

# LOVEtails

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW • NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2021

## GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



**+ NEWS + ADVICE + UPDATES**

Spotlight: Meet our Maintenance Maestros  
Premier's Bushfire Citations for AWL NSW  
Say Hello to our New Inspectors





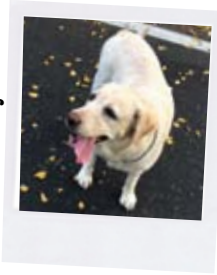


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## Message from Editor-in-Chief Pixie Pooh



I hope 2021 has started off on a good note for y'all. Been working very hard on my New Year resolutions. I have been warned to stop pinching socks from the laundry hamper, although it's oodles of fun. I have decided to embrace summer and the wet weather with open arms and a wagging tail. I no longer try to scale the fence and do a runner when the Thunder God exercises his vocal cords. The intelligent-looking lady from the vet clinic has passed me tips and tricks to help me soothe my nerves!

Surprisingly, storms don't seem to faze my human friends. It's COVID-19 they turn their nose up at. Braving the odds, they still managed to find homes for 1,104 of my furry pals last year. I bet all the lucky doggos and cattsos are sitting cosy in their new homes right now, drawing up their own lists of resolutions for the year.

Until next time, be good!



Pixie Pooh

## 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.



Going forward, *LoveTails* will be a biannual publication. What we save on printing costs will now help save lives!  
Regular AWL NSW news and views will still reach you via e-news.

## CEO's Message

MARK SLATER,  
CEO, AWL NSW



Welcome to the New Year! You may have read a lot of commentary from people saying goodbye and good riddance to 2020, a year to forget, however I see it the other way around. The entirety of the year 2020 tested us without abeyance, at times I am sure you all shared the feeling of fatigue, but we moved forward, embraced the challenges and grew in both capacity and results.

A year that only highlighted the character of our people, supporters, members, volunteers and staff alike.

I am excited about the prospect of what we will achieve in 2021. Our branch network continues to grow and go from strength to strength, our welfare and rehoming outcomes across the whole of Animal Welfare League NSW are still improving, our staff team grow in professional capacity every day and our organisational relationships with politicians, corporate Australia and society are growing through mutual respect and understanding of our capability. These outcomes are all due to the work we deliver as an organisation every day, together.

This new year will bring new challenges and opportunities, accordingly we need to focus upon constant improvement across all of the core areas of service provision. I always enjoy communicating with all those engaged with our organisation and would welcome hearing about new ideas, how we can improve or opportunities that we could pursue together. Otherwise I look forward to seeing all of you during the course of the year. ●

LOVEtails

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## 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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# Premier Citations

## FOR 2019-20 BUSHFIRE EFFORTS

Nineteen members of AWL NSW were awarded certificates and lapel pins in recognition of providing critical support to the community.

There is little doubt that the memories of a formidable start to the New Year 2020 will forever remain etched in our hearts. As bushfires raged untrammelled across New South Wales, Animal Welfare League NSW raced to the frontlines to extend a helping hand to communities. Teams that travelled to Bega and Taree put their hearts and souls into providing critical aid to animals in the community, affected by the devastation that was unfolding around them.

After what had been a pretty challenging year, 2020 ended on a positive note, as 19 members of AWL

NSW were awarded the NSW Premier's Citations for the organisation's bushfire efforts. It was a moment of great pride for the entire organisation, as AWL NSW CEO Mark Slater congratulated the recipients and handed them individual citation certificates and a lapel pin.

On the occasion, Mark Slater said, "Our efforts went on for three months and saw some of our staff working not only under duress but in situations that tested their professional capacity and mettle as humans."

AWL NSW wishes to thank all our donors and supporters. Without your generosity, it would be difficult to

cover multiple emergencies as we did during late 2019 and in early 2020. The public's unwavering support strengthened our resolve in deploying rapidly during emergencies and disasters.

Following the award ceremony, AWL NSW hosted the annual staff Christmas party, which culminated in an evening of great fun and frolic. Despite the premonitions of a wet and windy afternoon, the skies remained clear and paved the way for dollops of Christmas cheer. A gorgeous setting to ring the curtain down on an eventful year! 🐾







# MEET OUR MAINTENANCE TEAM



The world's an oyster for this motley crew of creative geniuses who are the faces behind some of the most remarkable transformations at Animal Welfare League NSW's Shelter at Kemps Creek. The thread that ties Angela (aka Garden Guru), David (aka Dave) and Glen (aka MacGyver) together is a collective love for animals and the constant desire to contribute to the health and wellness of animals great and small in our community. The terrific trio take some time off their busy schedule to tell us what makes them stick together as a team.

