



# Victorian Dog Rescue &

Resource Group Inc.

We cannot save them all...But we can save that one

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Victorian Dog Rescue & Resource Group (VicDRG) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to decrease the number of dogs killed in Victorian pounds each year. We run a rehoming service for rescued dogs and a range of other initiatives that promote responsible pet ownership. We are staffed entirely by volunteers, receive no government funding and rely on supporter donations in order to survive.

## Fostering is Fabulous!

It's a chilly Saturday afternoon in Winter, and a group of nervous-looking people huddle together in a car park in Parkville. 'They look like expectant parents,' a passerby remarks. Well, that is what we are, in a way – we are foster carers for Victorian Dog Rescue, waiting to collect our new foster pet.

Have you ever considered fostering a rescue dog or cat? We are always desperate for more foster carers. Perhaps you'd love the companionship of a pet but intend to travel in six months, have a baby next year, or simply just don't want a permanent commitment right now. Well, fostering may be the answer for you!

'Fostering is hugely rewarding,' says Ilaria Walker,

who has fostered more than nine dogs for Victorian Dog Rescue. 'The dogs often arrive frightened and disoriented after being rescued from death row at the pound. But it's amazing how quickly they begin to relax and how affectionate they become once they realise they are safe and loved again. It's wonderful to see.'

Most dogs in pounds end up there through no fault of their own. Their owner may not be able to keep them due to changed family circum-

stances; they might be moving into rental accommodation where no pets are allowed; elderly owners may have gone into a nursing home; or sometimes the pet simply becomes unwanted.

'Many people in our community regard dogs and cats as disposable items,' Trisha Taylor, our President says. 'That's where we come in. We work with the pounds to save as many as we can, and place them in our network of foster homes.'

So what's involved in fostering? Well, the carer simply provides the same love, care and attention as they would to a permanent family pet: namely, food, exercise, affection and socialisation. In addition, the carer advises us on the dog's personality, which includes



Dedicated VicDRG foster carers with their numerous rescue friends: (from left) Julie, Lesley and Lisa.

Story cont. page 2

## Feature Dog for Adoption – Jack!

What a handsome young man Jack is! A Staffy/Heeler X, he is now about a year old. (His lovely sister Kiki is also looking for a home – please see page 3.)

A happy and confident boy, Jack likes other dogs but is people-focused. And he isn't high-maintenance – Jack's content amusing himself in the garden for hours with his toys.

Do you like TV? So does Jack! In addition he is housetrained, good with kids and has had basic obedience training. An all-round wonderful package!

To view more photos and information about Jack, please visit his page on our web site: [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/adoptions/jack2.html](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/adoptions/jack2.html).





**Penny, a beautiful Border Collie X rescued from Mildura Pound recently and placed in our foster care program**

*'Most dogs end up on death row due to no fault of their own... Many in our community regard dogs and cats as disposable items.'*



Picture: Manuela Cifra

## Fostering is Fabulous! cont.

*Story continued from page 1*

their good points as well as any emerging behavioural issues. For example, do they like children? Are they good with cats? We then advertise the dog on our website and on Pet Rescue, and match the dog to the right adopter. This can take anything from a couple of weeks to several months.

All the foster carer's vet bills and extra expenses are paid for. If there are any behavioural issues, there is an experienced dog trainer on hand to assist. 'We supply foster carers with 24-hour support,' Trisha confirms. 'If you have any problems with your foster pet, we will give you complete back-up.'

And does the foster carer get a say in who eventually adopts the dog or cat? 'Absolutely,' Trisha states. 'We would never send one of our rescue animals to a new home that the carer didn't feel comfortable with. Everyone must be happy that the dog and the new family are a good match.'

If you're interested in becoming a foster carer for Victorian Dog Rescue, we'd love to hear from you. You can download an application form at [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/foster.html](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/foster.html) or if you'd like more information, please do contact us at [rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au](mailto:rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au).

