

# LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2020

## COVID-19 and your pet



  
**covid-19**  
support

**+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES**

**COVID-19 – VET ADVICE FOR PET OWNERS**

How pets improve our mental health

Become an AWL NSW foster carer



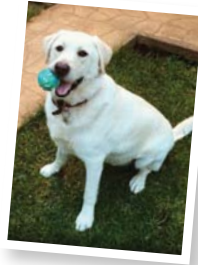


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## Message from Editor-in-Chief Ollie



'Dog watched his human cry, concerned. Where was his human's smile? Probably lost somewhere, dog thought. That was OK. Dog knew how to fetch.'

The hoomans have been home a lot. They look lost, unsure on how to embrace this lifestyle. I've been doing my best to help by taking my hooman on lots of walks and sharing my favourite ball with them. We've been having lots of cuddles on the lounge and watching something called moofies? I've loved all this extra time we've been spending together. If you also have some spare time on your hands, my friends at AWL NSW made sure to include some information on page 5 about becoming a foster carer. They assured me that we'll get through these tough times together and they've developed some precautionary measures like wearing gloves and limiting visitors to make sure they can continue to help pets just like me.

Until next time pawsome supawtters,

Ollie



## 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

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## President's Message

DAVID HOPE, PRESIDENT



As I write this message in late March, the world seems to be standing on the edge of a precipice. An invisible enemy is creating an unparalleled human welfare catastrophe and threatening the civilised society we value. By comparison, the visible and familiar enemy of fire seemed manageable, though equally destructive for many. What is common to both disasters is the need for the best of human nature to triumph over self-interest and indifference.

Those ideals are exemplified in the attitude and actions of members, staff and volunteers of AWL NSW, and keeps me optimistic in these uncertain times. It has been my pleasure recently to work alongside some of the most dedicated and talented young people I've known. Whether at bushfire evacuation centres, or on vaccinating and desexing drives, their limitless enthusiasm, drive and passion for their work has been inspiring, and those characteristics are universal across the organisation. If AWL NSW were representative of the world, then the future would be assured.

Although dwarfed by current human health initiatives, the work of animal welfare continues. Be assured the animals in our care are receiving the same high standards of treatment as always, and within current constraints, AWL NSW is using its facilities to help many animals whose lives have been impacted alongside their owners.

The world will recover but never be the same, and AWL NSW will change and grow as well. We will learn from our experience of the disasters and will face the future with renewed strength in our objective to advance animal welfare. We will do so in innovative education delivery, an enlarged inspectorate and increased veterinary and rehoming services, in partnership with both our volunteer branches and other agencies.

Once again, I thank you for the support you have given to continue this invaluable, ongoing work. ●

*David Hope, President*

## CONTACT US

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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# COVID-19 AND YOUR PET

## Advice for pet owners



**Animal Welfare League NSW Senior Veterinarians Dr. Deshaylia Moodley and Dr. Stephanie Bishop provide answers to some commonly asked questions about concerns relating to COVID-19 and our pets.**

On March 12th, 2020 the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic with the disease known as COVID-19. COVID-19 is a disease in humans caused by a coronavirus named SARS-CoV2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus 2). During this pandemic, Animal Welfare League NSW is urging pet owners to be vigilant however not to act drastically in any way that compromises the welfare of their pets.

### ARE ANIMALS SUSCEPTIBLE TO CORONAVIRUSES?

Coronavirus is a family of viruses that can affect both humans and animals. Veterinarians are familiar with forms of coronaviruses (other than SARS-CoV2) that can cause several common diseases in cats and dogs. This includes a form that causes gastroenteritis in dogs which can be vaccinated against along with another pathogen called Leptospira. However, this vaccine does not cross-protect against COVID-19.

