzy. Glyn received a call from an employee of a distribution centre in Western Sydney, who reported a cat was trying to get into the building. As there were no residential dwellings close by, it was originally a mystery how the cat came to be there. Glyn collected the cat and took him to her local vet who scanned him for a microchip. Fortunately for Fizzy and his distraught family, who had been searching for him, he did have a microchip and his family immediately rushed to the vet clinic to collect him. When Glyn told Fizzy's owners where he was found, they realised that Fizzy had somehow managed to stow-away in a neighbour's car, without his knowledge, when he was travelling approximately 20 km to work. This happy ending story demonstrates the importance of microchipping and keeping address details up-to-date so that more animals can be reunited with their owners.



KEEP THEM Warm and Cosy THIS WINTER

As the days become shorter and the weather colder, we pull out our comfiest pair of slippers and unearth our favourite movies – ready for cosy nights inside by the fire! Just as we like to hide away from the cold in Winter, so too do our furry friends. They also enjoy a cosy bed inside a safe, warm house. Spending quality time together is very important with your furry family member, and can help improve physical and mental health.

There are plenty of simple and fun training activities you can practice to help your dog get used to being inside this Winter.

One simple activity to encourage your dog to display calm behaviour indoors is 'mat settling'. Providing a mat for your dog to lie on while you watch TV, prepare dinner, or entertain guests can help everyone relax in the home. Most dogs learn to love their mat because they should receive lots of yummy rewards when lying on them!

So how do we teach a dog to settle on a mat? It's easy!

Start in an environment where the dog is calm and there are minimal distractions. Put the mat on the ground and place your dog's favourite treat or toy on top. If your dog puts at least one paw on the mat, mark the behaviour with a "yes". This will, in time, let your dog know it has done the right thing. If the dog keeps its feet on the mat, mark the behaviour again ("yes") and give the dog another treat. Repeat this step.

Next, you want to get the dog to settle in a comfortable position that it will be able to maintain for extended periods. This is usually a 'drop' or 'down' position. Lure the dog into a down position and mark the behaviour, followed with a treat. Continue to give the dog treats for maintaining the drop position. If it gets up, do not say anything. Just re-lure the drop and give the dog treats for staying on the mat. You are trying to teach the dog that good things will happen if it stays on the mat. It is best to repeat these steps in several short sessions.



When the dog is in a comfortable position, occasionally offer it a treat as you move around the mat. Move away and then come back and reward the dog. Gradually increase the distance each time you move away. Remember, that being out of sight is a big change for the dog, so you will need to make sure it is quite comfortable on the mat before you leave the room.

Using yummy, long-lasting treats will also encourage your dog to stay on its mat. Each time the dog receives this treat inside, it must first settle on its mat. You will be able to go about your daily business while the dog is busy enjoying its treat. Remember to verbally praise the dog and try to return before it finishes its treat. If the dog moves from the mat, calmly ask it to get back on and reward it for doing so.

When you are confident that your dog understands how to use the mat, it is time to add a cue to the behaviour. Set up the mat and have some treats ready. Cue the behaviour of the dog getting on the mat with a word such as "mat". If the dog gets on the mat, mark the behaviour ("yes") and immediately reward it. Let the dog off the mat and try again. Initially, you should do this close to the mat so the dog understands exactly what you are asking for.

It is very important that you let the dog know when it is allowed to move off the mat, otherwise it may become confused. Saying words such as "OK" or "off" will let the dog know when it can move off the mat. Remember to reward the dog when it does as you ask. ●



Vet Advice

IMPAWFECT JOINTS - HOW TO HELP WITH ARTHRITIS THIS WINTER



ARTHRITIS!

Also known as osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease, arthritis is the progressive and permanent deterioration of joint cartilage, which results in significant pain and discomfort. Arthritis can affect both cats and dogs; however, some are better at hiding their pain and discomfort than others. Some things to look out for in your pet include:

- Limping or stiffness when walking
- Yelping or crying in pain
- Joint stiffness especially first thing in the morning or after lying down for a while especially in the colder weather
- Reluctance to jump onto or off objects (like your couch or car)
- Reluctance to walk
- Soiling themselves (due to a reluctance to get up to urinate or defecate).



If you notice any of the above signs, it's best to consult your veterinarian for the most suitable treatment for your pet. Regardless of the type of animal or how many clinical signs they show, it's always best to start treatment early as treatments DO NOT reverse the signs of arthritis but only help to ease the discomfort and reduce the speed of progression. As such, management techniques should be started in young adults before arthritis worsens. Treatments include:

