

LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2019

HELPING PETS

Meet our amazing
Vet team

+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES

DROUGHT RELIEF FOR POONCARE

Expert pet advice for a safe Easter

Top tips on caring for your pet rabbit



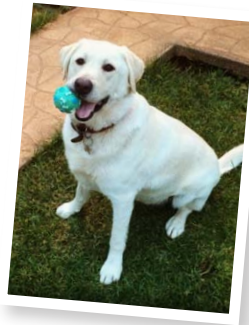
ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE NSW



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Message from Editor-in-Chief Ollie



Can you believe it is almost Easter! This time of year can be really exciting but it's also important to remember that our furry friends can get into lots of mischief and mayhem! Chocolate is *really* not good for your pets and can make them very ill, and if you're celebrating with delicious smelling food (that makes dogs like me drool), just make sure it's not going to send us to the vets with sore tummies later! Be sure to read our Easter pet tips from our vet team to keep pets like me safe! Our behaviour team have written a very cute article about our bunny friends so be sure to take a look at that too!

Until next time pawsome suppawters,

Ollie

President's Message

DAVID HOPE, PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first edition of Love Tails for 2019. I believe the year ahead will be a prosperous one.

Between our shelter at Kemps Creek and our branch network, this year has been busy already – full of adoptions and adoption day events! It is wonderful to see the branches and shelter getting involved in trying to get our animals the second chance they deserve.

Well done to the team who made the trip to Pooncarie and provided relief through feed for animals, flea and worming treatment and more. The tireless effort of AWL NSW brought amazing results for the people of Pooncarie.

In other news I would like to congratulate our new Chief Inspector Sarah Stimson, I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the Inspectorate team. I am sure it will be nothing but great work.

From my family to yours I hope you have a wonderful and safe Easter break. Be sure to read our article in this edition of LoveTails about chocolate toxicity to ensure your animals stay healthy this Easter. ●

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.

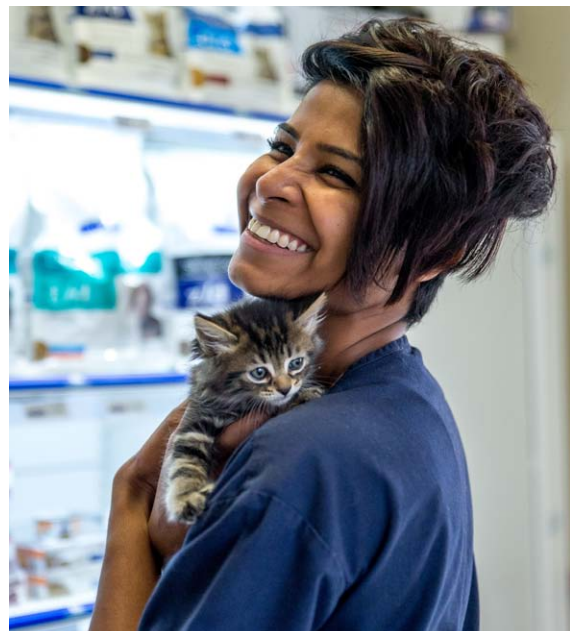


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For more information on the difference you can make by getting involved with Animal Welfare League NSW, visit awlsw.com.au or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AWLNSW

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Drought Relief for Pooncarie



Pooncarie is a severely drought-stricken town 12 hours from Sydney, west of Broken Hill. Filled with more animals than people, 60 families fight for their livelihoods and the lives of their animals.

Animal Welfare League NSW became aware of the hardships occurring in Pooncarie and went to help. AWL NSW arranged for two B-doubles filled with 12 pallets of hay, pet food provided by Hills Pet Nutrition, and flea and worming treatment provided by Bayer. The food was distributed to rural families and their animals including 112 dogs, 136 chickens, 6 geese, 9 cats, and remaining livestock

AWL NSW CEO Mark Slater stated that on his trip to Pooncarie "I caught myself staring at the landscape in genuine shock at the devastation of the drought. When we arrived at Pooncarie, we found it very difficult to get anyone to come into

town to collect the food, medicines, hay, and supplies. After some calling around on a local emergency phone list, the first local arrived, 7.5 hours later we had unloaded and distributed everything we had. Everything in between was a blur of handshakes, unloading bags and hay off a semi-trailer and sunburn. I am thankful AWL NSW veterinarian Dr Deshaylia Moodley was there moving from car to car to check multiple dogs."

