

LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2020



HELPING THOSE IN NEED

+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES

Furever Families Found During COVID-19
Meet our Mobile Vet Truck Manager
Annual Cat Permits Introduced



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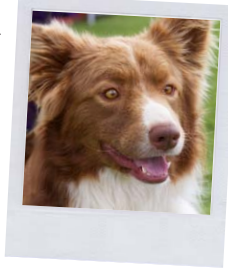


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Message from Editor-in-Chief Rusty



My fur-mum has been home so much these last few months and I've loved every moment. She said something about 'working from home'?... whatever that is, I love it! I've checked in with my friends at AWL NSW and they've all been working really hard to keep each other safe. I think they look a bit funny hehe. They have muzzles on and keep washing their hands, and are wearing plastic gloves which give them white paws like me! Despite the struggles, the number of shelter adoptions has increased and I am so happy for all the cute doggos like me who have found new furever homes! Yay! Be sure to check out some of the lucky pets on page 13. If you already have a special pet at home, be sure to give them an extra big cuddle to say thanks for all of their love and companionship. Together, we'll get through this.

Until next time
pawsome suppawters,


Rusty

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.



CEO's Message

MARK SLATER,
CEO, AWL NSW



As I reflect upon the last few months I am struck by the pace of this year. Despite the pressure of the pandemic and the necessity to maintain our service provision both through our branch network and through Kemps Creek, tangible positivity still ebbs around our everyday work and team.

It is very exciting to share that our focuses and targeted outcomes are still being achieved, in some cases more than we had expected. The numbers of animals we are rehoming continues to grow impressively and our Mobile Vet Truck is back out on the road through our branch network. Additionally, the restructure of the vet clinic continues to show excellent results for better welfare all round.

Our work within legislative change is ongoing and showing real outcomes for better welfare provisions for animals. Further to these projects we have started work within the correctional system readying to launch educational programs across a range of facilities focused on educating what good welfare and care should look like. We are also partnering with National Parks and Wildlife to run a pilot program focused on reptile care in conjunction with other leading welfare organisations.

Finally, we have been very lucky to both retain and attract some highly skilled staff members, the newest of which are members to our Inspectors ranks, a new Vet Services Manager and a new Marketing and Fundraising Manager. I am cautiously optimistic about the remainder of the year and I am looking forward to bringing more positive news to you in the new year. ●

To better assist our members, donors, advocates and volunteers, the **Animal Welfare League NSW support office has moved** to a new location in Kingswood. For those who provide a monetary gift to help care for vulnerable animals across the state, you will note a new return address in Kingswood on future reply paid envelopes and in appeals.

CONTACT US

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

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PHONE: (02) 8899 3333
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Meet our Mobile Vet Truck Manager

Mobile Vet Truck Manager Daniel Naethuys takes some time to answer a few quick questions about what makes his job so rewarding.



Mobile Vet Truck



1. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TAKE ON THE PROJECT OF BUILDING AND OPERATING THE MOBILE VET TRUCK?

I wanted to be able to support and assist people in need across the community, and it gives me so much honour and pride knowing I am a part of such a project.

2. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE MOBILE VET TRUCK?

I just want to see the Mobile Vet Truck reach its full potential, I want to be able to look back 12-months from now and see all that the truck has accomplished and all the people that it has helped.

3. WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF RUNNING THE MOBILE VET TRUCK?

I think it is hard to see how many areas need our help and not being able to be there in that moment to support

the communities. As well as this it can be emotionally draining sometimes having to support communities in times of natural disaster and being only able to offer so much support. Though I think that is what is great about being a part of such a strong team is that we have each other's back and we understand that it's not weak to speak and debrief with each other.

4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR POSITION?

Travelling the country and getting to meet people from all different walks of life, learning their stories and getting to meet their animals.

5. DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS OF YOUR OWN?

I do, I have a dog named Mya, she is a Kelpie.

6. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I really enjoy exploring everything Australia has to offer, I enjoy four wheel driving, camping and spending time with my family. ●

"I wanted to be able to support and assist people in need across the community, and it gives me so much honour and pride knowing I am a part of such a project."



IN LOVING MEMORY

Vale ELIZABETH MILES

We are saddened to hear of the loss of a truly remarkable woman who dedicated over 40 years to helping animals in need.