## All work, more play!

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT AWL NSW?

**Glen:** I have been at AWL NSW for almost a year.

**Angela:** I have had a long association with the AWL NSW. Twenty years ago, I spent about two years volunteering for the organisation. I came back in 2016 again to volunteer for a year. I started working for the organisation four years ago, as an animal attendant, and now in garden maintenance.

**Dave:** I have been with AWL NSW for 14 years.

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

**Glen:** I found inspiration in the fact that I could join a team of like-minded people. We all love animals and strive to make the world a better place for them in our own unique ways.

**Angela:** It is my passion to work outdoors and be one with nature. Working in animal welfare is a great cause to be part of. Looking at all the wonderful animals being rescued and rehomed is what keeps me going.

**Dave:** It was my love for animals that drew me to work at AWL NSW. Two years before that we had adopted a puppy from the shelter. So I was familiar with the organisation. For the first couple of years, I worked as an animal

attendant. Then I was offered a new position in maintenance work.

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

**Glen:** Our days vary depending on current weather patterns, priorities and immediate shelter needs. No two days are the same. As a team, we endeavour to maintain a safe and harmonious working environment in which staff and animals alike can safely share their time.

**Angela:** What I love is that every day is different. I am mostly involved in the upkeep of the grounds and gardens, but it is great to be surrounded by the animals.

**Dave:** Every day is a mixed bag. We try and make sure that all urgent requirements at the shelter are met. Sometimes there is a job that needs urgent attention, or some repair work that needs to be carried out.

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

**Glen:** It is great to know that each of us helps to make a positive contribution to the welfare of animals under AWL NSW's care.

**Angela:** Just being here and being able to contribute to our great organisation keeps me ticking.

**Dave:** It fills me with joy to be surrounded by hardworking people who are so passionate about animals.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS AT HOME?

**Glen:** Dogs, birds and fish.

**Angela:** Not at the moment, but I am currently breeding mealworms for our shelter chickens.

**Dave:** We have two dogs that we adopted from AWL NSW. We also have a lorikeet that was brought to our facility many years ago. 🐦

## Safety first!

AWL NSW would like to acknowledge the generous support we have received from **Bunnings Hoxton Park** in the form of a storage shed to assist with safely tucking our maintenance equipment away. So come rain or shine, we know our gardening and general maintenance tools are staying spick and span. A big THANK YOU to Bunnings Hoxton Park! ●





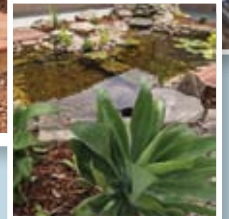


# Pet projects

– Here's what has kept our busy maintenance team on their toes of late.

## Across the Rainbow Bridge

They say all good things must come to an end, but memories last forever. Our newly built tranquil pond is a homage to all animals loved and lost – and is an oasis of calm and serenity far from the madding crowd. The pond cradles a handful of koi and aquatic feature plants and provides a peaceful space for pet parents and family members to come and reflect on precious memories of their dearly departed pets. We are grateful to our supporters who donated charming garden features that add to the serenity of the spot. 🐾



Koi pond



Bath time

## Summer splashing

While you may have spent the summer working on your tan lines by the sea, our doggy brigade took to the waters in style as well – in our newly renovated bath area! Our canny maintenance team built them their own catwalk – a ramp leading up to the bath where our canine companions had their own blissful moments of skinny-dipping! No more awkward lifts into the bath tub for our doggos. Shower time was never this fun. 🐾

## In Fine Feathers

Over the years, AWL NSW has shared a treasured bond with our furry friends, dogs, cats and even horses at our shelter and our branch networks. In the spirit of embracing animals of all shapes and sizes, we are gearing up to welcome feathered friends into our fold. Before the grand red carpet is rolled out for the chook brigade, our maintenance team is currently (at the time of going to print) adding the final touches to the hen house, appropriately named the Chick Inn. A lush veggie patch and a dust bath are expected to spring up soon in the vicinity to provide physical and mental stimulation for the chooks. We are hoping to get an invite to this hen party! 🐾



Chicken coop



# 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 and Inspector Naethuys recently travelled to a property in the Macarthur region after hearing about an emaciated cow that was part of a herd. The cow was sighted and confirmed to be in poor body condition with scouring evident on her tail and rear end. Contact was established with the owner who was aware of the issue and had been seeking veterinary advice regarding the cause of decline in the cow's condition and recommended treatment. The inspectors followed up with regular visits to ensure the treatment was successful and the animal's condition improved gradually over a period of time.