## I can't foster – how else can I help?

**Fostering a rescue animal doesn't suit everyone, but fortunately there are plenty of other ways you can help:**

- ◆ Become a much-needed 'Friend of Victorian Dog Rescue' – see back page
- ◆ Sponsor one of our deserving foster dogs – see [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/sponsor\\_a\\_dog.html](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/sponsor_a_dog.html)
- ◆ Transport dogs from rural Victoria to Melbourne on Saturdays
- ◆ Offer us your personal services: are you a knitter, designer, lawyer, photographer, accountant, writer or have any other skills that we could use? Run them by us!
- ◆ Print out copies of this Newsletter or on-line posters and leave them at your local vets, groomers or pet shops (but only those that don't sell animals please)
- ◆ Donate goods that we're always in need of: animal crates, food, flea treatments, toys, rugs, collars, leads, beds, bowls, pet igloos, brushes, puppy pens
- ◆ Perform house checks for prospective adopters and foster carers in your area
- ◆ Support and promote our fundraising events among your family and friends
- ◆ Purchase one of our T-shirts or car stickers to help spread the word about rescue
- ◆ Tell your friends about VicDRG and educate them about saving a rescue dog or cat rather than purchasing puppies or kittens from a pet shop or puppy farm
- ◆ Help out the fundraising committee on stalls, at events or simply with your great ideas!

### How to Contact Us

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**Any comments or suggestions for the next newsletter?** We'd like to hear from you. Please email Saskia at [saskiaa@iprimus.com.au](mailto:saskiaa@iprimus.com.au).

# DOGS FOR ADOPTION

These are just some dogs currently available through VicDRG – please see our website for many others: [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au).

## KANE

Ridgeback X, 9 months



**KANE** is so much like Scooby Doo we're sure he's a descendant! He has a great personality, is extremely friendly and loves to be near you all the time. He's not destructive at all: doesn't chew anything, and likes to know what you are up to all of the time. He's an extremely quick learner and has recently learnt to Sit, Stay, Lie Down, and can give you both his paws. He is very gentle with his food, toys, people and children.

## SCOOBY

Bull Arab X, 8 months



**SCOOBY** is a gorgeous, big boofy boy who's always so willing to please. He is incredibly laid back without an aggressive bone in his body - he's just a big wuss! He will grow to be a gentle giant who will be happy to play with other dogs, explore the dog park then have a snooze by your feet in the evening. Scoobie is looking for that special family who will give him all the love he deserves. He would thrive living with another dog to show him the ropes.

## KIKI

Staffy X Heeler, 1 year



**KIKI** is a gorgeous girl. She's great with people, especially children, but can be a bossy boots with some other dogs. Kiki has a lovely temperament – quick to engage in a game or a cuddle when invited. She is very polite (not jumpy at all) but might whip you to death with her constantly wagging tail! She still has plenty of puppy left in her: loves a game of tug (with human or doggy friends) and can often be found chasing butterflies in the garden.

## SAFFRON

Red Heeler X, 2 years



**SAFFY** loves nothing more than to follow you around. She's a super girl who really wants to find her forever home. Saffy is obedient and will sit when asked and is learning to walk well on the lead. She does love company, though, and will take a little time to settle into her new home as she can get anxious. She would be suited to an adult or teenage household with another dog.

## FELICE

Sighthound X, 18 months



**FELICE** is a gorgeous girl who loves to play with other dogs. She is intelligent and, being food motivated, responds quickly to training. She is now quite a confident, stable girl, although still a little unsure of strangers, new situations or things. Super happy, she loves a play and other dogs. She is a cuddly affectionate girl and deserves a stable, happy family.

## JACK JUNIOR

Jack Russell Terrier X, 3–5 years



**JACK JUNIOR** is a very friendly and happy little boy who loves life. He adores the company of other dogs and would like to go to home where he has a doggy pal. In his previous life he lived happily with a large dog. Like many terriers, Jack Junior will need secure fencing.