"When I got back to the hotel in Mildura, I was quite emotional thinking about my own family, reflecting on the day's experience. What was apparent is that there is more that AWL NSW can do, much more than we give ourselves credit for in terms of our capacity and there is a lot more that these rural families need, much more than they are prepared to ask for."



AWL NSW believes that community support is needed in times of disaster for people across New South Wales. Your donations not only support animals in care at AWL NSW, but they also help the animals of New South

Wales that suffer from natural disasters and other disadvantages.

Thank you to all of our supporters, Hills Pet Nutrition, and Bayer for making this much-needed trip possible. AWL NSW is thankful, as are the people of Pooncarie. ●





Five minutes

WITH VETERINARIAN DESHAYLIA MOODLEY

Dr Deshaylia Moodley is a Senior Veterinarian at the Kemps Creek Veterinary Clinic. She oversees the flurry of activity at the clinic, all while keeping a warm and welcoming smile on her face. Many of our private clients love to see Dr Moodley, so we spent some time with this popular vet to find out why.



Veterinarian Dr Deshaylia Moodley with Buffy a stray who was septic and required an emergency caesarean.

Q) How long have you been at AWL NSW?

I started working at Animal Welfare League NSW in 2014, and I've never looked back.

Q) What motivated you to work at AWL NSW?

I've wanted to be a vet as far back as I can remember – before I could read or write. Being a vet is my dream come true. I've also always wanted to make a difference to the lives of abused or homeless animals, and working at AWL NSW allows me to do just that.

Q) What does an average day on the job look like for you?

Being a shelter vet is a life of organised chaos. A usual day consists of numerous consults with private clients, as our vet hospital services the public as well as our shelter animals. While consults are running, other vets will be in theatre performing a wide range of surgeries and procedures. We can perform as many as 20-25 surgeries a day. We will also be performing multiple ultrasounds, x-rays and dental surgeries. Once there is a break in consults, we will then venture over to the shelter to perform daily shelter checks.

Throughout the day we will also get a few emergencies running in – toxin ingestion, snake bites, hit by cars, attacked by dogs, seizing animals etc. On top of all of this, we work closely with our Inspectorate department and help treat injured and abused animals. We help build cases with the Inspector, to assist in prosecuting offenders in court. Once the day finally ends, we then have to sit down to research, make calls and write up medical notes for everything we did that day. Phew!

Q) Do you have a favourite animal who you have worked with during your time here?

We're currently looking after a special Maremma, Loki, who was surrendered to us with a severe bone disease. While we're on the lookout for the right home for him, I'm enjoying the constant fluffy cuddles at work.

Q) What is your favourite part of the job?

Being able to rehabilitate animals that initially arrive at AWL NSW in poor condition, watching them thrive and be adopted into a loving family is THE MOST rewarding feeling. I also absolutely love performing surgery – the surgical theatre is my happy place.

Q) Do you have any pets?

I have the goofiest Border Collie, Odin, which I adopted from the shelter. His mother was surrendered to AWL NSW while pregnant. I was lucky enough to foster the entire family, and I fell in love with Odin so I had to adopt him!

Q) What do you like to do in your spare time?

Being a vet means that you don't have much spare time, however when I do, I thoroughly enjoy bushwalks with my dog and relaxing with my family and friends.

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

I love Scotland – old stone buildings, enormous mountains and rolling green hills, quirky pubs around every corner and Highland cows! I would move there if it weren't so cold! If you've seen me, you'll know that I'm always wearing multiple layers...even in summer!

