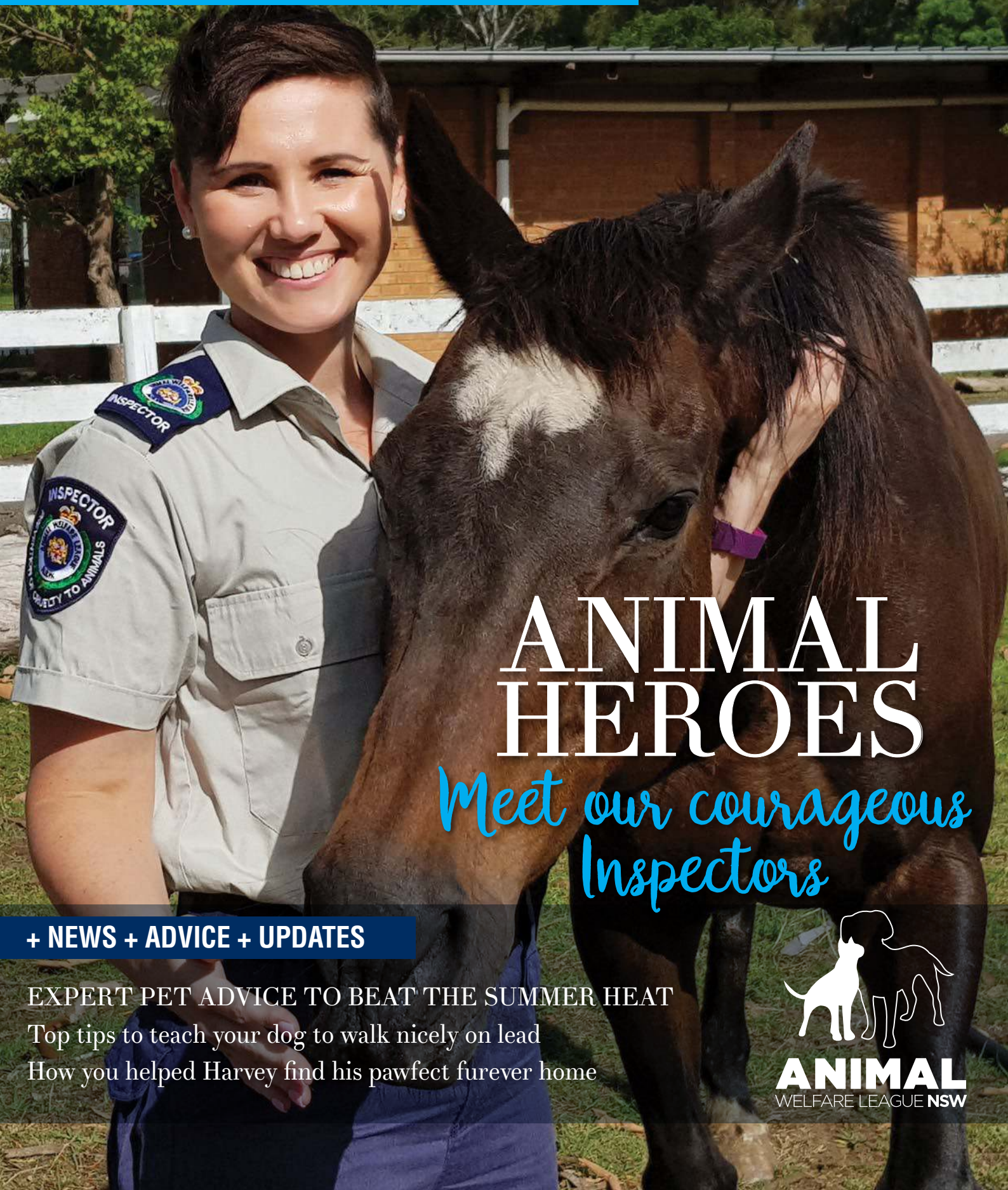


# LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2018



## ANIMAL HEROES

Meet our courageous  
Inspectors

+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES

EXPERT PET ADVICE TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

Top tips to teach your dog to walk nicely on lead

How you helped Harvey find his pawfect furever home



**ANIMAL**  
WELFARE LEAGUE NSW





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## Message from Editor-in-Chief Rusty



This year has almost gone as fast as me! Summer can be a great time to spend outdoors, and I can't wait to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with my hoomans. Just remember that some yummy smelling festive foods don't always agree with us dogs and if like me you hate LOUD noises, be sure to stay safe inside on New Year's Eve to avoid those scary fireworks! The holiday heat can be a terrible time for my squishy-faced friends so my mate Simone has shared her awesome Summer tips to help keep your pet cool. Just one last bark to remind everyone to keep their best friend's microchip details up to date and stay safe this holiday season.

Until next time pawsome suppawters,  
love *Rusty*

Rusty

## President's Message

DAVID HOPE, PRESIDENT

Welcome to the last edition of *Love Tails* for 2018. It has been an amazing year of development and growth with a phenomenal amount of animals rescued, rehomed and desexed in our care. As we reflect on the year that was, I want to make note of the fantastic work our volunteer branches have achieved. Fond highlights for me include the extraordinary amount of animals rehomed through our Moree branch – over 350 in the last financial year and just recently, the Eurobodalla branch held its annual Tailwagger's Walk which was a great success, and wonderful to see the support from some of the other branches. Our last edition of *Love Tails* featured a great story on the Shoalhaven branch caring for the homeless and their pets – an inspiring program they run every month. Speaking of programs, congratulations to Western Suburbs who are going from strength to strength with their desexing program. It's great to see such an effort in reducing the number of unwanted litters. On a sadder note, you may have heard that we recently lost Pat Gotch who was a life member of our Western Suburbs branch. Pat was a kind and selfless woman who dedicated over 40 years of volunteering to Animal Welfare League NSW and assisted with over 3000 animal rescues. She was truly a remarkable lady dedicated to loving animals, and we thank her for her tireless work saving lives.