## EDGAR

Aussie Terrier, 12 months



**EDGAR** is so very cute – he is a happy little boy who is friendly and loves to play with other dogs. He is always up for a cuddle and to sit on your lap. Pretty good on the lead, he needs just a little more practice. He is very keen to please you – a really lovely boy. Edgar would be happy to be an only dog.

## TIGER

Corgi X, 5 years



**TIGER** is such an entertaining little fellow! He is an active boy who likes to go for walks and runs, and then loves nothing better than to curl up on your lap. Tiger is not suited to city life as he can be quite frightened of other dogs. He would like to live in the country or by the beach where he can go for walks without meeting too many other dogs.

## ISIS

Chi X, 18 months



**ISIS** has a loving and affectionate nature. She absolutely adores people's company and almost wags her tail off when she sees you. She is not fussed about living with another dog, but she would like to have you around most of the time as she gets anxious if left alone for long periods. Isis is not suited to living with children, as loud noises and lots of activity unsettle her.

Are you interested in giving a loving home to any of these deserving dogs? Every dog is health-checked, desexed, microchipped and C5 vaccinated. Our adoption fee is \$350, and this payment covers all vet-work and goes towards the rescue and rehabilitation of other dogs. For more information and pictures of each dog please visit [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/adoptions](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/adoptions).

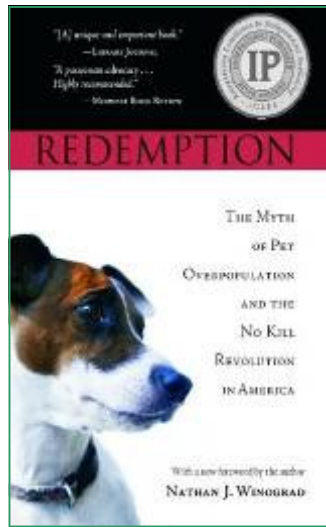
## Have you heard about *Redemption*? – the radical book that is sweeping the animal welfare movement worldwide

The critics are unanimous: this book is being called ‘powerful and inspirational’, ‘ground-breaking’, and ‘a must-read for all who care about animals’. High praise indeed – but upon reading it I can understand why.

*Redemption* is a passionate call for ending the killing of healthy homeless dogs and cats in shelters. Winograd’s mission is to not only convince us that a No-Kill society is possible, but to describe how he helped two shelters in the US achieve exactly that – and how it can be replicated anywhere.

For anyone involved in animal welfare, his is an awesome and impressive achievement. So why has Winograd received widespread opposition and criticism from the same large animal welfare organisations one would expect to champion his work?

Because he firmly places the blame for the high number of



Order this award-winning book online at Amazon.

deaths at their feet. Five million healthy dogs and cats are killed in pounds and shelters in the US every year – in Australia it is 250,000. Rather than point the finger at irresponsible pet owners

for this horrific situation, the author writes that those managing the shelters and pounds are ultimately responsible in that they continue to refuse to implement the successful rehoming initiatives that made the San Francisco and the Tompkins County shelters (under his direction) ‘No-Kill’ (that is, over 90% of animals saved).

Winograd also challenges the notion of pet overpopulation, claiming there are more than enough homes out there for these animals – but shelters simply find it quicker and easier to kill. He sites many examples, and considering most of the groups were founded to protect and care for animals, this amounts to a massive betrayal, he writes.

*‘We can look forward to a time when the wholesale slaughter of animals in shelters is viewed as a cruel aberration of the past.’*

As you can imagine, it’s a controversial theory, and the arguments on both sides are too complex to examine in detail here. Whichever way you view the problem, this award-winning book has cast light on one vital issue: that the number of healthy pets killed each year in our society is utterly unacceptable, and we simply must try new ways of dealing with it. **Highly recommended.**

### NATIONAL SUMMIT ON PET OVERPOPULATION

The 3rd National Summit to End Companion Animal Overpopulation will be held at the Gold Coast from September 30th to October 2nd.