### CAN MY DOG GET SICK FROM COVID-19?

At the time of writing, two dogs have tested 'positive' for COVID-19 in Hong Kong. In both cases the dogs belonged to humans who were already unwell from the disease indicating a human-to-animal transmission. It is important

to note that these dogs did not show any signs of the disease at any point in their quarantine period. In one case a 17-yr old Pomeranian tested positive on swabs for one week before the virus was no longer detectable. Sadly, the dog passed away a few days after returning home although it is believed this was due to other health issues in the elderly dog rather than COVID-19.

**Currently there has been no meaningful indication that pets can get sick from SARS-CoV 2, however the situation is ever-changing and more tests are currently being conducted.**

### CAN MY PET SERVE AS FOMITES IN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?

The primary route of transmission of COVID-19 is from contact with an infected individual's respiratory secretions (saliva or mucus) in a cough or sneeze.

COVID-19 can also be transmitted by contact with a contaminated surface. If an animal comes into contact with an infected individual's cough or sneeze their coat could be contaminated with the virus. Fortunately, fur is a porous surface meaning that it is more likely to trap and absorb the virus compared to a non-porous (smooth) surface such as a door handle.

However, it is always advisable to wash your hands thoroughly in warm, soapy water after interacting with any animal and always ensure your pets food and water bowls as well as bedding are regularly cleaned.



### WHAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES CAN I TAKE TO PROTECT MY PET?

Basic hand washing hygiene is important when handling and caring for your pets. Wash your hands in soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after touching your pet, handling their food or supplies.

Alcohol-based hand rub can also be used if water and soap are unavailable, rubs containing 60-80% alcohol are the most effective. Avoid kissing your pet or allowing them to lick your face.

Finally, if you have flu-like symptoms or are confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 you should limit contact with your pet. If this is unavoidable, practice good hygiene, frequent hand washing and wear a face mask around your pet.

**Remember to stay calm and if your pet exhibits signs of illness seek veterinary advice. ●**





# The Power of Pets



## HOW PET OWNERSHIP IMPROVES EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

**As many people take up social distancing and isolation guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, companion pets are helping to combat loneliness and reduce levels of anxiety and stress that many are experiencing during these uncertain times.**

The bond between owners and their pets can be powerful, and the correlation between pets and mental health is undeniable. The unconditional love of a pet can do more than just keep you company during self-isolation, pets can bring us joy, improve heart health, and even help children with their emotional and social skills. Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood – we can all benefit from a pet's emotional support right now!

The first research on pets and mental health was published around 30 years ago. Psychologist Alan Beck of Purdue University and Psychiatrist Aaron Katcher of the University of Pennsylvania conducted the study. They measured what happens to the body when a person touches a friendly dog. Here's what they found:

- Blood pressure went down
- Heart rate slowed
- Breathing became more regular
- Muscle tension relaxed.

Their findings from the study discovered physical evidence of the mental health benefits of pets. Since then, scientists have discovered much more about the connection between pets and mental health. As a result, animal-assisted therapy programs and emotional support dogs have become an important part of mental health treatment. Further studies around pets and mental health have shown that playing with animals is likely to reduce stress-related hormones and these benefits can occur after just five minutes of interacting with a pet, making them invaluable for anxiety sufferers.

Interacting with our pet can increase our levels of serotonin and dopamine. These are hormones that calm and relax the nervous system. When we smile and laugh at our pets' cute behaviour, that can help stimulate the release of these happiness hormones. A simple interaction with a friendly dog can reduce levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, and it increases the release of oxytocin—another chemical in the body that reduces stress naturally. That's why animal-assisted therapy is so powerful.



A sense of belonging and purpose is often found with pet ownership. People tend to feel more needed and wanted when they have a pet to care for, and the act of caregiving has shown to have mental health benefits. It can give us a sense of meaning and help those who suffer from depression or anxiety. As pets require daily care, they can help us build healthy habits and routines like getting up earlier in the morning or going for daily walks.

Pet ownership can also help us be more mindful as pets tend to 'live in the moment'. Mindfulness is the psychological process of bringing one's attention to the present moment, and pets can be a great way to help us get our mind off things that are worrying us or making us upset.