In other news, the upcoming holiday period is always a busy time for us and even more so for our Inspectors. Being one of only three organisations empowered to investigate animal cruelty matters, I believe the need for your support to help keep them on the roads has never been greater. We have a great feature on our Inspectors included in this edition so I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Finally, I wish you and your families a safe and happy festive celebration and look forward to working with you all next year to continue our important work of helping animals in NSW. ●

David Hope, President

## About Animal Welfare League NSW

Animal Welfare League NSW is a registered charity that has been operating for 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.



**LOVE***tails*

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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](http://awlsw.com.au) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AWLNSW](https://www.facebook.com/AWLNSW)

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# A Tailwagging time

The AWL Eurobodalla Branch held its annual 'Tailwaggers Walk' on September 16 in Narooma. The event was enjoyed by many local families who walked their canine companions along the sparkling waters of Wagonga Inlet while raising funds for their local AWL branch.

The branch volunteers helped man the rest stops during the walk ensuring every man and their dog could enjoy some cool shade and have a refreshing drink. It was reported that a few sneaky pats were made and lots of puppy cuddles were had too!

After the walk, people were encouraged to join in the fun and festivities of the event which included lots of fun dog competitions, games and a parade. Congratulations to little Lucy for winning the 'happiest dog' prize. The event celebrations also included free vet checks, live music, stalls and a valuable Q&A session on dog training tips with Behaviourist Rosalie Hicks.

In true community spirit, the event was supported by additional AWL branches. Aaron Heiler of Jervis Bay brought his rehomed greyhounds Sweetie and Stella with him to attend the Tailwagger's Walk and promote other greyhounds available for adoption. Bringing the cute factor, eight gorgeous puppies from Far South Coast branch were also brought along to the event - a huge thanks to Wendy Cook and Glenys Curry for transporting them! The puppies were swooned by a crowd of admirers with one lucky puppy being adopted and finding their forever home on the day. In fact, the puppies were such a success that plans are already being made for more dogs in care to join the event next year.

The collaboration resulted in a successful day and almost \$1000 was raised to assist the rehoming of unwanted companion animals. President of the Eurobodalla Branch, Clare Hooper, would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Tailwagger's Walk. "The atmosphere on the day was fantastic and I think a great time was had by everyone. We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year!"●



*Great Dane LeRoy and pal Bundy, walked their owners along the Narooma foreshore to support the annual Tailwagger's Walk.*



*Heading off on the 2018 Eurobodalla AWL Tailwagger's Walk.*



*Winner of the Happiest Dog Competition was Lucy with her owner Naomi Stefan and being patted by Rosalie Hicks.*



*Leonie Fergusson, President of the Jervis Bay AWL branch with Aaron Heiler, Director and Board member for AWL NSW with his rescue greyhounds, Sweetie and Stella.*



*Visitors to the Tailwagger's Walk event included animal behaviour expert Rosalie Hicks, AWL director Aaron Heiler and some of the Eurobodalla branch volunteers.*



*Pups in care with the Far South Coast Branch brought up the tail end of the Tailwagger's Walk for the AWL Eurobodalla Branch.*





# Five minutes

## WITH INSPECTOR JAMIE

Inspector Jamie Wakefield is a passionate and busy animal advocate, working hard to save animals from cruelty and neglect. We were lucky enough to have a quick chat with Jamie to learn what it's really like to be an AWL NSW Inspector.

### Q) How long have you been an Inspector with AWL NSW?

I have been an Inspector at AWL NSW since February 2015 — almost four years!

### Q) What inspired you to become an Inspector?

I've had a love for animals from an early age. Becoming an Inspector gave me the opportunity to help animals in their time of need.

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

There is no average day as an Inspector at Animal Welfare League NSW. One minute I could be at court prosecuting people for serious animal cruelty offences and the next minute I could be digging out sheep that are stuck in the mud. Every day is totally different. As an Inspector you deal with a diverse number of people across the state of NSW whilst responding to animal cruelty concerns. I love this interaction and having the capacity to educate the members of the community in relation to animal welfare.

### Q) Is there a favourite rescue story you'd like to share?

Recently I was called to a location in Western Sydney where two sheep were stuck in a dried up dam due to the severe drought conditions. I spent the next four hours digging these poor sheep from their muddy predicament. I love these rescue jobs because many animals would certainly die without the intervention of Inspectors from Animal Welfare League NSW. I really feel like I am making a difference.

### Q) What is your favourite part of the job?

Diversity. Every day is different and I get to make a difference when dealing with members of the public and helping animals. For the serious cruelty complaints I get great satisfaction in prosecuting offenders under 'The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act' and bringing them before a court and having them dealt with by a magistrate. Its justice for the animals that have suffered

### Q) What is your least favourite part of the job?

Seeing animals suffer. Owning an animal is very easy. Primarily all they need is food, water, shelter, vet treatment and LOVE. I hate seeing animals suffer.