Elizabeth 'Liz' Miles was a volunteer of the Animal Welfare League NSW — Hawkesbury Volunteer Branch and had been the branch's only dog foster carer, never saying no to any request to take in a dog that needed help... At the same time Liz indulged her love of German Shepherds by fostering for GSD Rescue as well. Elizabeth's unwavering love of dogs saw her foster hundreds of dogs over the years, an amazing achievement by a wonderful and kind person who will be dearly missed. ●



Vale MARYANN DALTON

Rest in peace former CEO Maryann Dalton



From 2003 to 2011 Maryann was appointed CEO of Animal Welfare League NSW, unfortunately we have heard the news of Maryann's passing. We pass our condolences onto Maryann's family and friends and thank Maryann for her services to Animal Welfare League NSW and the impact she had on many animals and people's lives within the organisation. ●





How to include a pet in your Will

While it may be an uncomfortable topic, and certainly something most of us do not want to think about, having a plan in place for when we pass away will provide peace of mind – especially if you are a pet owner.

Having a conversation now will ensure everyone understands your requests. If you haven't already created one, it might be time to create a Will to ensure your wishes are carried out.

Did you know?

In Australia, pets are considered 'property'. This means that they can not be a beneficiary and need to be treated as an asset in your Will. Be sure to include how you would like your pet to be cared for, who by, and to note any other important information such as their medical history or preferred veterinary clinic.

The AWL NSW Legacy Program

When creating your Will, consider the future care of your animals. Whomever you choose to care for them, it's important they understand their responsibility and are prepared to value your animal as much as you do. If you are concerned about the ongoing care for your animal, the Animal Welfare League NSW Legacy Program is there to provide peace of mind that your beloved companion will be cared for into the future. You have the reassurance of knowing that your companion animal will be taken into care

immediately upon your death. We have an Emergency Card Program in place for Legacy Pets, ensuring that loved ones or emergency services are able to contact us if needed.

Leaving a Bequest to AWL NSW

If animal welfare is an important cause to you, or you would like to help support the vital work of AWL NSW, a bequest will help ensure the protection, care and rights of unwanted, neglected and abandoned animals in your area. It's how we're able to identify, research and promote animal welfare issues throughout the community. By leaving a gift in your Will, you are helping to support the vital work of Animal Welfare League NSW in caring for those less fortunate.

AWL NSW can provide you suggested wording for your Will. AWL NSW also recommends that you seek independent legal advice to make sure your Will is valid and represents your intentions.

Life can be unpredictable so it is important to know that your pet's future is assured after you are gone. ●

For more information about leaving a Bequest to AWL NSW or about our Legacy Program, please call 02 8899 3333 or email bequest@awlsw.com.au



NEW ANNUAL PERMITS

The essential information you need to ensure your pet is up to date with their registration and permits.

WHAT ARE THE NEW ANNUAL PERMITS?

As of 1 July 2020 owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee. Owners of dogs of a restricted breed or formally declared to be dangerous will also be required to pay a \$195 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration council fee.

WHY ARE ANNUAL PERMITS BEING INTRODUCED?

Annual permits for non-desexed cats will create a stronger incentive to desex cats, which will in turn improve their health and wellbeing, including reducing the risk of some cancers. Improving desexing rates will also lower demand on pounds and shelters, reduce euthanasia rates, and help to address concerns about feral, stray, and roaming cats and their effect on wildlife.

The NSW Government has also made a one-off \$10 reduction to the lifetime cat registration fee to encourage higher registration rates and adoption of cats from pounds and shelters. Annual permits for dangerous and restricted dogs will improve community safety by helping to reduce ownership of high-risk dogs and encouraging owners to better manage the behaviour of their animal.

HOW CAN I AVOID THE ANNUAL PERMIT?

Desex your cat by four months of age, or request an exemption from your vet. Register your cat. Do not own a

restricted dog, and ensure you manage your dogs behaviour.

**Cats that cannot be desexed, either temporarily or permanently, are exempt from paying an annual permit. A certificate from your vet is required to qualify for this exemption.*

WHAT BREEDS ARE RESTRICTED IN NSW?

Restricted dog breeds are the pit bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, Japanese tosa, Argentinian fighting dog, Brazilian fighting dog, and canary mastiff. A dog can also be declared to be one of, or a cross-breed of, one of these restricted breeds.

WHAT IS A DANGEROUS DOG?

Dogs of any breed can be formally declared dangerous by a council or court if the dog, without provocation has attacked or killed a person or animal, repeatedly threatened to attack or repeatedly chased a person or animal, or is kept or used for hunting.