- 1) **Weight management!** - Increased fat on your pet means the increased weight on their arthritic joints. More importantly, fat releases an enzyme called Adiponectin which works to degrade cartilage! By keeping your pet lean and healthy, you will improve their quality of life.
- 2) **Joint supplements** - just as you or I would take fish oil and glucosamine tablets for our joint health, your pet would also benefit from a daily joint supplement. These supplements work to enhance joint health and also give your pet a nice shiny coat. Supplements come in a powdered form that can be sprinkled on your pet's food or as a tasty chew. There are also some commercial foods that incorporate these joint supplements. See your vet for recommended supplement brands.
- 3) **Arthritis injections** - These injections are called Cartrophen injections and works to improve joint health by altering osteoarthritis metabolism. Your vet will administer these injections which typically involves a course of injections (1 injection weekly for four weeks). In pets that have joint issues (e.g. hip dysplasia, patellar (knee-cap) luxation, cruciate injury), it is important to start these injections immediately as these animals are more likely to develop arthritis early in life.
- 4) **Adequate rest** - Even though your dog may be in pain, it may not stop their drive to run and play which can sometimes exacerbate their pain. It is important for us as owners to keep this in mind when playing with them and to reduce the level or length of play or stop it altogether when they have arthritis flare-ups.
- 5) **Keep them warm** - an animal with arthritis feels more joint pain and discomfort during the colder months, therefore, it's very important to make sure they are kept warm in cold weather and have a cosy soft bed to sleep on inside, sheltered away from the harsh winter chill.
- 6) **Anti-inflammatories** - When your animal has arthritis flare-ups, or when their pain cannot be managed adequately with the above techniques, your vet can prescribe anti-inflammatories specifically for your pet to ease their pain and discomfort. Your vet will ensure that your pet does not have any illnesses or issues preventing them from taking these anti-inflammatories safely. A biannual check-up and blood test is recommended at this stage to ensure that your pet's condition is being treated adequately.

If you have any questions about arthritis, please feel free to contact our friendly vet staff and together we can work to ensure your pet lives a comfortable, pawfect life.





Happytails

Nitro

Lots of you followed Nitro's heartbreaking story, a tragic tale of an emaciated boy with so much love to give. AWL NSW Inspector Jamie Wakefield brought Nitro into our care last July, and in September, we successfully prosecuted Nitro's owner under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Nitro's owner was charged with failure to provide proper and sufficient food to an animal, and being in charge of an animal and failing to provide veterinary treatment. His owner was found guilty on both charges and fined \$1000 for each offence (\$2000 total), and Nitro was surrendered into our care.

Nitro's story highlights the heart of Animal Welfare League NSW's mission. We rescue, rehabilitate and rehome some of NSW's most vulnerable animals, and seek prosecution on behalf of animals that cannot defend themselves.

We finally have the news we know so many of you have been desperately waiting for... this lovely goofball finally has a forever home to call his own!

There were many tears of joy as we celebrated a new family for Nitro and a big send-off as we said our goodbyes to our big boy. Thank you to Ami and his new family for giving Nitro the second chance he deserves. Nitro now has his queen-sized bed, and is allowed on the couch to cuddle his new Mumma! We couldn't be happier for this boy who has been through so much, to get the outcome we hoped for finally! Be a good boy Nitro; we will all miss you very much! ●



Third time lucky for Diesel



In March 2011, a small male kitten was surrendered into our care after being abandoned. This little kitten spent three months with us before he was adopted. Sadly, he was returned to us in February 2012 as he did not get along with the other animals in the home. Seven months on, Diesel was adopted, but again he was surrendered SIX YEARS later due to "allergic to pets".

At just eight years of age, and for the third time in his life, Diesel was on the lookout for a new home. Surrendered back to us in May last year, he was one of our longest term residents until his new family came to adopt him in late April 2019.

Spending most of this year in our shelter reception, Diesel was a favourite among our staff. Every morning, Diesel would happily chat to us and would eagerly approach visitors. We will miss our charismatic, talkative boy, but are thrilled he has finally got the forever home he always deserved. ●

Adopt



**GIVE A
SHELTER PET
A HOME AND
RECEIVED YEARS
OF LOVE IN
RETURN**

Volunteer



**WE ALWAYS
NEED
VOLUNTEERS TO
WORK DIRECTLY
WITH THE
ANIMALS OR DO
ADMINISTRATIVE
TASKS**

Foster



**FOSTER CARERS
TEMPORARILY
LOOK AFTER
SICK OR YOUNG
ANIMALS,
OR THOSE WHO
NEED A BREAK
FROM THE
SHELTER**

Donate



**WE APPRECIATE
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT TO
HELP WITH
SHELTER COSTS,
AND WELCOME
ITEMS TO FEED
AND ENRICH
THE ANIMALS**

Vet Clinic



**WE PROVIDE
EXCELLENT CARE
AND SERVICE AT
OUR VETERINARY
CLINIC FOR
ALL YOUR
ANIMALS NEEDS
AND HEALTH
CONCERNS**



**ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW
SUPPORT OFFICE**

1605 Elizabeth Drive,
Kemps Creek NSW 2178
POST: PO Box 308,
Kemps Creek NSW 2178
PHONE: (02) 8899 3333
FAX: (02) 8777 4488
helpingpets@awlsw.com.au