When reports of an abandoned emaciated dog in the Central West region of NSW with no access to food, water or shelter reached Inspector Naethuys and Inspector Godwin, they immediately reached the site for further investigations. While the dog was sighted in the backyard having sufficient fresh water and shelter, he did look lean for his age. Being a young adult with plenty of energy to spare, it looked like the dog needed a higher quality diet, and that's exactly what the inspectors advised the owners with. They also communicated that the dog's worming treatments need to be kept up to date. The inspectors also provided the owner with some high-quality food. They are scheduled to go back for a visit soon to get an update on the dog's progress.

Two horses – a mare and a stallion, were recently surrendered to AWL NSW, and both were completely unhandled. AWL NSW Inspector Clarke stepped up to the occasion and took the horses to a horse breaker, who specialises in natural horsemanship techniques. The stallion was gelded and has since found his forever home, with the family keeping AWL NSW regularly informed of the horse's welfare. We hope the mare will find a loving home as well.

When two abandoned horses were reported from Boxers Creek, AWL NSW Inspectors were quick to attend. After making enquires, the owner was contacted and advised the horses had escaped due to poor fencing. The horses were then surrendered to AWL NSW's care.

Reports of two dogs on tethers and with no access to water was reported to AWL NSW. On arrival, the inspectors discovered that because one of the dogs had managed to entangle itself, it was not able to have a drink of water. The inspectors proceeded to help the animal and provided access to drinking water. AWL NSW urges people to be mindful when tethering dogs, as canine companions can get themselves in a lot of trouble if the tether restricts their free movement in any way.

Inspector Clarke attended a property in Riverstone after hearing of a dog that had no access to water on a hot day. The dog was located and it was discovered that it did not have water to drink. The owners were educated about the harm that could have come the dog's way when exposed to severe heat with no access to drinking water. The owners immediately rectified the situation by shifting the dog indoors and giving it a good drink of water.

Educating the community on animal welfare issues is an important aspect of the work that the AWL NSW Inspectorate do on a regular basis. When Inspector Wakefield travelled to a Western Sydney address to investigate reports of a maltese terrier dog with a severe case of matted fur, he discovered that the condition was not as poor as it had been previously alleged. The owner of the dog was elderly and had been having trouble trimming her canine companion's fur on her own. Assistance and advice were given to the owner, and the dog was trimmed and groomed. No further action was taken.

When two runaway horses were spotted galloping along a main road in Western Sydney, an alarmed caller got in touch with AWL NSW to report the incident. Inspector Godwin arrived at the scene to find that the caller had herded the animals into his own property for safekeeping. Upon inspection, the horses were found to be in light body condition but without injury. Inspector Godwin was able to locate the owner and facilitate his reunion with the horses. Feeding instructions were issued to the owner in relation to the body condition of the horses. Subsequent visits to check on the horses have seen an improvement in their condition.





# AWL NSW INSPECTORATE

## New hands on deck



Our team of inspectors carry out vital work by responding to reports of cruelty or neglect of animals in the community. We have had three new members join us recently, who hit the ground running from day one. Meet Amber Clarke, Jazmin Naethuys and Matthew Godwin...

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

**Amber:** The variation of daily jobs. Meeting new people and educating people on how to best look after their animals.

**Jazmin:** Having a voice and standing up for animals who deserve to live without fear and within loving home environments.

**Matthew:** To be able to make a difference.

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME AN INSPECTOR?

**Amber:** It was always something I looked forward to as a lifelong career option.

**Jazmin:** To operate in a challenging environment where the work can be physically and mentally tough but the rewards can be great.

**Matthew:** To contribute to the world of animal welfare in any capacity.

### HOW DO YOU UNWIND AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK?

**Amber:** It's great to be able to get back home to my children. I also like to take my dogs out for a run, or go for a ride on the horse.

**Jazmin:** I enjoy getting outdoors whether it be exploring our amazing country, camping, 4WD driving, working with the farm animals, etc.

**Matthew:** I love to spend time with my daughter after I head home.

### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVICE YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY OF ANIMAL OWNERS?

**Amber:** To microchip their pets as it works as a voice for those that don't have one and it can get their pets home quickly if they became lost.

**Jazmin:** It is vital to be aware of animal welfare laws in your state. Don't be afraid to report any concerns you may have to agencies who can investigate and assist.

**Matthew:** Treat animals with respect, dignity and kindness. 🐾



Amber



Jazmin



Matthew



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER *Christmas*

As we embark on a new year with renewed hopes and optimism, we realised we were so lucky to have you walk with us every step of the way last year.

Your generosity helped us brave the odds. Your donations were the driving force behind our team racing to the frontlines to provide vital aid to those affected by bushfires. Your contributions gave a second chance to hundreds of sick, injured, neglected and surrendered animals. You enabled us to defend the voiceless and educate the community about the true meaning of love. You helped make a difference in the

lives of those who needed it the most. You helped so many animals feel special this Christmas. YOU saved lives.