### Q) Do you have any pets?

I have a Border Collie named 'Marley' and a cat named 'Scooter'

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

In my spare time, I love to spend quality time with my friends and family

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

AWL NSW is an extremely important organisation. We are on the front foot in relation to animal welfare, especially the Inspectors as we are on the front line fighting for the rights and welfare of animals across the state of NSW. We rely on generous donors to keep us on the roads prosecute cruelty cases.

### Q) Any words of advice for anyone who may want to become an Inspector?

This is a tough job but incredibly rewarding. My recommendation for anyone considering becoming an Inspector is to have a true love for animals and animal welfare. You will need to have thick skin and be resilient. You will be exposed to absolutely horrific and distressing scenes and need to be able to remain calm and composed. My last tip would be to look into courses; investigation, animal, communication. Study as much as you can because every job as an Inspector is so different. ●



*Inspector Jamie with Nitro, found as an emaciated stray. Nitro's owners were prosecuted and fined for neglect.*



## INCREDIBLE ANIMAL HEROES

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS AND DEDICATED WORK OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE NSW INSPECTORATE TEAM

Animal Welfare League NSW is proud to have a team of dedicated Inspectors on the road everyday investigating cruelty cases and educating the community about responsible pet ownership. The team work tirelessly to ensure that neglected and abused animals are removed from cruel situations and that suspected cases are responded to immediately.

Our Inspectors investigate complaints against all kinds of animals in all kinds of situations. Many of these complaints are simple matters of educating owners on their responsibilities and may be given a warning. Sadly some reports are more tragic and these cruelty cases are referred to the courts for prosecution. Our Inspectors have the power to remove animals from owners who are cruel, neglectful or indifferent to their animals' suffering, and some of the most common complaints we receive are failure to provide adequate and proper food, shelter or veterinary treatment. In fact, the Animal Welfare League NSW Inspectorate team is one of only three regulatory bodies in NSW authorised to prosecute under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979).

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA) is the legislation that governs animal welfare in NSW. Its objectives are:

- to prevent cruelty to animals,
- to promote the welfare of animals by requiring a person in charge of an animal
- to provide care for the animal,
- to treat the animal in a humane manner
- to ensure the welfare of the animal

AWL NSW Inspectors are responsible for enforcement and investigation in relation to the prevention of cruelty to animals. In addition to investigating cruelty reports, our Inspectors also rescue animals and assist with the management of wildlife, livestock and companion animals during emergencies and disasters, and inspect pet shops, sale yards, abattoirs, livestock operations, breeding establishments, and places where animals are kept and used for public entertainment. ●



# 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 8899 3333.

## PRINCESS, JUST LOOK AT HER NOW!

Princess had been left in a paddock with a severely injured hind leg mid last year. When Inspector Rowe found her, she was starving and in extreme pain. We lovingly rehabilitated her and watched her gain weight week by week, and when she was ready, Princess was adopted by one of our equine-loving volunteers, Maria. Princess now lives the good life with Maria and her family, as well as with a pony friend Milly.



After issuing multiple warnings to an owner for failure to provide suitable food and veterinary care, a female dog who had previously been used for breeding was forfeited to the AWL NSW Inspectorate team in September. After gaining much needed weight, the dog was able to rehomed and was adopted from our Kemps Creek Shelter in October.

In August, Inspector Stimson travelled to Taree to assist with Spanner, a six month old puppy who had been dumped. He was not microchipped and there was no evidence to trace how he ended up in such a bad way. Spanner was immediately brought to our veterinary clinic to operate on his broken leg and has spent the last few months rehabilitating.

Late October, Inspector Wakefield attended an address at Leppington in relation to a dog in a large enclosure with dirty drinking water. Upon arrival the dog was in a healthy condition however did have extremely dirty drinking water. An official direction was issued to the owner to provide clean drinking water immediately. This was completed and the dog now has access to suitable fresh and clean drinking water. As always Inspectors will monitor these situations to ensure on going compliance with the relevant legislation.

The AWL NSW Inspectorate team recently received an urgent call from a member of the public regarding an injured black swan found in a lake near Elizabeth Hills. The swan was desperately in need of veterinary



care as it had an injured leg and could not use it. With its injured leg, the swan was stuck in the water and could not fend for itself properly. Due to the size of the lake, many rescue attempts were made with a team of two inspectors and multiple vet nurses and animal attendants to come to its aid. Wading through thick plants and mud, a kayak was used to finally capture the swan who was taken to a specialist vet for treatment.

On 17th September, Inspector Wakefield attended an address at Wetherill Park in relation to a house to be demolished for industrial development. Numerous cats and kittens at the property needed to be rescued before the demolition process started. AWL Inspectors in consultation with other organisations rescued countless cats and kittens.

On 27th September, AWL NSW Inspectors attended Liverpool Local Court for legal proceedings against a Person Of Interest who was charged with two offences under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act: failure to provide proper and sufficient food to an animal, and being in charge of an animal and failing to provide veterinary treatment. The owner was found guilty on both charges and fined \$1000 for each offence (\$2000 total). The dog, already in protective custody of AWL NSW, was forfeited to AWL NSW and continues his rehabilitation.

In October, an AWL NSW Inspector attended a homeless shelter in Potts Points in relation to welfare concerns for a dog owned by a homeless man. The dog was found to be healthy and no welfare concerns were identified. AWL Inspectors helped the gentleman with complimentary worming, flea and tick treatment. AWL Inspectors are always willing to help people in their times of need.