Our pets will help us combat the feeling of social isolation and loneliness while we all do our best to stay home during this pandemic. Pets across the country will be enjoying more quality time spent with their families and providing unconditional love no matter what. This kind of unconditional love is good for mental health as it can:

- stimulate the brain to release dopamine
- increase our feeling of social connection
- improve our self-esteem
- make us feel more optimistic, even in bleak times
- increase our cognitive function
- improve our emotional regulation skills
- reduce anxiety and depression

Remember: If you are concerned about your pet's health while you are self-isolating, don't break your quarantine – simply ring your local vet for advice. They will be able to work with you to ensure your pet receives the care they need while keeping everyone safe from potential infection. ●





**You can make a genuine difference to help prepare dogs and cats for their forever homes by becoming an AWL NSW foster carer.**

The Animal Welfare League NSW **Foster Care program** provides temporary homes for pets who need extra care such as those who are too young to be adopted, recovering from illness or surgery, are undergoing rehabilitation or finding the shelter environment too stressful. By placing pets into loving foster homes, it provides them with the support and skills they need until they are ready to be adopted into forever homes.

Our **foster carers** are a vital part of what makes AWL NSW so successful in rehoming around 2,000 animals every year. Be sure to get in touch with AWL NSW if you would like to learn more about becoming a foster carer.

# Foster Care

## AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AWL NSW FOSTER CARER

### FIVE MINUTES WITH AN AWL NSW FOSTER CARER

Are you working from home or have more spare time on your hands? Are you thinking about becoming an AWL NSW foster carer? We spoke to Russell, one of our amazing volunteers, to chat about his experience as an AWL NSW foster carer and his recent 'foster fail' Brock - a 10 year old Foxhound that had spent 820 days at our shelter before Russell came to his rescue.

### HOW LONG DID YOU FOSTER BROCK BEFORE HE BECAME A 'FOSTER FAIL'?

I was fostering 'young at heart' Brock for at least three months. He was my first and my last foster pet. Well at least for a while...

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

I was off work for a few months due to a workplace injury and I was looking for something constructive to do with my time. That's when I found AWL NSW.

### HOW MANY FOSTER ANIMALS HAVE YOU CARED FOR SO FAR?

Just the one and only. We adopted Brock officially on the 6th of January this year and haven't looked back.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING A FOSTER CARER?

Knowing that I was helping an animal heal. Brock is the sweetest dog you will ever meet but he also has what I believe are some industrial strength abandonment issues. Helping him with that, above all has been my favourite part.

### WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT FOSTER CARE?

Just like people, animals have their own unique personalities and idiosyncrasies - especially as they get older. Even more so when they have experienced trauma like Brock did. Just like people you need to learn their triggers, adapt your behaviour and be patient with them. Just because you had a similar pet at some point in the past does not mean you know better. An old dog can learn new tricks but like trying to teach a grandparent how to use the latest iPhone, it will require patience, understanding and care. That's the hardest part of fostering.

### ANY WORDS OF ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER CARER?

Fostering is such a rewarding experience, but it can take its toll on your emotions. Make sure you know

you can provide exactly what each animal needs and meet that criteria. For example, Brock is afraid of storms, so I will sleep on the floor with him so he can relax. Be ready and able to dedicate your time and love. If you can do all that, then fostering will change you for the better. ●





# ANIMAL AMBULANCE SERVICE



Animal Welfare League NSW has launched its Animal Ambulance service to assist our Inspectors with rescuing sick and injured animals. Supporting the AWL NSW Inspectorate, the AWL NSW Animal Ambulance Officer is critical in transporting animals to our Kemps Creek Veterinary Clinic to receive urgent treatment and care.

The AWL NSW Animal Ambulance Officer also assists the AWL NSW Inspectorate with emergencies, evacuation management, natural disasters and helping with AWL NSW community programs.