So from all of us at Animal Welfare League NSW, two and four-legged, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! 🐾



Shelter Managers Sam and Naomi



Chief Inspector Stimson



AWL NSW Inspectorate Team



AWL NSW Shelter Team



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER  
*Christmas*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER  
*Christmas*





*Two of the little kittens homed together*

### EASTERN SUBURBS

Things were moving along at a gentle pace through 2020 with subsidising pet desexing and other veterinary costs, till October arrived with a full-blown kitten season.

With help from some dedicated volunteers, a litter of kittens born in somebody's backyard was trapped, desexed and good homes found for most of them. Some trapping was done by a volunteer with a small fishing net, who has now become an expert in capturing reluctant kittens!

The kittens were taken into care by a member of the Eastern Suburbs Branch and new owners arrived to select one from the litter. Indecision and soft hearts resulted in two kittens going to the one family with them exclaiming, "How can we choose between such gorgeous, clingy little darlings – we will take them both!" Two lovely ginger boys were taken into care by the Shoalhaven Branch and also rehomed together.

Currently, we are all hard at work trying to trap the mother cat and we know we will succeed.

### EUROBODALLA

While the fires raged around and through Eurobodalla Shire last December/January (2019-20), many people were forced to flee to the Moruya evacuation centre, with only their clothes, their pets and perhaps a few supplies. Holidaymakers trying to enjoy a festive break were also stranded with little warning.

During the chaos of smoke, sirens, people, pets and noise, a few calm people quietly and gently directed and assisted.

One such person was Branch President Shelagh Ingram. Shelagh was recently awarded the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation, for her contribution and service to the NSW 2019-2020 Emergency Response.

It couldn't go to a more deserving and caring person!

As new animals came into the evacuation centre, she directed their owners to the safe areas set up and stocked for dogs, cats, horses and other pets.

Shelagh worked tirelessly for three days, walking around the various areas, checking that all the animals had water, food and bedding. She spent time with scared animals, reunited animals with misplaced humans and even sat with lonely animals who were waiting for their families to come back. She was a calming, reassuring influence on both animals and their families.

The obvious care and regard Shelagh showed for each animal gave the families confidence to go and get food and medical care, etc for themselves, knowing their beloved pets were safe and in good hands.

The Premier praised her and everyone else involved for their tireless contributions to the community. We totally agree.



*Shelagh Ingram*



*Santa Paws*



*Second Chances Calendar*

### FAR SOUTH COAST

The Far South Coast Branch has been very busy rehoming cats and dogs during COVID-19. Our welfare team works non-stop to ensure the animals are placed in the best environment for them. Sadly, due to the number of enquiries for each pet, not everyone is chosen. We have also been busy selling our Calendar of Second Chances which has been well received. Big hugs to all those cats and dogs that made it on the calendar this year and a fond farewell to those who went over the rainbow bridge.

We also held our annual Santa Paws event which was well attended. Amongst all the various sized dogs there were three cats and one chook! No mishaps ensued and Santa departed whole.



## GREAT LAKES AND MANNING

What a difference 12 months can make! This time last year we were in the midst of drought and raging bushfires. This year has brought about floods and COVID-19.

The one thing that has not changed is the influx of kittens and it does not get any easier to turn people away, as we have very little room to take in more kittens. One would think by the number of cats de-sexed, the number of kittens should be decreasing. But let's just say that we have been inundated with kittens.

Prior to Christmas 2020, cats and kittens were being homed very quickly. But with the holiday season coming in, there has been a dip in enquiries. Hopefully, things will start to pick up soon.

We hope to see more people coming into our Op Shop. There is a lot of tourist presence in town but not a lot of them are spending. We understand it could be due to the economic downturn from COVID-19. We need the public to realise that it is now more than ever that animals need our help. We usually sell a lot of books and DVDs this time of the year. We hope the sales pick up soon.

We also want to thank all the vets in the area for the assistance they provide us year-round. Our branch would particularly like to mention Mid Coast Animal Hospital and Windan Sea Vets for being carers as well, and supplying veterinary care to our cats and kittens. Forster Tuncurry Boarding Kennels also do an amazing job looking after our doggies at very reasonable boarding rates. So thank you one and all.

Of course, a big thank you must also go to our carers, shop volunteers, and those who are part of our committee. You all do an amazing job. Thank you!