Program details are now available at [www.ndn.org.au/files/SummitPack.pdf](http://www.ndn.org.au/files/SummitPack.pdf).

A few of us from VicDRG will be attending and will report back to supporters in the Summer edition of this newsletter. We’re particularly looking forward to hearing from international speakers Nathan Winograd (author of *Redemption*, above) and Mike Arms, acclaimed animal welfare advocate.

## 250,000 healthy cats and dogs are euthanased in Australia EVERY year\*



Too many are born and there are not enough homes for them all, so the unwanted end up suffering in the pounds on death row

Find out why and how you can help at [WWW.DEATHROWPETS.net](http://WWW.DEATHROWPETS.net)



Say **NO** to puppy mills and backyard breeders...

- Adopt your new cat or dog from a shelter
- Make sure your pet is de-sexed
- Support pet shops that don't sell puppies and kittens
- Visit this site and spread the word

\*Statistics compiled and extrapolated from 06-07 NSW Council pound data along with data from the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and Cat Protection Society

## Can you help little Ned see again?



**When Victorian Dog Rescue saved Ned, a Maltese X of about five years from the pound in June, his condition was deeply distressing. Severely underweight, he had a terrible skin condition, a dreadful case of kennel cough, one very badly infected ear and – to top it all off – he was blind in both eyes, due to cataracts.**

At first we weren't aware of Ned's blindness as he managed so well in his little cell at the pound, but at Victorian Dog Rescue we honour our promise to each and every dog we save: **every rescued dog will receive as much vet care and assistance from us as they require.** No dog is ever returned to the pound or euthanased because of unexpected health or behavioural problems that can be treated. Sometimes we are questioned as to how we can justify spending so much on one dog. We can only say we regard each life as valuable, and of those dogs we manage to save we

commit to treating them with respect and love, giving them what quality of life we can.

Luckily for Ned, Carol and Dave Bamford of Puppy Love Lodge in Malmsbury came forward to foster him on his road to recovery, and our President arranged for Ned to see an eye specialist at the Animal Eye Clinic in Malvern.

The wonderful Robin Stanley assessed Ned and found although his left eye is too badly damaged to recover, he believes there is a chance of saving Ned's right eye by removing the cataract.

**'Ned gives so much joy to those around him.'**

Carol reports that Ned is a wonderful patient and is always happy to sit on her lap and have a cuddle while his eye drops are inserted daily. 'Everyone who meets Ned is captivated by his happy, outgoing nature,' she says. 'He bumps into things but amazes us how well he manages to find his way around. He loves his toys, and he brings them into the kitchen to show me just how clever he is.'

After Ned has fully recovered from his eye operation, Carol hopes to take him for

visits to a local aged-care facility. 'He gives so much happiness to everyone that I know the residents would love to meet him. Thus having some sight restored would not only be a huge benefit for this little guy, but for others around him too.'



After all that Ned has been through, we believe he deserves this chance to have sight restored in at least one eye, even though it is an expensive operation.

**Can you help donate to Ned's Sight Fund?** Donations are currently not tax-deductible but we can provide a receipt and updates on Ned's progress to those who would like to assist. If you think you can help Ned see again please email [vicdrg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vicdrg@optusnet.com.au) or call Saskia, our Fundraising & Communications Coordinator, on 0409 171 270. Thank you – and good luck, Ned!



## Happy Adoption Tail: the day Vonnie came to stay!



**You would be forgiven for thinking that the lovely photo (left) of adopter Gary McConchie and Vonnie, a Red Heeler X, was taken after a life-long friendship. Not so – these two had only just met an hour earlier. But it was love at first sight for them both.**

'Vonnie is wonderful,' Gary says. 'I just don't know how I got by without her. My life is

so much brighter now. Thank you, Victorian Dog Rescue, for saving her.'

Vonnie was rescued from Mildura Pound and she now lives with Gary and his cat George at Yarrowonga. And although George rules the roost, Vonnie is very accepting of the pecking order.