## Five minutes WITH AWL NSW ANIMAL AMBULANCE OFFICER, KIM WATKINS

Formerly one of our amazing Animal Attendants, Kim Watkins has extensive knowledge of animal handling and is helping more and more animals in need as the AWL NSW Animal Ambulance Officer. We had a quick chat with Kim to learn more about what a 'normal day' might look like and to learn what she loves most in her new role.

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK AT AWL NSW?

All my work history to date has been working with animals. I made the decision to join the team at AWL NSW as I knew I could have a more hands-on role which enabled me to be more proactive in the community and have a bigger impact in helping animals and their owners.

### WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY ON THE JOB LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

That is a question I cannot really answer as every day is so different and every day has a different challenge or outcome. This is what keeps me inspired to come to work every day.

### IS THERE A FAVOURITE RESCUE STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

My favourite rescue was a call from the public regarding a little Poodle x that had



got himself stuck in a children's soccer net in his backyard and was distressed. Our Inspectorate were able to cut him free which resulted in the dog being a little bruised and embarrassed. For the next half an hour while waiting for his owner to arrive home, he spent the whole time apologising and thanking us with his kisses. He knew we had helped him.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND LEAST FAVOURITE PART OF THE JOB?

My favourite part of the job is being able to save and help animals, and to educate owners in a positive way. My least favourite part of the job is when I am sadly unable to save the animal.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

I have four Welsh ponies, two chickens, two Netherland Dwarf rabbits, a cat and a dog.



### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

In my (lack of) spare time I like to show my ponies and spend as much time with family and friends.

### WHY DO YOU THINK THAT AWL NSW IS SO IMPORTANT?

AWL NSW is very important as we don't just help, save and rescue animals but we also educate owners and the greater community on all aspects of animal care and welfare.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO WORK IN THE INDUSTRY?

If you have a genuine passion for animals and people, step up as you can make a real difference and it is the best feeling in the world. ●





# 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 would like to report animal cruelty, please call 02 8899 3333.**

Inspector Mahon attended a property in North Saint Marys after concerns were raised about the care of 3 pigs on the property. No concerns were found in regards to the care of the animals however correct licensing was not sought for housing the pigs in that area. Council officials were alerted and organised licensing compliance.

Inspector Mahon conducted routine inspections of pet shops throughout west/south-west Sydney during February and March 2020. All companies were found to be compliant with all relevant legislation. Routine inspections allow regular monitoring of pet related trade in NSW.

Concerns were raised with AWL NSW concerning a stray cat that appeared to have a large tumour growing on its face. Inspector Mahon attended and assessed the cat, who was very friendly despite having a severe injury to its left eye. The cat was rushed back to the AWL NSW Kemps Creek vet clinic for urgent medical treatment. Following recovery from this treatment the cat will be available for adoption and rehomed into a loving family.

Inspector Mahon attended a property in Rossmore following concerns raised for a dog kept on a tether without access to proper shelter. Upon inspection it was found that the dog was kept on a tether for a part of the day and during that time it did not have access to proper shelter. The owner was educated about the legal requirements of shelter and tethering of animals, and they were able to improve the living conditions of the dog and move it to a fenced area and provide a large kennel. Education is a key tool in the improvement of animal welfare conditions within the community and is a huge part of what AWL NSW Inspectors strive to do.

Inspector-in-training Moss and Animal Ambulance Officer Watkins attended an address in Cecil Hills regarding a report of a dog tangled in a soccer net with no one home at the time of attendance. AWL NSW officers climbed over a side gate to access the backyard and come to the dog's aid. The net had tightly wrapped around its left hind leg. The dog was stressed and panicked but was carefully cut free from the net. The dog had no ID tag, but luckily was microchipped and AWL NSW was able to contact the



owner via the microchip details. The owner rushed home to the dog, with our team staying with the dog until the owner arrived. The owner raced the dog to a local vet, and luckily the dog only suffered from minor injury of swelling and bruising to the left leg and no ligament or internal damage was caused. The dog returned home the same day with some pain relief/anti-inflammatories and the owner reported the dog is now doing well. The owner was very grateful to all involved in helping her dog.