HOW WILL PET OWNERS PAY FOR THE ANNUAL PERMITS?

From 1 July 2020, pet owners will be able to pay for annual permits using the NSW Pet Registry website, or through their local council.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY IF PET OWNERS DON'T HAVE AN ANNUAL PERMIT AND GET CAUGHT?

Pet owners who fail to obtain an annual permit risk an on-the-spot fine of \$700 for restricted or dangerous dogs and \$400 for non-desexed cats. If taken to court, maximum penalties of \$6,600

for restricted or dangerous dogs and \$5,500 for non-desexed cats may apply.

WHERE CAN I GET ASSISTANCE TO DESEX MY PET?

AWL NSW has volunteer branches across NSW who offer subsidised desexing vouchers for local pension card holders and low-income earners in their community.

BUYING OR ADOPTING A CAT OR DOG

Deciding to introduce a new cat or dog into your family is an exciting time. By law, anyone selling or giving away a cat or dog in NSW needs to use an identification number in any advertisement. This number will be either:

- a microchip number
- a breeder identification number OR
- a rehoming organisation number

This number will help you to find out more information about the cat or dog that is advertised. ●





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.

Animal Welfare League NSW Inspector Wakefield attended an address in Windsor in relation to a dog with a severe skin condition. At the location it was noticed the dog was suffering from a chronic skin condition and no vet treatment had been sought. After a lengthy discussion the dog was taken by Inspector Wakefield and the dog received the veterinary treatment that was required at our Kemp's Creek Veterinary Clinic. The owner was issued with a number of infringements for cruelty offences.

Animal Welfare League NSW Inspector Wakefield was called to a large bush area in relation to a Kangaroo with a jaw injury and concerns for its welfare. After several hours the Kangaroo could not be located. This matter is still ongoing with Inspector Wakefield intending to sedate the animal to have it assessed by a qualified vet to be released back into the wild.

Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Inspector Stimson recently seized a Great Dane cross that was found to be in poor body condition. The dog was surrendered to AWL NSW and the owner was penalised. Due to its poor condition, the dog is currently under the care of AWL NSW, receiving much needed veterinary treatment and undergoing a weight-gain plan.

Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Inspector Stimson responded to a welfare concern regarding two staffy x pups and a lamb living in filthy conditions on a property. On inspection, Chief Inspector Stimson identified the living conditions as unacceptable and seized the three animals who were then later surrendered into the care of AWL NSW. In our care, these animals received immediate veterinary care and it was found that the lamb required further treatment for its forelegs. A medical examination found that the lamb had an infection in the bone which may cause ongoing arthritis. After receiving medical treatment, the lamb is now rehabilitating in a sanctuary and no longer in the care of AWL NSW.

Animal Welfare League NSW Inspector Moss attended a property in relation to a dog with wounds to its ears. The dog was found to have significant fly bite wounds to both ears that required veterinary treatment. After discussion and education, the owner decided to surrender the dog into the care of AWL NSW, as they were unable to afford the ongoing veterinary treatment and care for the dog.

Animal Welfare League NSW Inspector Moss attended a property in relation to a dog being housed in a small enclosure. At the location, a large dog was sighted in an enclosure that was of not sufficient height, leaving the dog unable to stand completely upright and without access to appropriate shelter. After lengthy discussion and education, the owner decided to surrender the dog into the care of AWL NSW, as they were unable to secure the dog in the backyard without the use of the enclosure.

Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Inspector Stimson attended a property regarding a complaint made about a Pomeranian with inadequate shelter. Upon inspection it was found that the small dog was in urgent need of a groom and the owner was given 24 hours to provide appropriate shelter. The owner complied and the dog received a large enclosure and bedding. Chief Inspector Stimson also instructed the owner to have the dog groomed and the dog was taken to a professional groomer. Otherwise, the dog was found to be in good body condition and the AWL NSW Inspectorate was satisfied with the owner complying with the directions given.

Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Inspector Stimson responded to a concern received from a member of the public regarding two elderly dogs not receiving adequate veterinary care. Upon arrival, the two dogs were found to have fly bitten ears. After discussion with their owners, it was found that the two dogs were receiving vet treatment and appropriate measures already in place. Chief Inspector Stimson confirmed the treatment plan with the consulting veterinarian and did a re-check to ensure dogs were continuing to receive treatment. No action required from AWL NSW Inspectors.

Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Inspector Stimson attended a property with Inspector Moss in relation to a job regarding horses in poor body condition. It was found that the owners were struggling financially after losing their business in the recent bushfire crisis. Chief Inspector Stimson, Inspector Moss and Animal Ambulance Officer Watkins assisted by providing appropriate feed. AWL NSW Inspectors also arranged for an AWL veterinarian to attend the property and assess the animals free of charge and assist with a feeding plan and ongoing treatment. After re-checks and further aid provided by our Inspectorate, the remaining horses are in good condition.



ARMIDALE BRANCH

The Armidale Branch is going strong. We have been very busy since we had our inaugural Branch Meeting on 24th April 2020!!

We have taken into care 23 surrendered dogs and rescued 10 dogs from local council pounds. 25 of these animals been re-homed with 7 still in care. Jenny — our amazing Animal Welfare Officer works like a trooper! While our focus is dogs, Jenny responded to a request to humanely relocate mice by purchasing and delivering mice cage traps to a distressed community member who was concerned she was going to be evicted because of these friends.

We've had approximately 10 requests for assistance with desexing from community members. These will be presented at our upcoming meeting and we are currently working on a community vaccination drive to happen in the near future.

Our Op-Shop has celebrated its recent opening and we have been overwhelmed with the generosity and support from our community. From the donations we have received, to the volunteers that are working in the shop and to the mass of customers that are supporting us. Thanks to our dynamo Janis (Op-Shop Co-ordinator and Vice President) who has created a welcoming and friendly environment where community members come for a chat and grab a bargain. So far in our short existence, we have raised enough to desex approximately 30 female dogs. The shop has been a welcome addition to the Armidale CBD, with us renting premises as part of the Renew Armidale project, so we feel that we are not only helping animals but also our local community.

While specifically mentioning Jenny and Janice, everyone in our small branch membership and our volunteers are why we are where we are today.



EUROBODALLA BRANCH

Along with several other branches, we were already reeling from the bushfires when we were hit with the lockdown and the terrible COVID-19. All meetings and fundraisers were cancelled and we prepared ourselves for a quiet few months. However, the amount of animals that have been surrendered to us and the amount we have rehomed has meant that a few of us have been kept very busy. We have been careful to keep our distance when visiting an animal and owner and have had hand sanitiser and masks with us at all times. With help from AWL NSW, we managed to help a gentleman pay for an operation for his very precious girl who needed urgent leg surgery. A litter of puppies were successfully rehomed and several dogs, cats and kittens are all enjoying a new life.



FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

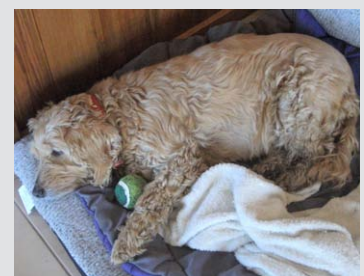
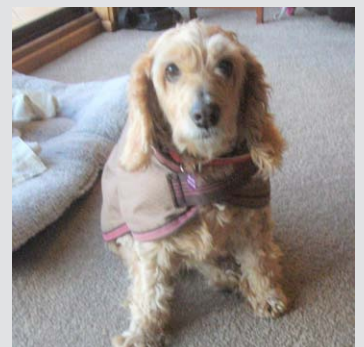
Blossom — a Golden Cocker Spaniel/Poodle was in need of urgent respite care. A local vet alerted us when they were asked to put Blossom to sleep. Her owner's husband was terminally ill and with the strain of palliative care plus the high cost of medications to manage Blossom's Addison's Disease [thyroid imbalance] she felt that no-one would want a 13 year old dog with ongoing health issues and she was unaware of Animal Welfare League NSW.

The vet clinic asked AWL NSW to take Blossom as a surrender and we agreed. It was obvious however, when we went to collect Blossom that the owner was very distressed about parting with Blossom because she'd had her since she was a tiny puppy and she was a very gentle and sweet little dog.

After a short discussion with the owner it was decided that rather than take Blossom as a surrender, AWL NSW would take her into respite care with the plan to return Blossom to her owner when she was able to take her back because she would really need Blossom's company once her partner passed away.

Blossom easily settled in with carer Wendy and enjoyed her 5km morning walks and plenty of ball chasing. She even slept with her ball.

A week later the man passed away and another week later the owner was ready to have Blossom back. Both were delighted to see each other again and we were very happy to be able to help both Blossom and her owner at their time of need, reuniting them and allowing them to remain together.