# Five minutes

## WITH FOSTER CARER JESSICA WALTER

Jessica Walter loves to work with animals, and has a natural flair for caring for those in need. Jessica is currently studying her Certificate IV in vet nursing and is a great asset to our veterinary team where she is volunteering for her studies. Currently, Jessica is fostering two neonatal kittens. Purcee and Clawdia, who rely on her round-the-clock care to feed, toilet, warm and most importantly love them. We spent some time with Jessica, Purcee and Clawdia to learn more about what it really takes to become a foster carer for young kittens.

### Q) How long have you been a foster carer with AWL NSW?

Not long, this is my first litter for the AWL. I put my application in to become a foster carer in mid-September and I got Clawdia and Purcee just one week old, on the 2nd of October.

### Q) What inspired you to become a foster carer?

A very sick dog came into the veterinary clinic one day as a stray. He was found to have congestive heart failure, a collapsed trachea and it was clear he had not been taken care of properly. This precious dog inspired me to want to help care for animals like him. Sadly his condition was too extreme and he was kindly put to sleep but his story will stay with me forever. Despite his struggles, he still wagged his tail at us and he has made me want to help other animals that really need that extra love and attention in a loving home environment.

### Q) How many foster animals have you cared for so far?

I have previously taken care of three 7 week old kittens and one young cat from another rescue.

There is one special dog I have fostered that I will always remember. At a previous clinic I volunteered for, a dog was brought in as he had been hit by a car. His owners did not want to pay for his medical bills and wanted us to euthanise him. Instead, they surrendered him to the veterinary clinic and he became my first foster dog. His rehabilitation only took a month and during that time, this sad and scared little dog became happy and full of life. He was adopted very soon after he got better and I feel amazing being part of his healing process.

### Q) Do you have any of your own pets at home?

Not at the moment. I did have a dog named Missy, she was a Maltese x Silky. She was with us for 12 and a half amazing



years before she went into renal failure and we decided to help her pass along. I wear her dog tag on a chain to remind me of her every day.

### Q) What's your favourite part of being a foster carer?

Seeing the young kittens grow up. I am fairly new to fostering bottle babies but from what I've seen with Clawdia and Purcee, watching them grow and learn new things is the best part. Seeing the transformation some animals can make when they are away from the shelter makes fostering very rewarding.

### Q) What is the hardest part about foster care?

Mastering the art of waking up every 2 hours for a week and instantly falling back asleep and doing the same thing 2 hours later. Did I mention it was for an entire week?

### Q) Do you also work/volunteer/ have any major hobbies when you're not fostering?

I'm studying my vet nursing course right now so studying takes up most of my free time, but I would have to say spending time with my family and extended family with the aunties, uncles and cousins to celebrate birthdays and Christmas, it's always nice to catch up with the fam.

### Q) Any words of advice for people who want to become a foster carer?

Have a support network to help you. Having someone you can message or text at any time of the day to ask questions about poop really helps! I have some great friends who love to gush over how cute they are too! Just remember that it's a tough job, there's no pay, you're going to get pooped on, peed on, you're going to be tired all the time and you can't take them everywhere you go. They may be terrified, vulnerable or very sick and your heart is going to break when you have to give them away or they pass away. It's a tough job, but only the best kind of people get to do it. ●



## Looking for superhumans to care for those in need

Spring marks the beginning of 'Kitten Season' and AWL NSW has already started to see litters being brought into care. Those babies under 1kg will find themselves being placed into foster care, until they are old enough to be desexed.

The foster program is comprised a myriad of generous volunteers who open up their homes to animals in need of specialised care that we cannot provide at a shelter environment. Not only does it allow us to expand the capacity of animals we can help, it also provides socialisation that is second to none. Many kittens come in with poor health and no previous interaction with humans, so the intensive care and attention they receive with a foster family

means faster healing time and an abundance of confidence that is so desirable when people are looking for a forever pet.

Sadly we also see neonatal kittens come into the shelter. Perhaps their mum has died or had to abandon them before they are old enough to fend for themselves. We are always looking for people to foster this age group and those people are hard to come by. Between the ages of 1 day and 4 weeks old, these kittens need to be bottle fed every few hours around the clock. Much like a newborn baby. Most people don't realise how much work is involved in raising young kittens and how difficult it can be emotionally, but the consistent feedback we receive from our carers is, just how rewarding the job is. Witnessing their growth and development is simply wonderful and when they find out their kittens have found their forever home, it makes it all worthwhile.

To enquire about joining our foster program, please contact [fostercare@awlsw.com.au](mailto:fostercare@awlsw.com.au) ●