Q) Why do you think that AWL NSW is so important?

AWL NSW is often the last chance for many suffering and needy animals. We can do everything within our power to help them. Working at AWL NSW means that we can be the voice for these animals and we can create changes by educating the community. We can also head out into the community to help those that need it the most. Advocating for the voiceless and providing them with a second chance at life and love is why we are so important. ●



AWL NSW Veterinary clinic

You and your pet will enjoy the highest level of care when you visit the Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary clinic which is open to the public to help care for their pets. Our experienced veterinary team use state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment to ensure your much-loved pet receives excellent care and treatment.

AWL NSW also cares for a wide range of animals in-house, including animals who are being prepared for or are awaiting adoption, as well as animals who are in the custody of our Inspectorate.

When you visit our veterinary hospital to treat your pet, your fees help AWL NSW provide invaluable care and support for stray and surrendered animals who are injured, sick or have been victims of cruelty.

Just some of the services available at the AWL NSW veterinary clinic:



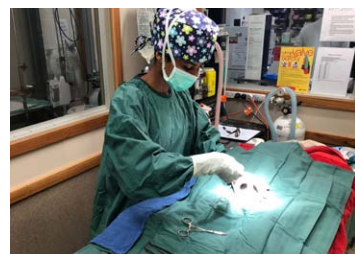
The Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary nurses and receptionists



The Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary team.

SURGERY

The AWL NSW veterinary clinic has two surgical theatres allowing our veterinary team to undertake multiple procedures at any one time. All patients undergoing a procedure are monitored and given expert care throughout by a qualified veterinary nurse. Specialist surgeons also visit the clinic when required to assist with more complicated cases.



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

The veterinary clinic has a purpose built x-ray suite, with digital radiography equipment installed. This allows our veterinarians to take high-quality radiographs more efficiently. In most instances, patients are placed under general anaesthesia to obtain the best quality image.

We also perform ultrasound for soft tissue imaging.



DESEXING

Desexing your pet has several advantages. For female pets, it can assist with the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, decreased risk of mammary cancers and ovarian cancers, and prevention of pyometra. For male pets, it can reduce aggression, roaming, reduced prostate problems, prevention of testicular problems, and prevention of undesired behaviours.



The veterinary clinic also offers services such as pathology, vaccinations, microchipping, parasite prevention and treatment, dental procedures, blood testing, laboratory services, specialist's referral, and more. ●



Vet Advice

TIPS FOR YOUR PET TO KEEP THEM SAFE THIS EASTER



CHOCOLATE TOXICITY!

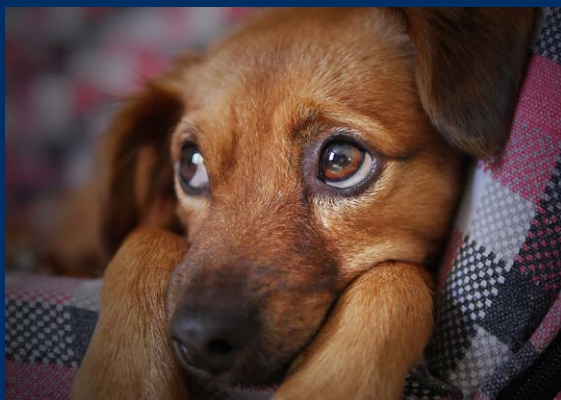
While we all enjoy our chocolate treats at Easter time, it's important to remember that chocolate can cause significant illness in dogs (and cats!). Although there are many foods we eat which will cause no ill-effects if our pets share them with us, chocolate is certainly not one of them.

Did you know?

There is a chemical within chocolate called theobromine which is highly poisonous to our pets. Even though this chemical can be consumed safely by humans, our pets cannot metabolise it as well as us. The chemical can build up in their system, making them more sensitive to the adverse effects.

Theobromine is similar to caffeine, causing vomiting, diarrhoea and even seizures if pets ingest it. In severe cases, and if treatment is not gained promptly, chocolate toxicity can be fatal.