GREAT LAKES AND MANNING BRANCH



Just like this unprecedented pandemic, the Great Lakes and Manning Branch has also had an unprecedented surge in cat and kitten adoptions from March, as things started to lock-down, we started to get calls from people looking for cats, dogs and kittens to adopt.

After months of surrenders and the usual challenges we face of rehoming animals, now it was the reverse. We could not keep up with the demand, we even had wait lists. So, why the boom? Several people said they work full-time and had always wanted a pet but felt that now they were spending more time at home it was a golden opportunity to settle in a new furry family member. Others had children being home schooled who were finding the separation from their school mates a challenge. We know that pets provide companionship and an emotional connection for their owners. People told us that their new pet was helping to stave off loneliness. And several people indicated that they would be totally lost without their pet — their pet kept them sane.

There is no doubt that having a companion during the pandemic has been

comforting for people young and old. We are yet to see a decline in adoption demand at our Branch, however we are mindful that as the economic reality of sustained unemployment unfolds, we hope there is not a tsunami of pet abandonment due to an inability to provide, or afford animal care.

On that note, we watch and wait. But in the meantime we celebrate our success in rehoming so many animals into new families who love them to bits.



MOREE BRANCH

Moree Branch has been very busy rescuing and rehoming as well as transferring animals to other rescue groups up until COVID-19 struck, when things slowed dramatically. There have been no planes flying and commercial animal road transport has been booked out for months ahead. Most adoptions have been in NSW and adopters from as far afield as Sydney have been driving to Moree to collect their new family member.

Our dogs in particular come from our local pound and several pounds in surrounding areas including Narrabri, Tamworth and Goondiwindi Queensland. We are gaining momentum again now and there is no shortage of animals needing help. We do feel that our desexing program is making in-roads into the unwanted animal problem, with a noticeable drop compared to the overwhelming number of recent years.

This year we have rehomed 122 dogs/pups, 75 cats/kittens and transferred to other groups, 173 dogs/pups and 16 cats/kittens. In addition we have assisted another rescue group by taking around 12 dogs/puppies.



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

After three long months of shutdown due to COVID-19, Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) is finally back in action! The 2020 training program was recommenced cautiously on July 4, with Obedience classes only being offered for the first month. What a great reboot day it was! Fifteen new handlers registered for the beginners Obedience class — we think that is a new record for our Branch. Other handlers who had registered prior to the shutdown were happy to be back at Nata Oval, joining classes free of charge for the remainder of this year, as compensation for lost training time. The sun shone down — it was a brilliant afternoon in the outdoors with our best, four legged friends. It was also terrific to see volunteers and handlers taking on board the safety procedures, put in place by NDTC to help everyone stay well. The 1.5 metre social distancing rule was observed and everyone dutifully signed in. Visitors kept their distance, staying outside the training and sign in areas. We were awash with hand sanitiser, gloves and masks were on hand for every volunteer to use. Observing the 4 square metre rule, and NDTC COVID-19 Safety plan lodged with local Council, was no problem for our experienced Instructors who adjusted their training program to suit the changed conditions. If all goes according to plan, NDTC will reinstate the Agility program in August, and the Rally Obedience program in September. Fingers crossed, NDTC is on track to finish 2020 with a full training program.





NORTH COAST BRANCH

Four delightful kittens were surrendered into our care — we named them our 'Designers' — Cartier, Eames, Morris and Doulton. Cartier was on hold just hours after arrival and Eames and Morris over the following days. Doulton was overlooked for a while as he is the most boisterous of kittens ever! But ... eventually his chance came, and he was taken into a home. He was returned a few days later as he was literally climbing the curtains and this was not the 'vibe' the people were looked for; Doulton patiently waited, tearing up, down, round and around in his enclosure, at times even hanging from the ceiling like a monkey. A young family met him on one of his quiet days and loved him, we explained he was very boisterous kitten, initially in the new home he was calm but he soon became too much for the family to handle, and poor Doulton was returned again. Within an hour of being returned Doulton was on hold again — a lady and her teenage daughter couldn't believe he'd been returned, twice.

Doulton was adopted by the family and they are very, very happy with Doulton as he seems to be with them.

ORANGE BRANCH

Orange Branch has survived and continues to thrive with an amazing team of people. Since August 2019, we have built up our branch to be a positive and supportive environment for our team, fosters carers, volunteers and our members. Our new team members are Tina Pacey (President), Katie Rogers (Vice President), Catherine Frost (Secretary), Sadie Clark (Treasurer) and our four Welfare Officers: Morgan Ryan, Brooke Dearlove, Kat Colbeck and Em Lodding. All very qualified, intelligent and incredible women.