# Vet Advice



SUMMER TIPS FOR YOUR PET BY DR SIMONE MAHER, CHIEF VETERINARIAN

## SUMMER DAYS

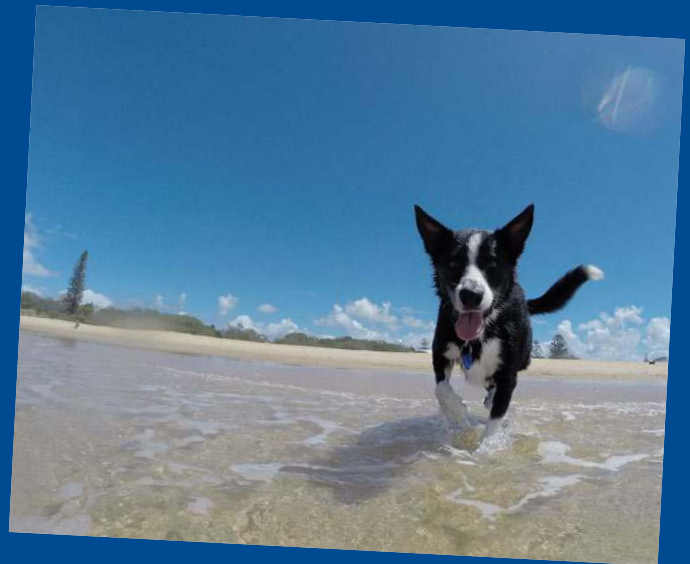
I have a mantra that I repeat to myself every year in the aftermath of Christmas. "Start preparing for Christmas in September – because once you're in the 'bers, Christmas will be here before you know it". This year I even enlisted colleagues to send me memes and messages to keep me on track. But wouldn't you know it, it's happened again.

So if you're anything like me, it may be that summer has come as something of a surprise. Again. To make sure you're prepared in terms of caring for your non-human family members, here are some tips to help you through the hot days and holiday period.

Brachycephalic breed dogs are increasingly popular. If you have a pooch with a flat profile (think French bulldogs and pugs), you really need to make sure you are equipped to protect them from the heat. These little fellas have decreased ability to cool themselves through panting and overheat rapidly, particularly in humid conditions (even if the day isn't that hot). Walk these pups only in the cool of the morning and evening and ideally use a harness rather than neck collar if they pull on-leash (even better, start some loose-leash training!). Ideally keep them indoors in air conditioning when the mercury is set to soar (why not see if your workplace will allow your well-behaved dog to accompany you to work? Many studies have shown the beneficial impact this can have on mental health and wellbeing...). If your dog is outdoors, provide multiple water sources, a shaded area and even frozen treats that can be licked or lain on (ice cream containers are the perfect receptacle!).

If you suspect your dog is suffering heat stress, immediate action is necessary as this can be fatal. Running cold tap water over them and wrapping in cold wet towels en route to the vet can be the first aid that saves their life. Once at the clinic, your vet will likely need to start intravenous fluids and possibly even anaesthetise your dog to maintain breathing and oxygenation.

Remember most of our pets are at risk of heat stress, not just short-nosed dogs. Old and very young cats and dogs need extra care. Rabbits, guinea pigs and birds can suffer sudden death if the temperature spikes and they have been left out in the sun without anywhere to escape the heat. Make sure you move these little critters inside. Ice packs can be placed in with pocket pets and aviaries can be misted with water to keep the temperature down.



If you're heading away over Christmas, make sure you've booked well ahead for "vacation care" (pet boarding) including ensuring vaccinations are up to date. These take about 2 weeks to be fully effective so a minimum of a fortnight before is recommended. For cats in particular, finding someone to mind them in their own home is ideal if you can manage it – cats on the whole are not at all fond of change and disruption.

If you're intending on taking your pets with you on holiday, make sure you investigate the local health risks. Tick prevention is essential in many coastal areas (making sure you commence as per the label recommendations to ensure your pet is covered by the time you arrive). Up north, heartworm is more prevalent so make sure this is up to date.

So take a few sensible precautions, and your pets can enjoy summer as much as you do. And remember – next year, start your Christmas shopping in September. I'll try and remind you. ●





## FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

## SUZIE'S STORY

I had changed owners several times and I was becoming quite insecure. Next thing I was pregnant and at about 4 weeks I was surrendered to the pound. I panicked in the pound being left alone and it was very cold too. Fortunately, on 14th August 2018, Animal Welfare League saved me and I went to live with foster carer Melissa. Melissa quickly made me a whelping box and gave me several beds to rest wherever I wanted to and her two little girls liked to play with me. I spent time with Melissa's other animals, and I went to the beach for the first time but I didn't run much because my time was getting close. The next day I had a bath to get ready for the big event. While I was resting, the little girls practiced being my vet and I was feeling very loved. On the 8th September 2018, 9.30pm my puppies started to arrive. The seventh and last puppy arrived about 2:15am and I did it all by myself, one girl followed by six boys, different colours but all perfect. We like snuggling together. Melissa says that all the puppies have their own little personalities and that I'm a REALLY good mum. Thank you to everyone who has helped me. Now I'm safe and happy and my puppies are beautiful.



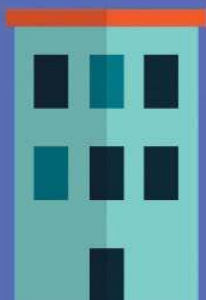
## GREAT LAKES AND MANNING BRANCH

## GREAT LAKES AND MANNING

### 2017-2018 STATISTICS



Grand total of 659 de-sexings and  
91 animals rehomed



ASSISTED 117 SICK  
AND INJURED  
ANIMALS WITH  
URGENT VET WORK



*And a big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, vets, and other community supporters who help all this work to happen!*

## HAWKESBURY VALLEY BRANCH

One of our wonderful foster carer's has been making knitted jumpers for tiny kittens. These jumpers come in handy for the young kittens that come into our care and need to be kept warm or if they have low body temperatures. One such kitten is Mouse who came into our care after being handed into Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. Mouse had been caught in a full-sized cat trap and looked like a tiny mouse sitting in it. After spending some much needed time in foster care and receiving lots of love and attention, Mouse has now found her new forever home.