Different types of chocolate will contain varying amounts of theobromine, but it's safer to avoid allowing your pet to have access to any chocolate at all to avoid making your pet very sick.



Generally, the darker and more bitter the chocolate is, the more toxins it will contain. Even white chocolate will contain small amounts of the toxin, and the fat and sugar in any chocolate can cause digestive upsets, such as pancreatitis!

Depending upon the amount and type of chocolate ingested, the most common signs of poisoning in our pets is vomiting and diarrhoea. Dogs can start to pant a great deal, become restless and have a higher than normal pulse rate. If a large amount of chocolate has been eaten (especially if it is dark chocolate), then pets can suffer from muscle tremors, seizures, and even heart failure. Older pets are at greater risk of suffering from cardiac arrest and death.

If you suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate, it's best to contact your local veterinarian immediately. Your vet will be able to help you calculate whether the amount eaten is of concern and be able to monitor your pet for symptoms of toxicity. If a toxic amount

of chocolate has been ingested, then **the earlier the treatment for your pet is commenced the better the prognosis.**

The best treatment for your pet is determined by your vet and will depend on the amount of chocolate, the type and when eaten. Treatment may start with your vet being able to induce vomiting and administer activated charcoal to try to avoid the theobromine being absorbed into the body. Supportive therapy such as intravenous fluid therapy may also be required, along with medications and close monitoring in the hospital.

Be sure to enjoy the chocolate Easter eggs yourself before any curious pets try to get to them! ●





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.



AWL NSW Inspectors attended an address in Mulgoa in relation to a cow who was laying down and unable to get up. The cow was showing signs of distress, and it became evident the cow was having complications giving birth. Through investigations, the owner was contacted, and veterinarians attended immediately. The cow gave birth successfully with vet assistance, and a healthy calf was born with no further complications.

Inspectors attended an address in St Marys in relation to animal welfare concerns. At the location, inspectors were met by a mentally ill male, who had approximately 22 dogs. The owner surrendered 15 dogs to AWL NSW care. Through intervention and education for mental health, the patient has reduced his dog numbers dramatically. AWL NSW is assisting with the desexing of his remaining dogs to prevent breeding.

Inspectors attended a Western Suburbs shopping centre for approximately 1.5 hours during the summer school holidays. Inspectors conducted an unannounced inspection of a pop up 'Petting Zoo'. No breaches of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979) were identified.

Inspector Wakefield attended one of AWL NSW members and supporters premises to personally thank her for her kind donation during our 'Nitro appeal.' Inspector Wakefield sat with the supporter for approximately 2 hours where they talked and bonded over their love of animals.

AWL NSW Inspectors attended an address in Cowra where AWL NSW Inspectors took possession of over 20 cats in consultation with a secondary animal welfare agency. Legal prosecution was taken against the owner for offences under the 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals act.'

AWL NSW Inspectors and staff attended Kellyville Pets 'Kitten Adoption day.' Inspector Wakefield was in attendance to promote the work that AWL NSW Inspectors do across the state of New South Wales. Inspector Wakefield was welcomed by those attending the event and was happy to answer questions by members of the public in regards to responsible pet ownership.

Inspectors attended an address in the Central Coast of NSW about a tethered dog with no access to water. On arrival, Inspectors noted the dog's tether was long. Unfortunately, he had wrapped himself around his tethered anchor point. It was noted the dog had sufficient and clean water, however due to his tether being tangled he was unable to reach the water. Education to the owner on responsible pet ownership was issued for the dog's future welfare. The man was also issued tethering legislation information.

Chief Inspector Stimson seized a cat late last year due to extensive injuries sustained to his tail and it was clear that inadequate care was given to this poor young cat. His tail was so badly infected it needed to be amputated and the infection had spread to his hind leg which then had to be amputated shortly after. A successful prosecution followed which saw two parties receive a total of \$4000 in penalty notices.