*All hands on deck at the Op Shop*



*A family of cats at the branch*

## HAWKESBURY

It seems like there is no way to slow down at Hawkesbury, we've bounced from July Desexing (during which we issued 658 subsidised desexing vouchers) straight into kitten season! Thankfully, adoption enquiries continue to be strong and rehoming is going well. The down side, of course, is that many of these babies are unwell when they arrive in care and that can be costly. In the past, fundraising has allowed us to offer that little extra care but COVID-19 has seen fundraising opportunities severely limited.

Hawkesbury was able to take advantage of one brief window to participate in a local Trash and Treasure Market, and while the monetary reward wasn't as much as we hoped for, it was great to be out in the community once again, spreading the desexing message. Our second fundraising opportunity came when it was suggested we run an online Christmas Auction. Sandy Pisch from our branch took charge of this and ran it with military precision. From start to finish we spent five days on this and managed to raise over \$700 and clear the shelves of lots of donated items.

## ILLAWARRA

In the first full year since our new direction on fostering and adoptions, volunteers have helped rescue, raise, socialise and rehome 172 cats and kittens. The program has gone from strength to strength with new people interested in helping with fostering and lots of interest in kittens to adopt. So much so that we can hardly keep up with the demand!



We now have a Facebook page which raises our profile and where we can inform the public about our activities and advertise the animals we have for adoption. A Facebook call for foster parents saw an enormous response.

The kitten season has been exceptionally busy. Hours of work by our core team of Donna, Holly and Melissa has resulted in improved processes and resources for managing the program and communicating with our volunteers. One committed volunteer, Marie, has done a tremendous job. She has fostered multiple kittens in addition to dropping off traps to help rescue animals, overseen the finances, administered vouchers for subsidised desexing and provided supplies for foster parents. We have

also set up a donations system to help raise money to support our work, and have continued with important advocacy work through presentations at various forums.



*Happy kitties from Illawarra*





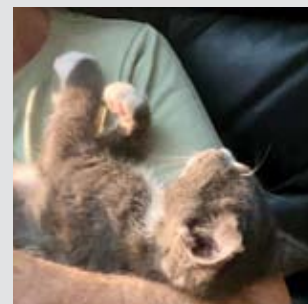
## NOWRA-JERVIS BAY

It's been all hands on deck for us since the start of 2021. Social media ads with 'free to good homes' and 'abandoned units with multiple litters' tags started doing the rounds early on. We have been on our toes ever since.

We have also been busy assisting a wonderful and caring lady, who for 17 years has been desexing, feeding and caring for as many cats and kittens as she can financially afford. Thanks to the support and blessings of AWL NSW, we have reduced the burden on her with free desexing of female cats, rehoming of multiple kittens and food donated by members of the community. We hope to continue with this assistance to aid the community.

The abandoned unit gave us 13 cats and kittens, with ages varying from 2.5 weeks to adults. Added to this list was a pregnant mum who delivered seven kittens. While one unfortunately passed away, we are looking to rehome the others. The Shoalhaven Animal shelter took on a gorgeous but injured male, and he was also rehomed.

In a combined rescue with Shoalhaven and Illawarra branches, the Nowra-Jervis Bay Branch took in one of three pregnant cats from Illawarra. Hope had four babies and they have since been adopted. We think the mum cat will also find her forever home soon.



## MOREE

Due to the seemingly never-ending stream of dogs and pups from our pound and surrenders, we have had to change the way we operate. There is a lot to accommodate in-between vet work, photography, advertising and speaking with potential adopters. Time is of the essence when it comes to the animals stationed at the pound.

In order to save more dogs and pups, we contacted some rescue groups in Queensland, and were happy to learn that they would love to join hands with us and help save more lives. We vaccinate the pups. If the dogs are people- and dog-friendly, we take them from the pound and care for them. After discussing available spots for these rescues, we meet half-way. We travel 760km to and from and spend a lot of time on the roads. But at the end of the day it is a rewarding experience for us. We make this trip every fortnight and have between 10 and 15 dogs per trip. We also find homes for some of the dogs between ourselves. We hope we can help save the lives of these beautiful dogs, and we would be happy to drive half way to meet.



*Puppies on their way to their new homes*



*The Moree team take on the dirt roads while transporting dogs and pups*



*Lyndal Jenkins (new Instructor for NDTC) and Snoop Dog.*  
Photographer: Rosy Williams

## NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

2021 looks to be a promising year, thanks to strategic changes to the Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) annual program. COVID-19 safety remains at the forefront of our thinking. With social distance training in place, strict sign-in procedures, and using plenty of hand sanitiser, all attendees can be confident of their continued wellbeing. Beginner class size is limited to 12 handlers and registration of these new canine friends is every two months. Bookings are now essential. All new handlers receive a run down on NDTC rules of conduct, delivered by our president Steve Genner, and a full two months training – plenty of time to acquire basic dog obedience skills. NDTC is proud of its gentle handling training techniques, delivered by dedicated, volunteer instructors.