## MOREE BRANCH



Nina and poppy proudly showing off Gumnut and Dewdrop, two little puppies who were born while their terrier x mum Skye was in the pound. The Moree branch is kept busy with dogs and puppies locally and from further afield. A wonderful lady from the far west has been rescuing unwanted litters of Border Collie x puppies and fostering them for us until we can collect them. One litter has been rehomed with another due to come in shortly.







## NAROOMA BRANCH – DOG TRAINING CLUB

### EDUCATION IS OUR FOCUS

We focus our volunteer efforts on canine education – training handlers and their pet dogs, assisting owners with dogs that display challenging behaviours, and generally educating the public in a range of issues that relate to responsible pet dog ownership.

NDTC presents informative monthly articles in local newspapers. In October the message was one of warning: Watch out – ticks about! The Far South Coast of NSW has a very high incidence of ticks, and the warm weather and recent rain has brought them out in droves! We all know how devastating a tick bite can be, so alerting the public is important. The paralysis tick can be fatal to the family dog if not detected early enough.

Recently our Chief Instructor, Yve Robinson, was interviewed on ABC Regional Radio. The key topic of discussion was dog attacks on livestock in the Eurobodalla and Bega Shires. Understandably, farmers and graziers in these areas are up in arms about this occurrence. It appears that some of the dogs in question were domestic animals that had been left to roam free. Our President Steve Genner told us of his first-hand knowledge of one dog that, although it appeared to be in good condition and well loved, had no tag or collar and was not microchipped. The sad result was that this dog ended up in the pound being cited as a “dangerous dog”.



Photo credit: Rosy Williams

## NORTH COAST BRANCH

### MICROCHIPS REALLY DO WORK

Mishka the cat was adopted from us in October 2013 at 5 years old. Her lovely new family took her home and settled her in. That night a wild storm blew screens off their windows and Mishka escaped. They spent long hours over the following months looking for her, but eventually came to accept that she was gone. Lost in a storm and found in a storm! A poorly cat was taken into a local vet during recent bad weather, and thank goodness she was microchipped and her owner's contact details up-to-date. Mishka had some injuries and was covered in ticks, but thankfully had no signs of tick poisoning. After 5 years of living rough she still has the sweetest temperament, and is lapping up the love and attention the family are giving her to make up for the 5 years they missed with her. They are at a loss to explain how she managed to survive against cars, foxes, wild dogs, snakes, ticks and cane toads. Such a beautiful outcome for Mishka and her family, all due to her being microchipped. May she go on to live a long and happy life.

## ORANGE BRANCH

### BEAR'S STORY SO FAR

Bear was found by a lovely couple in Emu Swamp. He had wandered onto their property, probably in search for food and water. Who knows how long he was out there for or why/ how he got there. The sad reality is, we get a lot of dogs dumped in our bushes out here and that could be a possible reason for him being out there.

The couple took care of him for a few days and he took up a permanent sleeping spot on their outdoor lounge whilst they searched for animal welfare assistance. We saw his post on Facebook and we offered our assistance. It broke our hearts seeing his pictures and we knew we wanted to help him. One of our foster carers went out to pick him up. He was shy at first but eventually came up to our carer and allowed her to touch him gently. They let him come to them, so they could gain his trust.

On his initial vet visit no microchip could be found. The vets think he's around 3 years old and could be Dane x Arab. He weighed only 35kgs when he came in. He is still unable to digest any high calorie food and is on a diet of boiled chicken and rice. He has pressure sores on his hips and is on two different types of antibiotics. He had a lot of sun damage on his face and especially his nose. Vet follow ups are each fortnight.

He is in his foster home now and has around the clock care. His foster family named him Bear. He's loving the company of his two foster fur brothers and fur sister. He's still unsure about sounds outside and it's like he's still on the lookout for danger. He's such a sweetheart and looks at you with broken eyes. I know we will see his smile and sparkle in his eyes eventually. Even just in this last week we have seen positive changes in his behaviour as he's slowly starting to relax.



## SHOALHAVEN

The Shoalhaven Branch has been working to increase public awareness of the AWL Subsidised desexing program. We have entered into an agreement with our local shelter to hold voucher days at the shelter on the second Saturday of each month. Pets can be brought along to be scanned and if needed microchipped or their details updated by the shelter staff and then we issue the desexing vouchers. This makes it easier for people to find us and makes it easier for our volunteers who issue the vouchers. So far there has been a very positive response.

We also advertise the desexing program whilst out in the community fundraising, though we did get a few amused looks and photos by passersby on our Father's Day Raffle table before we realised suggesting desexing on a father's day stand may not have been the best thought out plan!



### WESTERN SUBURBS AND HILLS DISTRICT BRANCH

Western Suburbs & Hills District Branch has been as busy as ever, arranging desexing vouchers for as many animals as possible and rehoming cats and kittens. With the cat and kitten population being out of control in the geographic area covered by the branch, one of the challenges faced is how to find loving homes for the many timid kittens who have not had a good start in life. Many of these kittens are not born into a loving home environment and some are born in such horrible conditions that it is surprising they survive at all.

However, thanks to the Branch Cat Welfare Officer, Jeanette and a dedicated team of volunteers who have developed expertise in assessing such kittens and getting them

ready for adoption, the rewards can be amazing. Some owners are so delighted with their new companion that they keep in touch months, and sometimes years, after adoption.