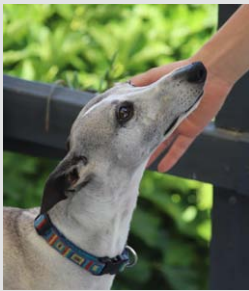


EASTERN SUBURBS BRANCH

A phone call to our Branch from a concerned neighbour brought our attention to a situation all too common. A member of the public noticed some cats in the front yard of a suburban house and felt that the owner, who lived there on his own, might need help in managing them. One of our members went to the house and introduced herself. It was soon apparent that the cats were loved and had all been given very interesting names. The gentleman had a limited income and no family or friends who could help him but was quite worried about the welfare and future of his beloved cats, none of whom were desexed. The gentlemen had lost a few cats to oncoming traffic and other concerning circumstances. We decided to give any help we could and advise on their future health. Our branch agreed with the gentlemen, and took the cats to our amazing vet Dr Steve Cooney at Maroubra.

We have given this man; food, shelter, flea and worm treatment and can say that the situation has improved immensely. There will be no more kittens born on the man's premises, and the reward of getting to see him sitting on his front porch with his feline friends is lovely for our small branch.

EUROBODALLA BRANCH



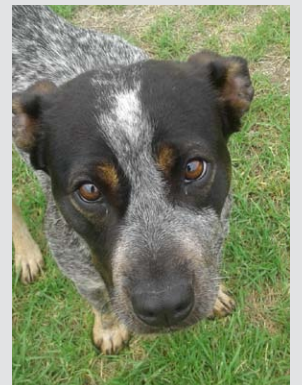
The saying goes "two heads are better than one", and that is certainly true for Eurobodalla Branch as we have elected Co-presidents for the first time in Eurobodalla Branch history. We have had excellent support of the Vice President and the branch continues to search for new ways to raise funds (although we will always continue with our markets and our Tailwaggers Walk on the 3rd Sunday in September). We have many active members, and although we are spread out over approximately 100km of the coast, we had around eighteen members at our monthly meetings in the middle of the Shire. The Eurobodalla Branch has managed to recruit some wonderful dog carers in the last few months. These wonderful people are prepared to look after elderly dogs, female dogs with puppies as well as small and large breeds. Making our job of rehoming so much easier, and we thank every person.

Featured in this edition is one of our rehomed dogs, Pixie. Her owners had to move interstate and weren't able to find rental accommodation that accepted dogs. They surrendered her to us with such sadness, and we wanted to make sure that Pixie settled in a new home as soon as possible. We were able to use one of our new carers, and within a couple of weeks, Pixie was ready to go to a new home. She has landed on all four paws and is now part of a lovely family – 3 children who dote on her. Pixie has a bed with a view of the ocean and a long walk on the beach each day. Stories like that make everything we do seem worthwhile.

FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

Maisey, the Stumpy Tail Cattle cross, came into the care of the FSC branch via the local pound, after being found wandering in a remote southern forest area. She was extremely underweight, distressed and had long term spinal and hind limb abnormalities. She has since settled well into foster care and is now enjoying the simple pleasures of running on grass, gnawing on a bone and sleeping on a comfortable dog bed. The long term prognosis is guarded, but Maisey is a believer in living in the moment and appears to be quite happy with her life. Watching Maisey cope with her major physical disabilities with such fortitude and resilience is truly inspirational. FSC branch will be seeking a very special home for this courageous special needs girl in the future.

In other news, we sold numerous copies of our Calendar of Second Chances for 2019. We also ran our annual Santa Paws event in both Merimbula and Cobargo which was attended by very well behaved dogs, cats and one special ferret. The humans were well behaved too!