Inspector Wakefield was called to an address in Western Sydney in relation to an injured cat that had possibly been hit by a car. The cat was located and had extensive injuries to his back and tail. A scan revealed that the cat wasn't microchipped. After an extensive investigation the elderly owner was located at Blacktown Hospital ICU after suffering health issues. The cat was surrendered into the care of AWL NSW and received treatment at our vet clinic.

Inspector Wakefield attended an address in Austral in relation to a report about a injured Wallaby that was distressed. An assessment was made, and it was evident that the Wallaby was injured and in need of care. A specialist from WIRES was contacted and the Wallaby was treated by a local vet. The injuries weren't life threatening and the Wallaby is now being cared for by a specialist from WIRES, to be released back into the wild when he recovers.

Inspector Wakefield attended an address in Wetherill Park in relation to a dog with no water. An inspection was conducted, and the dog was in good body condition and had a sufficient supply of clean drinking water, however the dog was located down the side of the house. The owner stated that they were having problems with the dog's behaviour and the owner decided to surrender the dog into the care of AWL NSW.

AWL NSW Inspectors were contacted in relation to two small elderly dogs (15 years and 17 years old). The owner was moving overseas to Europe and he wisely consulted a veterinarian about these dogs taking a long relocation flight. Professional advice from the vet stated that the elderly dogs would struggle and there would be a high likelihood that the dogs wouldn't make it. As a result, a specialised rescue dealing with these cases was contacted and both dogs were surrendered into their care. Both dogs are thriving in their current rescue environment and living out their days pampered as they should be.



# Our Story

## AWL NSW BRANCHES BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

### FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

The bushfires had been threatening for some time and with parched paddocks and little to no water in dams, creeks and tanks the disaster that unfolded was inevitable. New Year's Day was sheer hell followed by a second blast of bushfires that continued through until February. AWL NSW Far South Coast Branch volunteers in the areas of Verona, Cobargo, Wandella and Bemboka were heavily impacted. There was loss of homes, sheds, fences, stock yards, water pumps, vehicles, tractors and tragically many livestock and a few companion animals. Many of us were without water for 3-4 weeks, and without power for 4-7 weeks depending on the location. There was devastation unseen before.

The AWL NSW Far South Coast Branch assisted many people with food, bedding, crates, bowls, leads, collars, litter trays etc but we also covered several major veterinary needs. Financial assistance was provided for 2 dogs that suffered heat stroke [survived]; Lucy a dog with a bowel

blockage because her owners were in Sydney (at the time) with a young son having open-heart surgery, had been burnt out and couldn't afford the cost; Sadie a dog that had impaled herself on a stick. Smoke inhalation caused the death of some older dogs and pups, they sadly couldn't be saved.

Our branch decided to provide financial assistance to several of our carers. Unfortunately, the money and fodder drops weren't available to carers who have sanctuaries for the old and unwanted animals. They were not Primary Industry and therefore did not have the necessary PIC number and they were turned away from fodder donations. With the monetary donations, some carers bought fodder, another put it towards the cost of a water pump, another for a dog pen. We advised people wishing to donate, to do so directly to local farm supply businesses for a specific client to credit their account and this worked well.



Our branch also lost crates and pens that were on carers' property which were burnt out.

Tanya Greenwood from Sapphire Kennels & Cattery provided emergency boarding free of charge for a huge number of displaced animals. Her business has suffered greatly from the tourists being asked to leave the area so her financial and emotional cost has been enormous.

Because several of our team have been so heavily impacted, we've all had to try to do a little bit more to cover the workload. Surrenders have come from people who no longer have fencing to contain their dogs which has been a very difficult thing for them to do. Two success stories from the surrenders were LUCY #2645 who was rehomed to Eden and PEPSI #2640 who was rehomed to Moruya.