Despite the challenges of 2020, NDTC registered 103 dogs across its three training disciplines – obedience, agility and rally obedience. We also conducted instructor training and are delighted to welcome Lyndal Jenkins to our 2021 team. NDTC continues to serve the local community, helping people form a strong and lasting bond with their dog to become responsible pet owners.



## NORTH COAST

Careful management of finances, ever since the branch started operating more than 20 years ago, allowed the accumulation of a 'rainy day' fund. COVID-19 became our 'rainy day'! It helped pay for the accounts while our usual fundraisers were affected by COVID-19. Veterinary treatment and ongoing medication was provided to sick cats. In August, the outdoor cat enclosure was covered with aviary wire, a pre-COVID decision, and money well spent to deter further snake visitations.

Initially, the main focus was on keeping the cat shelter operating while paying strict attention to COVID-19 health and safety requirements. Fortunately, increased numbers of cats were adopted into permanent homes throughout 2020.

In the absence of branch meetings, committee members circulated reports, providing information updates. Actual meetings resumed in November, with the COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. The branch AGM in August took place via Zoom.

While our previous street stall was set up in March last year as part of the street events, we organised two garage sales later in the year. Friends and neighbours rallied around with donated goods, and also volunteered their help on sale days.

Other than disrupted fundraising events and meetings, regular branch activities continued through 2020. We recognise our good fortune, and look forward to resuming business as usual in 2021.



*Left to Right: Anne, Jenny and Ruth ready to welcome customers*

## NORTHERN BEACHES

The Northern Beaches branch had a fantastic start to its first five months.

We ran our first event on November 14 on the sunny Manly beach – a 'Cutest dog portrait competition' where locals were encouraged to attend our pet photo booth. We had a professional photographer there for the day taking snaps of Sydney's Northern Beaches dogs, to help raise awareness about Animal Welfare League NSW and talk to the public about volunteering, donations, foster care and adoption.

Since launching, our branch has also run two desexing voucher campaigns to help desex local pets in the community, particularly at a time when many have lost work due to COVID-19.

Our main focus however has been to generate awareness via our social media accounts as well as building a reliable foster care network. In our first five months, 25 animals went into foster care, and 20 were adopted.

We are thrilled with the support so far from the community and have big plans for the future. Watch this space!



*The team at their Christmas party*

## ORANGE

The Animal Welfare League NSW's Orange Branch has survived and continues to thrive under 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, 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 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.





*Kittens under the care of Shoalhaven branch members and foster carers*

## SHOALHAVEN

What a busy few months! Kitten season has arrived so our foster carers have been very busy looking after stray and unplanned kittens.

It's not enough to simply care for the kittens out there though. We need to stop them at the source and so once again we have been also offering our special \$50 desexing to pensioners and health card holders. Our goal is to desex as many cats as we can and to try and stop the next generation by offering to take any kittens being given away free and desex them before rehoming.

Our volunteers have also been busy at our new stall at the Berry Bowling Club Markets. It was great to finally be able to go out since COVID-19 started and run our normal fundraisers. It's good to be back out there raising awareness of the work we do at Shoalhaven and doing a bit of fundraising at the same time. If you happen to be at the markets, make sure to stop by and say hello.

## TAMWORTH

The AWL NSW Tamworth Branch aims to help rehome pets in our community, and sometimes a very special pet will come into our care. One such pet is Possum who has just turned 10 years young. He is a lovely, cuddly boy who will make a great companion. He's well behaved and just loves to hang around looking for a pat. He has a calm nature, loves his food and is litter trained. Our branch is seeking an amazing family to adopt Possum and a gentle family who would like a companion to share their home with an older pet would be ideal. We hope locals will help share Possum's story and help him find the home he deserves.



*Possum is looking for a new home*

## WAGGA WAGGA

Wagga Wagga is the largest inland city of NSW with a population of close to 60,000. Our Executive Committee looks forward to supporting a large community of animal owners.

Our Inaugural Meeting was held at the Wagga Wagga City Council's Chambers on November 21, 2020. With a number of public attendees on the day we had nine additional members join the branch. This brings our total to 19 members.

We have been thrilled with the response from the community with a few people already reaching out for our help. Our branch is in the process of developing a network of foster carers and preparing them to take on dogs and cats. We have also been liaising with local veterinary hospitals and animal shelters to assist with upcoming projects.