GREAT LAKES AND MANNING

Our Tuncurry Op-Shop (which provides our main source of income) has been keeping our wonderful AWL NSW volunteers very busy over the summer school holidays – just as one would expect at a popular beachside town with an influx of tourists hungry for a cheap paperback! We are forever grateful for our little shop, and also for our volunteers and the local community who support it. Our biggest challenge of late has been rehoming the cats and kittens which have come into our care. Unfortunately, another local rescue organisation has closed recently, and we have been picking up a lot more animals. We have consistently had between 20-30 cats and kittens in care for the last three months, and we find ourselves having to say 'no' because we do not have enough foster carers or the financial means to rehome them all. It is a sad situation and continues to reinforce the need for community awareness and education as well as our regular desexing drives. We are pleased to say our last desexing drive and microchipping day, held in November in conjunction with other animal welfare rescues, was very successful.

We also held an end-of-year Christmas celebration for all our Committee members, shop volunteers and carers – and our President Marg Steele played Santa. It was a lovely afternoon and a great opportunity to thank everyone for all their work throughout the year.



HAWKESBURY VALLEY BRANCH



Arnie and his little sister Suzie were handed into the local council late on Christmas Eve. All hope for these two fighters were lost until AWL NSW Hawkesbury Branch received a call to assist. Despite the council pound being closed, the volunteers at AWL NSW Hawkesbury Branch were able to seek assistance from council staff who returned to the pound after hours to bring these two kittens into AWL NSW care.

The kittens were in poor condition with high temperatures and severely dehydrated. Concerned they might not make it through the night, Ann-Maree our amazing foster carer dashed to collect the kittens and seek vet assistance – just hours before Christmas day!

Arnie and Suzie responded almost immediately to their treatment and even managed to eat a bit of

Christmas lunch. Both of these little kittens have gone from strength to strength while in foster care, and we are happy to say, will soon be leaving us for their forever homes.

Christmas Day saw us on the go again. Hawkesbury Helping Hands is a local community group that provides meals for the homeless. During the year, we supply dog and cat food to be handed out to anyone requiring assistance, and at their Christmas lunch this year, we decided to hand out Christmas presents for the dogs. Thanks must go to All Pets Pantry at North Richmond who have supported our branch for years, and donated dog treats and toys for our “goody bags”. Each bag contained a tin of good quality dog food, a small bag of dry food, two packets of treats, a squeaky toy and the latest edition of LoveTails. There was also a basket full of feline food. The bags went amazingly, and we could have given out double.



JERVIS BAY

Our day at PETstock Nowra for their annual Santa Photos was enjoyable, great photos were taken and lovely stories told. A big thanks to our wonderful volunteers and the staff at Nowra PETstock for helping. We had a garage sale that not only raised money but also found a gorgeous, mature cat her forever home, which made it worth all the effort.

Our Christmas raffle of a 59” Hisense Smart TV, raised just over \$1600 and our winner, Hudson Fisher from Worrigea, was over the moon with his prize. We also had a successful desexing drive for December, as a Christmas gift to all cat owners with reduced desexing, chipping and vaccines.

Our kitten room at the South Nowra Vet has contributed to our kitten adoption program along with the help of their fantastic staff. Our branch is looking forward to a new year and following up on some fantastic projects that are being discussed.



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

After a big year, Saturday 1st December turned out to be the perfect afternoon to say “thank you” and celebrate achievements. It was the Dogs’ Christmas Party – a much-loved social event.

Branch President Steve Genner carried the day as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the event running smoothly and encouraging everyone to join in the fun. Games for pooches and their owners were a highlight of the afternoon. It was exciting to see so many getting into the spirit of the event. There was plenty of party food to share, along with lots of laughs.

The event offered a great opportunity for Steve to publicly thank all the volunteers who came every Saturday afternoon throughout the year, including those who work behind the scenes doing administrative tasks. Chief Instructor Yve Robinson was highlighted for her amazing passion and dedication to the Branch. Deputy Chief Instructor Jean Page was in fine form, as were specialist Agility Instructors Peter Nelipa and Kathryn McKellar. Rally O Instructor Carol Low was thanked in her absence – her husband John was there on the day, proudly sporting his special award for the important job of doggie-doo scooper extraordinaire.