We were also asked to take into care 10 Maremma's for a man who had been seriously injured on his property and was hospitalised for many weeks. We took into care two adult dogs and three pups and organised for neighbours to feed and care for the other dogs at the property.

We are very concerned for the mental well-being of our affected team members. The road to recovery will be long, we know. It's two years since the Tathra fire and there are many, many homes still not rebuilt there. Some people may not be able to face returning to their properties where they saw so much devastation and heartache. It's a day by day recovery for everyone.

We would like to thank those people who donated financially to our branch, this money has been used for the emergency vet work. Thank you also to all the people who donated bedding, carriers, harnesses, food etc to help cover the loss of resources.

Our branch will continue to support our community in the fire recovery, caring for pets and their people as well as supporting the wildlife rescue teams whenever we can. We are covering the full cost of desexing animals owned by fire victims. ●

## SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

The bushfire crisis in the Shoalhaven started with a fire near Ulladulla on the 26th November 2019. As the fire began to spread, residents were evacuated to the evacuation centre in Ulladulla, but I don't think any of us could have imagined then how far it would eventually spread or the devastation it would cause.

The AWL NSW Shoalhaven Branch put a callout to our local pet suppliers for food and other supplies to take down to the Ulladulla evacuation centre. PetBarn, PETstock, Bishops and Alternate Pet Foods all jumped on board and donated goods for us to transport down to Ulladulla. At this point we were still expecting the fires to be contained shortly. Unfortunately, as we now know that was not to be the case. The fire continued to spread and on New Year's Day it reached Conjola Park where it left a terrible trail of destruction and 89 homes destroyed. At the same time, it also reached HMAS Albatross near Nowra and we saw it create a terrifying pyrocumulus storm cloud. Fire fighters were lucky to escape unharmed when two fire trucks were overrun by the fire. The nearby Forest Road fire also spread causing more evacuations.

As the fire moved up the coast a new evacuation centre was opened in Bomaderry and we were there that first night as well, dropping off supplies for those who had left too quickly to grab food for their pets. The Shoalhaven branch was forced to evacuate a number of their animals from foster carers whose homes were in the various projected fire spread areas for the fire but thankfully all were able to be returned safely with no carers losing property.



All up the Shoalhaven fires burned for 74 days and destroyed 280 homes with many more buildings damaged. Around 80% of the land area of the Shoalhaven was burnt or impacted by the fires. Due to the fires, many people were forced to relocate their animals and feed was scarce. The AWL NSW Shoalhaven Branch with the assistance of our local PETstock store was able to assist with feed for some of these displaced animals.

The support of the public and local business and the efforts of our local rescue groups was fantastic, and we would like to thank all those who contributed to the fire relief efforts in the Shoalhaven. The fires may be out, but the recovery process is still going on and will be for a long time to come. ●





## BATHURST

Bathurst Branch became an official AWL NSW branch in October 2019. Being a new branch holds many challenges for us, but we feel as if we have utilised the last three months increasing community awareness of the branch's existence, gathering support and increasing our foster carer network. The branch has recently started taking in animals with the help of our generous foster carers and have since had two successful adoptions.

We held our first big fundraiser in March with the help of our local bowls club 'The greens on William' who hosted the event. We look forwards to these events as it gives our volunteers an opportunity to chat and connect with our local community, as well as fundraise and promote the branch. With new fundraising, our branch will be assisting the community by offering discount desexing in the future.

## EUROBODALLA

The Eurobodalla Branch has been busy over the past few months. We had a large number of heartbreaking calls during the recent bushfires, some of which were redirected to our wonderful wildlife services.

On a lighter note, we held our annual Car Boot Sale on 8th March, at Narooma. What a fabulous, sunny day it was, and the buyers were out in force. While a number of sellers were put off by the weather forecast, the stall holders who did attend reported they'd done very well and would be back next year. Our branch stall was a hit with kids (\$1 for a bag of toys or action figures) and their parents, who found other bargains for a gold coin or two. We're looking forward to a bigger and better one next year.