Obviously timid cats and kittens do need to be rehomed with people who understand that a new environment with new people can be very challenging for the cats and kittens, however with love, understanding and some patience, these cats can turn into fabulous pets. Western Suburbs and Hills District Branch would like to encourage potential new owners to please consider how rewarding it can be to take one of these special cats to provide a future which is full of happiness and comfort.

# Pet Training Advice

THE PROBLEM WITH RETRACTABLE LEADS BY KAREN RIDDELL, ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR TRAINER



## RETRACTABLE LEADS – GOOD, BAD OR UGLY?

When you mention retractable leads, everyone seems to have a strong opinion about them. People either love them or hate them and there is no in-between. As in most things in life the truth is somewhere in the middle. If you know how to use a retractable lead, they can be a great addition to your walking toolbox. If used incorrectly they can be dangerous to both people and dogs.

Retractable leads are not a training tool and should only be used with dogs already trained to follow verbal commands. An untrained dog pulling hard on a retractable leash, far from their guardian's side, can be almost impossible to control and sadly, many dogs have run onto traffic, into other dog's, and even caused rope burn simply by rushing at something without an ability to be called back.

Retractable leads are best used outside of urban environments, in parks that require leashes. The handle can be easily dropped so it's a great idea to add your own security loop so that it remains attached to your wrist at all times. Without adding this safety feature, leashes can rocket towards the dog when dropped, injuring small dogs and scaring all dogs with a heavy handle bouncing on the ground behind them, appearing to 'chase' them.

When to use retractable leads

- When your dog is fully trained and under verbal control
- When you are in a park or another less populated environment
- When you have a safety loop connected to your wrist

**At other times, or with dogs that are not under verbal control, it is best to stick to a good quality standard leash.**

You can teach your dog the verbal skills needed to use a retractable leash by practicing at home and while out on walks using your regular leash. The best place to start teaching loose-leash walking is in the place that the dog spends most of his time.

Pick a spot where you would like your dog to walk, it doesn't matter if it is on your left or right and in that spot imagine a circle. Start walking and any time your dog steps into the imaginary circle, say "YES!" and give him a treat. It's best to start learning this in the backyard with the dog off lead. Wander around your yard saying "YES!" and treating whenever your dog steps into your imaginary circle. Soon your dog will have figured out where the circle is. You can then ask him to walk with you within that circle for 1 step before he gets a treat. When he is good at that you can expect him to be in the circle for 2 steps before he gets a treat. When your dog is capable of walking with you within that circle for 5 or 6 steps you can attach his lead.

Be very careful that you do not use the lead to pull him into the imaginary circle. If you pull him into the imaginary circle then the lead is tight! Remember that if he pulls on an extendable leash that it will extend and teach him that pulling works. We want our dogs to learn that when the lead is tight we don't move.

Once the leash is on you can put it all together. Reward walking within the circle and stop the instant the lead goes tight. Remember you can reward your dog in different ways. When he is walking nicely you can point out an interesting object for him to investigate or start a game of on-lead chasings. When he is good at this game you can play the same game on your front porch, in your front yard, on the footpath and in the park. ●





# Remembering PAT GOTCH

## LIFE MEMBER OF AWL NSW WESTERN SUBURBS

GOTCH, PATRICIA ALEY  
06.07.1932 – 09.10.2018

**Pat Gotch was an outstanding woman, dedicating over 40 years of volunteering to Animal Welfare League, and assisted with over 3000 animal rescues.**

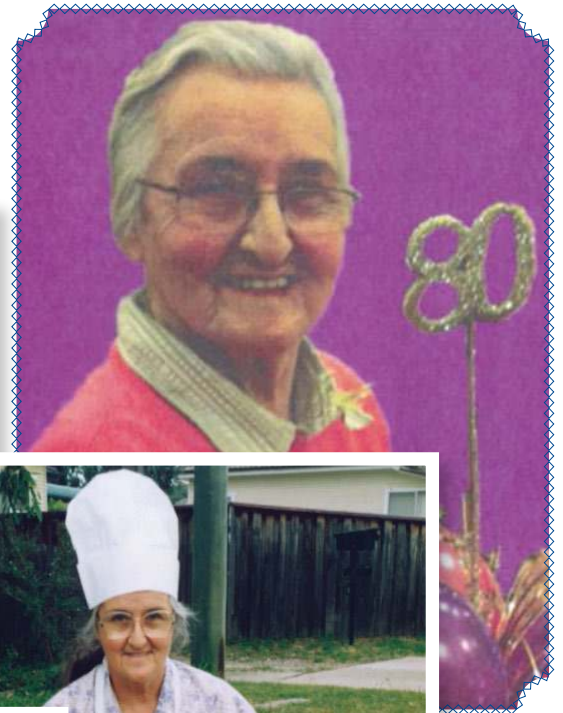
Pat was a founding member of the Western Suburbs and Hills District branch in the early 90's. She soon became the treasurer of the branch and from there her amazing journey with Western Suburbs began. Pat was well known as an avid animal lover and opened her home to many stray and abandoned animals from Blacktown pound. Pat led the way in ensuring that the branch would try and take in as many animals as possible from the pound with the aim to desex, vaccinate and microchip them before helping them find their forever homes. To help achieve this, Pat's acre block was divided and converted into pens where animals could rest before they were rehomed.