President Steve gave a special thanks to the many donors who contributed. The generosity of these individuals enabled the purchase of new equipment, as well as making a donation of \$500 to the Farmers Appeal and \$1,000 to the AWL NSW Annual Christmas Appeal.

Now, after a well-earned holiday, the team is ready to get back to the job of helping people, and their companion dogs develop strong bonds through structured, training programs. For information about Narooma Dog Training Club, AWL NSW Branch, please call Secretary, Carol Hellmers, on 0458 953 281.





SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

The AWL NSW Shoalhaven Volunteer Branch have recently had some 'interesting surrenders'.

One recent cutie, was a little rat name coconut. Not the usual pet being rehomed by our branch, but when someone called to say this friendly little juvenile white rat had turned up on their doorstep and they didn't know what to do, we decided to help him find a new home. We were very lucky to have a foster carer with some rat experience, and she took him on and looked after him while we found him a new home. He was finally rehomed to a lovely lady in Sydney with other rat friends for him.

Another recent story of 'not-so-normal' rehoming was of two little eight week old ducks called Duck-Duck and Goose. They came from a lady who had been keeping them inside but they just grew too big, and it was no longer practical as her rental didn't allow outdoor pets. They came into our care, and within a day a lovely lady offered to adopt them and rehome to her property. They have settled in beautifully, made friends with one of the other ducks, and now follow their new owner everywhere and are loving learning to swim on the dam.

So it's been an unusual but fun and rewarding time at the Shoalhaven branch, and just goes to show that it isn't always cats and dogs that need our help.

Five minutes

WITH RETURN SERVICEMAN JAMIE AND HIS MATE TINK

In commemoration of those who have served, we interviewed ex-serviceman Jamie Tanner to learn more about his experience and how his amazing service dog Tink has helped with his PTSD.

Q) Can you tell us a bit about your service?

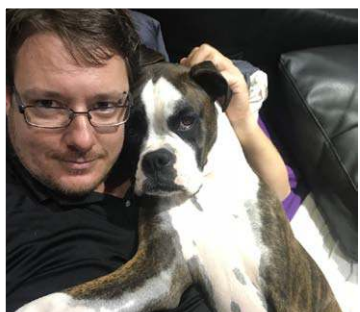
I joined the Australian Defence Force back in January 2001 when I was only 17. I went off to Kapooka in Wagga Wagga to complete my recruit training, followed by my soldier training at the school of infantry in Singleton. I was then posted to 6RAR in Brisbane. In 2002 I deployed to Malaysia for three months. I then deployed to East Timor in 2004, Iraq in 2006, Afghanistan in 2007 and 2010. By October



2011 my service has caught up with me. My body had broken down, and I had started to have problems with my mental health to a point where I could no longer serve and was subsequently medically discharged.

Q) How has your life changed since getting Tink?

My family and I thought that I might benefit from having a service dog to support me with my mental health and started to look into options available and how to go about it.



We got Tink as an 8-week old pup and decided that we would go through the training as a pair (Tink and I). That was one of the best decisions I could have ever made. Before Tink, I couldn't even go to the shops or out to dinner. Once Tink and I began to go out to public places together,

I began to do more and started to socialise more. I've now got to a point

where I don't always need Tink to come with me.

She has changed my life and changed the lives of my family by helping me. She picks me up when I'm having nightmares and wakes me up with kisses or sometimes will lay on my chest, so it's just enough to bring me out of a traumatic dream without completely waking me up.

Q) How important is Tink to you and why?

Tink is just as important to me as my wife and kids. She has been and continues to be something in my life that helps me get through each day. Whether it's going out or just hanging out at home, she has this amazing ability to pick up on my mood and do things to change me from a dark place to a good spot. Without Tink there is no way I'd be where I am today.

Q) In your day to day life how does Tink help?