During COVID-19, we have had a great deal of success with adoptions from February when we started taking animals into care again. We had quite a few long termers when we took over, and we are happy to say they have all found their perfect homes. Louie was the last to go to his new home and it was a special moment for all of us, and quite a teary one.

It has been a rough time during COVID-19, we all agree that 2020 turned out to be a lemon, and probably the worst year for a lot of us. So please be kind to each other and hopefully life will return to a new normal.



SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

What a busy few months since our last lovetails! The pandemic has seen an increase in people wanting to adopt from us with a dozen dogs and puppies and nearly 30 cats and kittens already adopted despite the lockdowns.

We also worked to rehabilitate some beautiful animals during this time who despite various issues we believed deserved a chance at a loving home of their own. We had a dog with dreadful skin and a terrible fear of people due to it's sad past and the carer has been working tirelessly with him to show him what a loving family is all about. We also had a kitten arrive with a malformed ribcage (pictured) who has gone on to surprise us all with his love of life and boundless energy. He was adopted by his foster family and is a constant joy to them. We also had some little scared kittens come into care and through the patience of their carers they learnt to trust humans and have all gone on to find loving families as well.

We couldn't do what we do without our wonderful team of foster carers who take our animals into their homes and provide them with a loving environment while we look for their new forever homes.

TAMWORTH BRANCH

We have been very busy with regular and diverse activities. Our big fundraiser and Bunnings BBQs have completely stopped since February. After the amazing visit from the Mobile Vet Truck in late 2019 we continued ahead from there with our opportunity to help many families with de-sexing their pets and the opportunity to educate much of the community about the importance of responsible pet ownership. The response to the Truck was an eye opener. Nearly all the community were in awe and incredibly grateful.



We had been very fortunate with raising funds from the BBQs but now we are on the lookout for alternative fundraising to continue our momentum. We have assisted many families with emergency and lifesaving surgery, which we have been very fortunate to be able to afford. Some of the people who we have assisted have become volunteers for us in appreciation for our help. These are very special times and very encouraging for us to continue.

Rescuing dogs is at a minimum due to the lack of carers but our kitty adoption numbers are up. We have Annette, Jess and Mel who are the most amazing, dedicated kitty carers who also follow through from rescue to adoption including all the requirements between. We have had wonderful adoption and 'meet and greet' days at Bunnings and Petstock and our facebook page is working well with our creative editors. We are looking positively towards the future and not allowing Covid-19 to spoil our spirit!

WESTERN SUBURBS & HILLS DISTRICT BRANCH

Readers of the last edition of Lovetails might recall the story of Oscar — a street 'Tom' in terrible condition who was befriended by a lady who has given him a fabulous home, after getting all his vet problems fixed. Well, we felt we couldn't miss the opportunity to provide an update, because Oscar has already repaid her kindness in the most beautiful way. He has become completely bonded with Geordie, a blind cat who previously had no friend of his own. Oscar and Geordie now have a very special relationship and there is hardly a time when they are not together. We feel this story is particularly uplifting because Oscar and Geordie's owner is herself sight-impaired, and Oscar, Geordie and her beautiful guide dog, Orton, enrich her life.

We have also been as busy as ever helping animals in need, in addition to running our annual desexing initiative. Although we provide subsidised desexing all year, during the last six weeks a group of dedicated volunteers have issued vouchers at heavily reduced prices for 1,400 cats and 200 dogs, preventing the birth of many unwanted litters during the next breeding season and beyond.

NOWRA-JERVIS BAY BRANCH

What a year it has been so far for our branch and south of us. Between the horrific bushfires causing detestation and heartbreaking loss of animal life, and COVID-19, the recovery will be long and difficult. We are a very small branch and the impact of these disasters is obvious in many areas. Fundraising for us has always been a battle, but in these times it is almost impossible. The momentum has been lost, the number of members lost due to their lack of financial stability and very few active carers has taken its toll. Our community rely heavily on various charities for support, and our assistance with companion animals is a very important one.