We've had a large number of pet adoptions and at the time of writing we have no dogs left waiting. Our CADS service has been popular, with many discount desexing vouchers issued, and it's encouraging to see the number of pets being desexed increase each year as more people take up the offer. We're looking forward to a fantastic and positive year in our beautiful Shire.



## GREAT LAKES & MANNING



The AWL NSW Great Lakes & Manning Branch was established in 1980. To celebrate our 40th Birthday we really wanted to give something back to the community. In honour of our 40 years, we held a FREE desexing drive for OVER 100 cats and dogs in March with the brand-new mobile vet service coming from Sydney, and a local volunteer team from Manning Veterinary Hospital. The drive and our birthday had some great publicity through the local print media and television. It was also particularly timely to do this campaign in the wake of the drought, and the unprecedented bushfires, when so many local people are still doing it tough.

We also ran a discounted microchipping and vaccination clinic in February – 336 animals were vaccinated and 196 were microchipped. A big thanks again to Manning Vet for the use of their premises over an extremely wet and wild weekend. The programs were all fully booked out and we have been overwhelmed with the incredible community response. We hope that this initiative not only helped celebrate our 40th Birthday with a bang, but also helps to reduce the burden of unwanted litters and the number of pets that may find themselves at our council pound.

We've also held two adoption days over the last quarter at Forster Pet Barn. Over 20 cats and kittens were rehomed just on those two days. We find this is a great, practical way to find new homes for our feline friends as people have an opportunity to meet, cuddle, and find their purrrrrfect match face to face.





## HAWKESBURY VALLEY

Everyone who works with Animal Welfare League NSW Hawkesbury Valley Branch is a volunteer. We would like to introduce you to two of our long-standing volunteers, Pat Latta and Elizabeth Miles. Between these two they have clocked up over 80 years of volunteering with the AWL NSW Hawkesbury Valley Branch, and we think that is something worth mentioning and celebrating. Pat and Elizabeth both joined AWL NSW prior to 1980, although they can't remember exactly when, they are both still active in the Branch and always available to help. For many years Elizabeth, now 86, has been our only dog foster carer, never saying NO to any request to take in a dog that needed help... At the same time Liz has indulged her love of German Shepherds by fostering for GSD Rescue as well. Elizabeth's unwavering love of dogs has seen her foster hundreds of dogs over the years, an amazing, wonderful achievement.



Pat's passion is cats and just recently she spotted a cat cage just off the road, in bushland near her home. Sensing something was not quite right, Pat went to investigate. She found an open (almost new) cat carrier with a blanket and food inside. Suspecting that someone may have dumped a cat she began leaving food out around the same area. A very scared cat was soon spotted and for the next two weeks Pat patiently put food out and spent hours encouraging the cat to come to her. Eventually, this paid off, the cat was caught and has since gone on to find a loving home. Pat's determination to catch this cat never wavered. Our branch is very grateful for the commitment and dedication shown by Pat and Elizabeth over many years. We wish we could clone them!

## NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

Well, it has sure been a rough start to 2020! The devastating Summer bushfires badly impacted us here on the South Coast, as it did many others in other parts of the state. Nata Oval, the ground that NDTC hires each Saturday for dog training programs, became a major evacuation centre servicing not just Narooma but Tilba, Bermagui, Cobargo and other outlying properties. As a result, our 2020 program started later than scheduled. On 15th February the program was 'up and running' only to have it hastily shut down on 15th March due to the COVID-19 virus. But there is some good news amongst the bad. In that short time, 48 handlers registered and started in our Obedience, Agility and Rally Obedience programs. New handlers for 2020 were equipped with the basics, so they can practice at home during this temporary shutdown. Official ANKC Trials also took place in nearby Bermagui in February, and several of our experienced handlers participated. We were thrilled when Nina and her dog Imogen won 1st Place, Rally Obedience Advanced A Class, especially as they were both still very traumatised from the battle to save their home in Cobargo fires. So, on we go thinking positive thoughts and celebrating successes where we can. When the 'all clear' does come, NDTC Branch is ready to begin again. In the meantime, stay well everyone!