She's able to pick up on my anxiety and do things to take my focus away and change my train of thought. It's not just me that she does this for. I have numerous friends who she has done the same thing for when they are stressing out about something. Mark Slater, AWL NSW CEO, is just one of the people who has been on the receiving end of her abilities. ●





Bunny Basics

Pets

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BRINGING A BUNNY HOME

With their soft and adorable faces, their quiet nature and conveniently small stature, rabbits are a popular choice for a first family pet. While these captivating critters can certainly make affectionate and entertaining fur friends, there is much to consider before bringing a bunny into your home or garden.

The well-loved domestic rabbit can live for 10 to 12 years, so preparing for a longer term commitment of care is important. Protecting your rabbit's welfare over the years means understanding their unique dietary requirements and learning to read bunny body language! An ability to recognise fearful and abnormal behaviours in your bunny pal will help you to identify potential health concerns and will ensure you always know how to keep your rabbit comfortable and content.

Housing

Choosing an appropriate space to house your rabbit starts with deciding whether your new family member will live inside or outside, or a combination of both. Any form of bunny housing will need to offer plenty of places to hide, as well as space for exercise and exploration.

Hutches and aviaries make good permanent outdoor homes, provided they protect your bunny from extremes such as weather, potential predators, and disease (a bit of fly screen or shade cloth keeps

disease-carrying mosquitos at bay!). While "house bunnies" enjoy the luxury of regular interaction with their humans, as well as plenty of environmental stimulation, they too can encounter trouble in the shape of power chords and other chew hazards. It is natural for rabbits to chew to keep their teeth trim and healthy, so covering up precious items and encasing power chords in plastic tubing will keep your bunny from injuring themselves or your belongings while they indulge in their favourite habits. Rabbits like to keep their living space clean and when given the opportunity will opt to the toilet in a designated area. Offering a litter tray to an inside or outside bunny keeps them happy and contains a mess.

Handling

As cute and cuddly as the rabbit is portrayed in fairy tales, our bunny friends are naturally very fearful when their feet leave solid ground.

After all, the rabbit is a prey species that seeks underground shelter to hide from predators! While they may

fit snugly in the arms of a child, bunnies often do not appreciate being picked up and held off the

floor, and they may struggle

to get out of your grasp. A rabbit's quick movements and strong hind legs can inflict accidental injury on the person doing the holding and bunnies can sometimes even injure themselves in their panic to be released. So it is important to consider both natural and observed behaviours when interacting with rabbits. Learning to "speak rabbit" will help build a firm bond of trust between you and your big-eared friend, and not much compares to witnessing the joyous zooms and binkies of a healthy, happy bunny!

Bunnies can be amazing companions, but remember (just like other pets) they are a big commitment and should not be given as gifts unless the recipient is prepared to care for them. ●





Happytails

Nemo

AFTER SPENDING 446 DAYS IN OUR CARE, FABULOUS NEMO FINALLY FOUND HIMSELF A NEW FOREVER HOME - JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

We were determined that Nemo would not spend a second Christmas at our Kemps Creek Shelter and set out to get as much help as possible to find this gorgeous boy the loving family he deserves.

Nemo's plea was picked up by the *Daily Telegraph* in late December - his story was shared over 160 times and seen by over 40,000 people.

Despite being a charismatic, and affectionate boy, Nemo was overlooked time and time again. Being a 'tuxedo' black and white cat significantly reduced his chances of being adopted, and it also didn't help that Nemo didn't want to share the spotlight with any other feline friends. Being middle aged at the age of six also wasn't helping...



To make matters worse, Nemo has Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) - treated with a special diet readily available at major pet retailers. Despite his condition being easily managed, it still deterred potential adopters from meeting this cool dude.

After some serious campaigning for this special cat, the day finally came when Nemo would be the lucky one to be picked! His new owner Daniel came to visit him on a Thursday, and after much thought and consideration, Daniel came back the following Monday to take Nemo home. We couldn't be happier for our Nemo who was now on his way to live the spoilt life he deserves. Be a good boy Nemo, we miss you! ●



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



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