*Members of the Wagga Wagga branch*

## WESTERN SUBURBS & HILLS DISTRICT

The work of our branch continues, despite the unprecedented health crisis facing us. The number of cats and kittens entering pounds remains overwhelming. We recently rescued a cat, called Hope, from Hawkesbury Pound who subsequently gave birth to kittens. Hope was surrendered to the pound by Girraween High School where staff and children had been caring for her.

The school kept in contact with the pound and were delighted to learn that Hope was safe with AWL NSW's Western Suburbs branch. Thank you to the students from the school who raised funds in order to make a donation to us in recognition of our help.

Schools are a popular dumping ground for cats and kittens and we also helped a lady from Wentworthville who adopted several kittens dumped in adjacent school grounds. Another cat rescued from school grounds is Lara, still available for adoption.

We continue to focus on desexing and assisting colony carers desex street cats. We have also rescued pound kittens for rehoming by other branches on the South Coast. We are grateful for their assistance.

It will definitely be a challenging 2021 with limited fundraising opportunities, but we are determined to soldier on to help animals in our area.



*Hope*



*Lara*



# Daphne

## THE 16-MONTH-OLD CAT WHO BECAME A GRANDMA – WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR PET DESEXED.

*A story about life, death and cross branch collaboration*

The Animal Welfare League NSW Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Nowra-Jervis Bay branches recently combined forces to manage a mini colony of 23 felines that started with a single cat that a neighbour had been feeding since its owner moved away the previous year. While successfully demonstrating the power of teamwork and impressive individual efforts to nurse, rehabilitate and rehome the majority of the cats and kittens, this story highlights how quickly a colony can expand, and how happy endings aren't always possible for all the cats involved.

The Illawarra Branch received a call for assistance with a 16-month-old unsocialised cat (Daphne) nursing a litter of 5 four-day-old kittens. As well as Daphne and her five, the team caught one 9-month-old male (Jingles) and three pregnant females the same age (Hope, Cleo and Calliope).

Shared across foster carers at each of the three branches, it was clear that

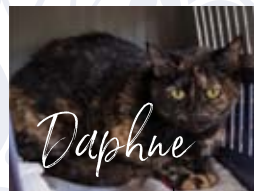
the young mums had no idea what to expect. Hope, fostered by the Nowra-Jervis Bay Branch, had four kittens and coped well. Cleo, who remained with the Illawarra Branch, was socialised by the time she had her litter, and with assistance from her foster mum, delivered four healthy kittens.

Calliope, cared for by the Shoalhaven Branch, didn't have such luck. She gave birth to her first three kittens in secret, then sadly left them alone to return to her bed to continue birthing. Luckily her foster carer heard the kittens crying and located them. Two were returned to Calliope in her bed, whilst the third was sadly found to be stillborn. Once back in her bed, Calliope had two more kittens, leaving her with four lovely babies to care for. One of the remaining four didn't survive the first week, while another developed neurological issues and was brought in to bottle feed. Toxoplasmosis was suspected, and despite administration of antibiotics

and fluids, the kitten sadly passed away.

After four months, eight of Daphne's direct offspring (including Jingles, Cleo and Calliope) and ten grandchildren have been adopted or rehomed. Hope has reverted to being cautious and her foster carer is hoping for a special home where they will understand she's not likely to ever be a lap cat. Daphne is in long-term foster care.

The Illawarra Branch would like to thank Shoalhaven and Nowra-Jervis Bay branches for their support and cooperation – showing how we can multiply good outcomes when we support each other. This also serves as a timely reminder not to feed stray cats (which causes exponential population growth unless you are willing to desex), but to contact AWL NSW volunteers who can best assess the situation and ensure the best outcome for the animals. 🐾







# Storm Advice Pets

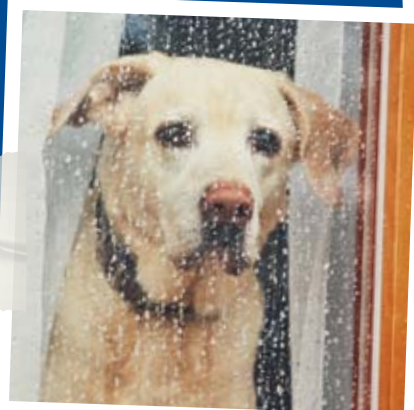
SUMMER TIPS FOR YOUR PET BY DR NICOLE MCMILLAN, VETERINARIAN

## STORMS AND FIREWORKS

Storms and fireworks can be terrifying for some of our pets. As a veterinarian I look a little differently at the clouds gathering for our beautiful summer storms in Sydney. Whilst I welcome the rain this year, I feel for some of our pets, particularly dogs, knowing what they are about to go through in their homes all across the state.