'George lets Vonnie sleep on the bed with us, but Vonnie knows George is still the boss!'



**Vonnie enjoying her daily walk along the Murray River.**

## Dog Training Tip – Recall!

With Hollie Edwards, Golden Acres Dog Solutions

### When you call your dog, what sort of response do you get from her?

'I'll be there in a minute, I'm busy...' or 'Coming... in my own time... Ooh, what's this over here?' If these apply to your dog, you may need to change your recall command to 'Koi', 'Here' or 'Now', for example. Starting afresh like this will help tell your dog that you're playing a different game now and the rules have changed!

#### Essential points for successful recall training

- ◆ If you think your dog won't come to you, *don't call her*. Only recall your dog when you are 100% certain she will come because otherwise you inadvertently teach your dog that the recall command isn't important and she doesn't have to come back. Go and get her instead.
- ◆ What tone are you using? Your dog may not come if you sound angry, and don't call your dog if you intend any unpleasant consequences. (She understandably won't want to come back to you next time!) Reward all recalls, even if you didn't call your dog. This is also known as your dog 'checking in' with you.
- ◆ Rewards should consist of food, play, pats and/or praise, and should take up to 30 seconds to make it memorable and thus worth your dog coming back to you next time!
- ◆ Only use your recall command *once*. Never repeat it.

- ◆ Practise recall at least 3 times a day.
- ◆ Reinforce correct behaviour.
- ◆ Be consistent.

#### If recall training doesn't work it is usually because...

- ◆ The recall command is being repeated
- ◆ Recalls aren't being practiced.
- ◆ You might not be using good reinforcement and reward: for example, offering the dog food she doesn't like.

#### Fun recall games you can play at home with your dog!

##### Doggy in the middle

As the name suggests, this involves two people and one dog. One of you calls the dog and when she comes you play, treat or pat the dog for 30 seconds, then say 'Your turn!' or 'I'm done!'. All praise and affection stops. Now the other person calls the dog and does the same for 30 seconds. Then say 'Your turn!' and keep swapping. **ONLY** one person calls at a time. As the dog learns the game she will get faster and become more exuberant. Start at 3m apart and slowly move further away. If the dog loses interest you have moved out too far too quickly or your praise/rewards aren't alluring enough!

##### Hide and seek

One person holds and distracts the dog while the other hides. Start by hiding in easy places and not very far away. Call the dog's name as many times as needed.



When you *know* she is committed to finding you, this is when you can use your recall command (but only once). It is fine if the dog finds you before you give your recall command.

Give her 30 seconds of praise/rewards/games when you are found. Make your dog feel the same as you would if you'd won the lottery! If she gets distracted on the way to finding you, you are either not exciting enough or your hiding place was too difficult. Make it easier for her to find you next time.

##### The name game

Call the dog's name and reward her when she looks at you. Start with no distractions and work up to major distractions – eventually the dog will look to you or the hand that delivers the treats in less than a second.

To contact Hollie, or for more information about her work, please visit [www.golden-acres.com.au](http://www.golden-acres.com.au).

### Coming soon: our own 2010 calendars!

We are very excited to announce that an inaugural VicDRG fundraising calendar is currently in production for next year. Every month features one or more of our rescue dogs and their individual 'survivor' stories.

Talented photographer Manuela Cifra has generously donated her time to take the pics, and if early shots (right) are anything to go by, this is going to be a stunning production.

The calendars will make great Christmas presents. To pre-order, please contact Natasha at [natasha.shan@gmail.com](mailto:natasha.shan@gmail.com)!



## Dr Emma Whiston – a special vet with a special purpose

**Death and dying are undeniably a part of life, but how many of us could deal with it on a daily basis? Dr Emma Whiston is one of those rare people. She told Saskia Adams how and why she does it.**

My family has had to say goodbye to no fewer than three beloved pets in the last year – two due to old age and one to illness. Other animal lovers will understand how traumatic the end of your pet's life can be for all involved. It is something we all dread.