These difficult times haven't stopped us from achieving some results we are proud of 104 kittens / cats adopted into new homes and 100 cats, dogs and 1 ferret that have been desexed. Though we do not have carers for dogs, we have either helped through our facebook page with assisted re-homing, or referred on to branches that can offer support. We have managed to stay on the Vets good side as well with our accounts, so that is an achievement worth bragging about. We hope the next few months are the lead up to a positive new year for everyone. ●

Bernard in Foster Care

Bernard was a gorgeous 17-year-old cat that was placed into a loving foster home on the 6th April 2020. Unfortunately Bernard's days were numbered and we knew as much, as our staff loved him – there is no place like a home.

AWL NSW provided Bernard with everything he needed including food, litter and bedding and handed him over to a loving carer, who showered him with love, pats and snuggles.

On the 3rd of May, the decision was made to humanely euthanise Bernard, he was surrounded by everything he loved including his amazing carer.

Without amazing foster carers just like Bernard's, Bernard wouldn't have had the opportunity to be placed in a loving home for the remainder of his days.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, to help pets like Bernard, please visit www.awlnsw.com.au/foster-care ●





The Animal Welfare League NSW family is growing and we are thrilled to reach out to more communities as we welcome two new volunteer branches in Armidale and Sydney's Northern Beaches.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW IS COMMITTED TO REACHING MORE COMMUNITIES IN NEED

The AWL NSW **Armidale branch** opened in May this year, and our newest volunteers in Armidale are already doing amazing work in their local area.

Our Armidale branch volunteers are dedicating their time and expertise to help local animals in need by operating an Op-Shop and raising funds through the sale of donated goods. In addition to running the shop, our branch volunteers are heavily involved in rescuing and rehoming animals as well as planning and organising community programs for

vaccinations and desexing of cats and dogs. The AWL NSW Armidale op-shop is located at 159 Beardy Street, Armidale.

In late August, our newest volunteer branch in Sydney's **Northern Beaches** officially opened with an enthusiastic and skilled new committee that is dedicated to assisting vulnerable animals in the area. We are positive that the new AWL NSW branch will achieve many positive outcomes for the animals in the Northern Beaches and surrounding areas.



DID YOU KNOW

Most of our **volunteer branches** do not have physical locations and are run by a team of dedicated volunteers who help to rehome pets with a wonderful network of foster carers. As AWL NSW continues to grow, we have our sights set on more areas in need and are looking for passionate animal lovers who want to make a real difference to animal welfare in their community. You can help our work by becoming an AWL NSW branch volunteer.

Our volunteers support their communities by:

- Fostering animals through private surrenders or rescuing from local shelters and helping the animals find new homes.
- Creating relationships with local veterinary clinics to develop a discount desexing program for local pensioner cardholders.
- Working with local councils and other community groups to address local animal welfare issues.

If you would like to be part of something great or simply want to learn more about AWL NSW volunteer branches, be sure to visit **www.awlnsw.com.au**

Forever homes during a pandemic

Look at just some of the pets who have been adopted from AWL NSW during COVID-19!