Pat was well known in the local community. Most of the 3000 animals she helped rehome were dogs, however there was a very special rescue horse and a pony which the locals would frequently visit and bring leftover vegetables to. Pat's home was certainly known in the community as a safe haven for rescue animals.

During her time, Pat helped established a community desexing program which encouraged members of the community to desex their pets. The program assisted low-income earners to help desex their pets to reduce the amount of unwanted litters. Pat's community efforts have pioneered the way for other AWL NSW branches who now also follow the same or a similar program.

A celebration of her life was held on the 18th October in the North Chapel at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. A variety of animal lovers came to honour Pat including those from Blacktown Pound, local veterinary clinics, members of the AWL Westerns Suburbs branch and staff from Animal Welfare League NSW.

Leaving an outstanding legacy, Pat was truly a remarkable lady dedicated to loving animals and we thank her for her tireless work saving lives. ●



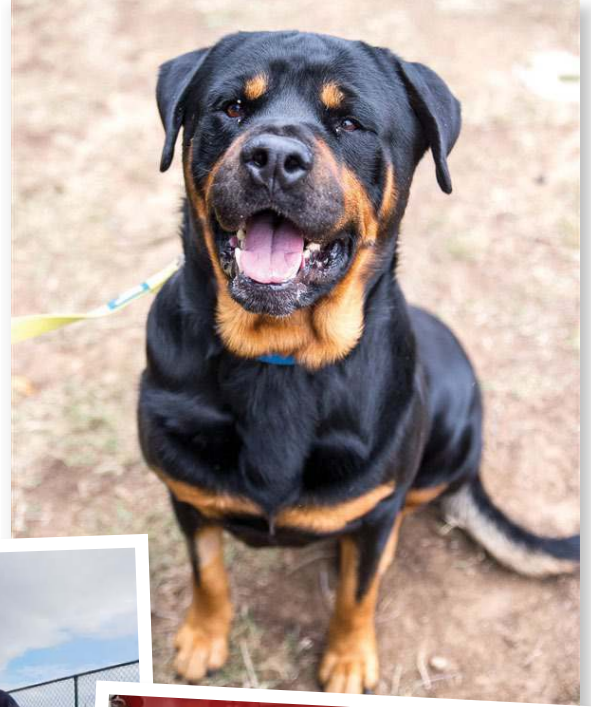
### A Shelter Dog's Poem

Once upon a time, you see, there was a little pup:  
For reasons unbeknownst to me, his family gave him up.  
Maybe it was chewing everything that he could find  
Maybe they were busy and just didn't have the time.  
They took him to the shelter and they just left him there  
Outside, alone, in the cage shivering and scared.  
Even though they knew inside, if he went through those doors  
He may never have the chance to find a home like yours.  
He sat there crying silently wondering what he did  
That was so bad that they just had to leave him like they did.  
However fate was smiling on that little pup that day  
Because a lady named Pat saw him and she whisked him right away.  
He got a second chance at life that others may have not  
And now he's in a loving home with everything he wants.  
Every day he gets that love that he was looking for  
And silently is thankful for when Pat walked through that door.



# Happytails

## Harvey



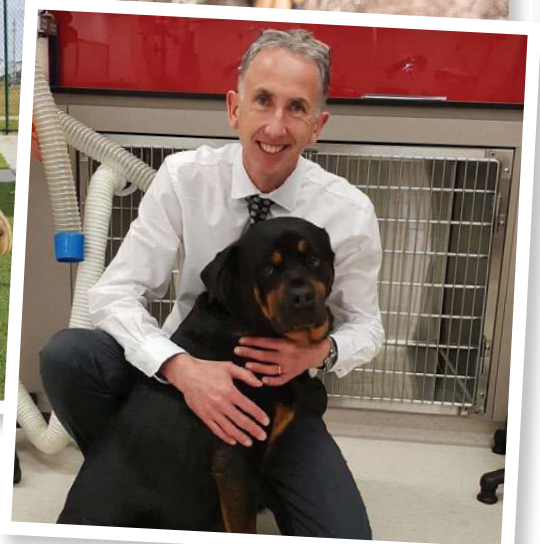
### THE BEST LIFE FOR HARVEY THANKS TO YOU!

Originally Javier, **Harvey** is a one-in-a-million kind of dog. He has the biggest heart, he's gorgeous and clever too. He's like a big teddy bear in a Rottweiler body and he stole the hearts of our vet and shelter staff when he came to us a few months ago. Despite his happy-go-lucky character, Harvey was in constant pain and discomfort and needed an urgent hip replacement. He was suffering from hip dysplasia in his right leg, causing chronic pain and muscle wastage. A visit to an orthopaedic specialist confirmed what our vets suspected – to allow him to live a happy, comfortable life Javier needed a total hip replacement. This would relieve the discomfort he felt at every step where the bones of the hip were grinding uncomfortably. With an urgent plea and your generous support, we were able to raise over \$6000 for the specialist surgery and his rehabilitation.

Harvey's story could not have had a better outcome and it's all thanks to kind hearted people like you. Not only was he able to have his surgery, but he was adopted by his orthopaedic surgeon Dr David Lidbetter. Harvey now spends his days in the clinic with David and then goes home with him every evening. Harvey is surrounded by love and his new family adore him.

We couldn't think of a more perfect home for him. Dr Lidbetter is devoted to Harvey and says "He's just the best dog. We're so happy to have him."

Have a wonderful life Harvey! ●



### 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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