## NORTH COAST

Lucy was adopted from us as a kitten but surrendered to us when her owner moved away for medical treatment. She settled into shelter life easily, quickly becoming a favourite. At seven years old, she was overlooked for a while, so we were very happy when a young boy decided she was the cat for his family. Sadly, Lucy became acutely ill within days of her adoption and was hospitalised with a poor prognosis. Her kidney function indicators were "through the roof" and euthanasia was a possibility. We decided to monitor her day-by-day - if she "crashed" we had to put her to sleep, but if she pulled through, she might be ok. Lucy didn't crash but had a long recovery ahead of her. From barely moving, managing just a few licks of "chicken" puree, and her fur becoming matted and dull, to having our old Lucy back - six long weeks of worry and diligent care. Not long after this, Brielle enquired about adopting an older cat and it was love at first sight. A final blood test confirmed Lucy's kidney function, and all other indicators, were completely normal....!! Lucy,

renamed Pumpkin, is sending us regular updates about her idyllic new home, her favourite games, bravely having her teeth cleaned without sedation/anaesthetic and generally being the love of Brielle's life.



BEFORE TREATMENT



AFTER TREATMENT

## WESTERN SUBURBS & HILLS DISTRICT

The Western Suburbs Branch was recently pleased to help a member of the public who asked for help to catch a cat who had been living on the streets. His condition had deteriorated to the point where urgent vet assistance was required.

AWL NSW Director, Glyn, caught him and took him to the vet to see if he could be saved. Fortunately he was FIV/FelV negative and his prognosis was good, despite having multiple problems including an infected (but non-malignant) growth in his ear producing pus which was sticking to his long fur which was hanging off him in clumps, severe mouth disease necessitating the removal of all his teeth, and he was not able to go to the toilet properly as faecal matter was stuck all around his bottom like a plug.

Oscar has now been adopted by the person who cared enough to ask for help, and his future is secure. The Branch would like to extend gratitude to veterinarian, Susan Powell, and her team for taking such good care of Oscar.



# Happytails

## Gina

In December 2018, three-year-old Gina was surrendered to our Kemps Creek shelter after her previous owner was no longer able to care for her. Gina patiently waited, and after spending 417 days in our care, it was finally her turn to find her forever home. During our Valentine's shelter promotion, Andrew had been frequently looking at the AWL NSW website and speaking to our shelter team about a suitable companion. When he visited the shelter and met Gina, Andrew admits that it was love at first sight and on the 11th February 2020, our gorgeous girl set off to start her new life.

With her new life came a new name, and proud owner Andrew couldn't wait to share wonderful updates on Gina and how she had impacted his life in such a short time. We couldn't have asked for a better home for this precious girl and she is proof that sometimes it is worth the wait.

"Gina (now Xena) is angelic, adores her new family, house, yard, bed and home-cooked food! Seamlessly she stepped into our lives and adores her walks in the park, trips to the beach, helping her tradie dad on the job site, sailing adventures, and road trips. Learning lots of new tricks, first time every time. Meeting new friends. Learning about the world. We are now inseparable.

Thanks to the amazing team at the Kemps Creek shelter for taking such good care of her. She is in heaven and so are we." - Andrew, Xena's proud new dad.

Thanks Andrew for giving Xena a pawfect new life! ●



### Adopt



**GIVE A  
SHELTER PET  
A HOME AND  
RECEIVE 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

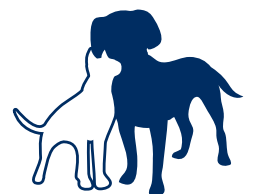


**WE APPRECIATE  
FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT TO  
HELP WITH  
SHELTER COSTS,  
AND WELCOME  
ITEMS TO FEED  
AND ENRICH  
THE ANIMALS**

### Vet Clinic



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



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