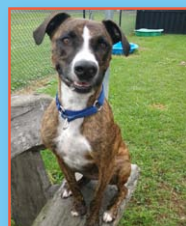
Ace



Anakin & Obi



Annie



Arlo



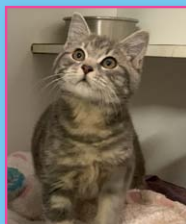
Arnold



Artemis



Bailey



Bambi



Beauty



Benjamin



Bon bon



Bruiser



Bruno



Bundy



Buster



Caesar



Cairo



Camy



Cefa



Chedda



Daisy



Dotti



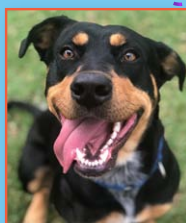
Dutchess



Edwina



Ella



Fenella



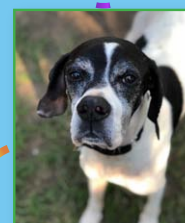
Fern



Fluer



Florence



Frankie

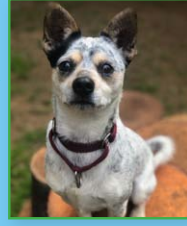
Forever homes during a pandemic



Freddy



Garfield



Gavin



Ginny



Gracie



Gus



Harlee



Harmony



Hazel



Henrietta



Honey



Hoss



Indi



Judy



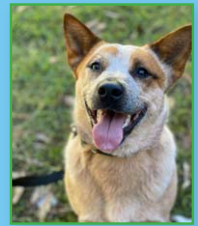
Julian



Kiki



Kit Kat



Leana



Lilli



Liza



Lola



Lollie



Louie



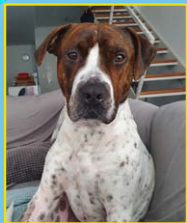
Luigi



Lulu



luna



Macaron



Madam



Misty



Mittens



Monkey



Mowie



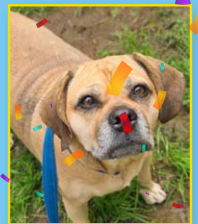
Muffin



Murphy



Obi

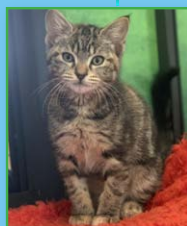


Peaches

Forever homes during a pandemic



Peanut



Petal



Piper



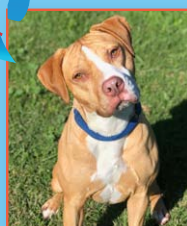
Rixie



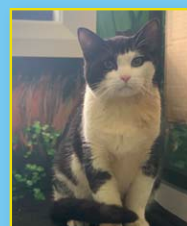
Pudding



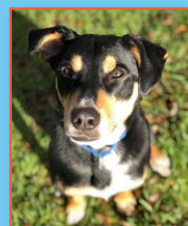
Pumpkin



Rae Lee



Ralph



Randy



Richard



Rory



Rose



Rusty



Saffron



Salem



Saley



Sammi



Scotch



Smokey



Smoky



Stripe



Susie



Taylor



Theo



Theodore



Thomas



Tiny



Toby



Tommy



Tori



Tormund



Violet



Whiskas



Zoe



Zoey

So happy you
found your
forever
homes



Happytails

Vader

Little Vader didn't have the best start to life, but thanks to AWL NSW shelter team leader Juliette, Vader has hit the adoption jackpot! Juliette shares his story and why adopting is simply the best feeling in the world.

Q) VADER IS ADORABLE, TELL US ABOUT HIS STORY

Little Vader came into the care of Animal Welfare League NSW along with six of his siblings at just four weeks of age. The pups were terribly ill and in deplorable condition; emaciated, covered in faeces, with some of the pups needing urgent medical attention. Despite best efforts of the veterinary staff, sadly three of pups did not make it. The other pups were underweight and sickly and went into foster care for much needed TLC.

Having lost my beautiful rottie girl a few years ago, I felt connected to these little souls and we knew we had to help them, so my Husband and I decided to foster two of the pups.

Q) HOW DID VADER BECOME A 'FOSTER FAIL'?

The decision to adopt Vader was simple. We had him (and his brother) in foster from five weeks old, but by the time he was old enough to be adopted, the connection and relationship we had established was undeniable and we couldn't let him go. We loved every single moment he had spent in our home. Adopting Vader filled a void in our lives, hearts, and home, and even though we were still saddened by the loss of a previous companion, we just knew that Vader was meant to be part of our family.

Q) HOW HAS VADER IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Vader has brightened our lives!!! The whole house has become so lively, happy and he is just the goofiest puppy. We love him so much and our existing fur babies also love him. We have a Doberman, who is not fond of many dogs, but she has warmed to the puppy, teaching him every day the rules of the house, it really adds that special little feeling, because Vader and Raven (our



Dobbie) are really quite sweet together. Archer, our cat (also an adoption from AWL NSW) really rules the house, so Vader learns from him each day too.

Q) WHY SHOULD SOMEONE ADOPT THEIR NEXT PET?

Adopting is just, hands down, the best feeling! When you adopt, you get to help that animal be the best version of themselves and that feeling is incredibly rewarding. Adopting helps the community, helps the animals and most of all, helps you. Humans need a dog or cat in their lives, they bring tears, laughter and so much unconditional love. I think everyone should at least consider adopting when looking for their next family pet. Contact your local AWL NSW branch or shelter, they will be more than happy to help you find the perfect pet for your loving family and home, and maybe add that bit of goofiness that makes you giggle each day – just like Vader brings us! ●

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

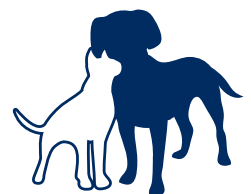


WE APPRECIATE
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT TO
HELP WITH
SHELTER COSTS,
AND WELCOME
ITEMS TO FEED
AND ENRICH
THE ANIMALS

Support



BECOME A MEMBER
AND HELP GIVE
ANIMALS IN YOUR
COMMUNITY A
VOICE



ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE **NSW**

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW
KEMPS CREEK SHELTER

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