It can be heartbreaking to watch even before the first clap of thunder when otherwise well-behaved dogs begin to pace, pant, cling to their owners, hide inside wardrobes or behind lounges. Some even chew through walls, doors and fences. Others break windows. Many will escape to try and outrun their fear. After every storm, dogs are found wandering the streets, taken to pounds and brought into veterinary clinics with various injuries. Many have severe injuries.

Studies show that about 75% of pups will react to noises such as claps of thunder. Over time in some dogs this fear worsens and leads to severe anxiety and storm phobia. There are many ways that we can help prevent and treat storm phobias. Prevention is always best, so when you get a new puppy make their first storm fun. Hand out treats when thunder claps occur and make it fun. This can be used on any dog that shows small reactions to the thunder such as startling when it hits.



Once a pet has developed a fear of storm, other treatments can be used. A visit to your vet is a good idea, as medication can reduce the level of fear and anxiety, in order to allow other storm and noise phobia treatments to work. With medication, storm phobias can improve with time and become more manageable and less scary for your dog. It will also allow other treatments to work.

Wraps or coats such as the 'Thundershirt' apply a gentle and constant pressure on the pets and torso. It works in a similar manner as wrapping a baby.

A safe zone area is an area a pet can access during a fearful situation. You can enhance safe zones by adding sound proofing, a white noise maker and a comfy bed. They need to always have access to this area even when you are not there. Your dog will often choose the area, for example, bathroom or in the wardrobe. Pheromones (smell hormones) are also useful to help with relaxation in these areas. This is a product known as DAP which is the same pheromone that a mother dog releases to relax her puppies.

Desensitisation can be applied when your dog learns to relax using the sound of storms. This is best done with the assistance of your vet.





# Happytails

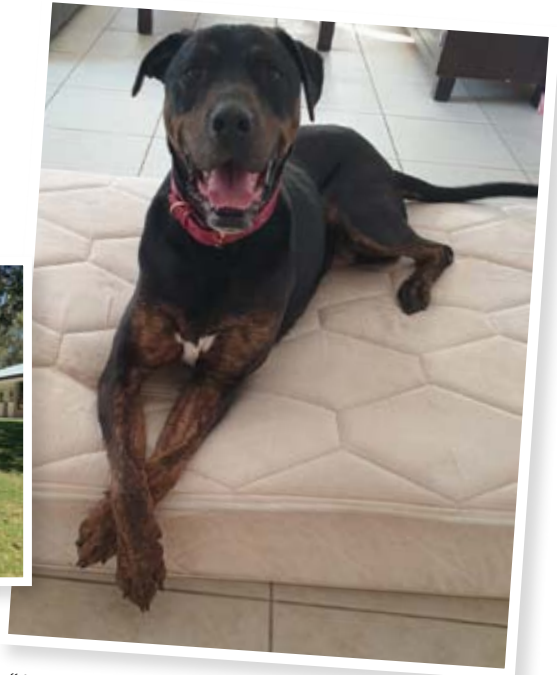
On the 15th September 2019, a large brindle crossbreed arrived at the Animal Welfare League NSW Kemps Creek shelter after being rescued by our Nowra-Jervis Bay volunteer branch.

## Jett

Known as the BFG (Big Friendly Giant) this sweet 7-year-old was suffering from hip dysplasia and arthritis, and this severely impacted his adoption-appeal to potential families. Day after day, month after month, Jett waited and waited but still no home came. Our shelter team could not believe that this big sweetheart continued to be overlooked and did everything they could to help Jett find his new home. Jett's adoption price was reduced, he was advertised in the media, but still no luck for Jett.

Jett fast became a favourite at the shelter, and it was our mission to help Jett find the loving home he deserved. On the 13th of October 2020, and after spending more than 365 days in our care, luck was on Jett's side and it was finally his turn to be adopted! All the AWL NSW Kemps Creek staff gathered to say their final farewells and to take a group photo with the dog that had become part of the shelter family. We would miss Jett, but a forever home was what we wanted the most. There may have been tears during his farewell, but they were tears of joy for Jett.

Knowing how much Jett was loved, his new family was quick to send updates of Jett and to show AWL NSW that he had settled in perfectly. Seeing Jett so happy and loved in his new home was worth the wait. 🐾



*"Jett is loving his new farm/home life and is fitting in so well. He is such a good boy and we can tell he's super grateful for all the attention and cuddles he's getting" - Savanna (Jett's new mum).*



### 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

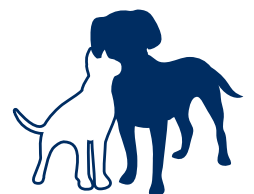


WE APPRECIATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HELP WITH SHELTER COSTS, AND WELCOME ITEMS TO FEED AND ENRICH THE ANIMALS

### Support



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



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