Thus when I came across a website called 'My Best Friend Veterinary Home Euthanasia Services' I heaved a sigh of relief. Here was a vet who not only made home visits but who specialised in palliative end-of-life care and advising owners on the right time to say goodbye to their pet – something that can be very hard for the owners to objectively judge.

*'Putting pets to sleep in a clinic environment can be traumatic and stressful for the vet as well as everyone else.'*

When I first met Dr Emma I immediately knew my dog and I were in good hands. She carefully assessed my 14-year-old Akita, Mirri, and at a later date, when I was fully prepared and accepting of the need to say goodbye, she gave my beloved girl a peaceful and tranquil passing.

And yet this gentle and quietly spoken mother-of-two human children almost never became a vet – for more than one reason. 'Growing up, I always wanted to be an actor and go to NIDA!' she says. 'It wasn't until Year 10 that I decided to follow in my father's footsteps and become a vet.' Emma's dad had been a mixed-practice vet in rural England before emigrating to Australia with Emma's Scottish mother and her four siblings. 'He was very much a James Herriot sort of vet, so we always had a menagerie at home, and helped Dad with his work.'

However, perhaps surprisingly, Emma's parents weren't too keen on her pursuing the same profession as her father. 'I think they were concerned because it is a very sad job at times; and in Dad's days long hours for not much pay was the norm... I understand now why they tried to talk me out of it! It is a difficult profession to learn.' Also not encouraging was Emma's careers counsellor at school. 'She told me I wasn't smart enough to do the course. So I thought, I'll show you!'

Show her Emma certainly did, though she almost left the profession after her first year. 'I found that what I learnt at uni and what Dad had taught me were often poles apart. Uni was of course very scientific and textbook-based, whereas Dad had a great (and some would say older-fashioned) bedside manner. I believe he showed me the *art* of being a vet.'

General practice work was also an eye-opener. 'I had only ever experienced my dad's practice, and I found others were working in a more clinical way – at times it was hard to marry the two.'

Naturally, the clinic euthanasias Emma had to perform – at only 23 or 24 years of age – were sometimes quite distressing. 'Every time I had to do one I would put myself in the owners' shoes, I would suffer with them, feel their pain... I thought if I didn't do that I wasn't doing a good job. I soon got quite depressed and burnt out. If I was to continue, it was essential for me to learn a whole array of other skills to manage it better. As a result I can now perform euthanasias on a daily basis.'

A recent study in the *Australian Veterinary Journal* which found that vets are four times more likely to commit suicide compared to the general adult population didn't surprise Emma. Rural vets are apparently the most at risk, due to depression, isolation and long hours. 'We don't have peer support services or debriefing like ambos or

doctors in hospitals do. There is no psychological support set up for shelter vets and staff either, who sometimes have to perform euthanasias all day every day.'

(One organisation has made a step in the right direction, however: Lort Smith Animal Hospital in 2006 became the first shelter in the world to employ a full-time chaplain to counsel both staff and clients – the Reverend Barbara Allen. Emma and Barbara met while doing a pet loss and bereavement course at the Australian Centre for Grief & Bereavement at Monash University: [www.grief.org.au](http://www.grief.org.au).)

During the next ten years, Emma had a couple of stints away from general practice work. She enrolled to train as an actor in the National Theatre Drama School in St Kilda and, after the birth of her daughter, Abby, worked at Werribee Open Range Zoo for a year. 'I got my heavy vehicle

my best friend

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**Above: Emma with her beloved Kelpie Sally,**

## Dr Emma Whiston cont.

licence and became a safari bus driver! Just to do something really different.'

But it wasn't until 2004 that Emma found her true calling: she established Australia's first dedicated veterinary home euthanasia service – My Best Friend. 'I knew I didn't want to do general practice work in a clinic again. And My Best Friend was a concept I'd been contemplating for some years, and I liked the idea of being able to provide peaceful euthanasias for pets at home. Putting pets to sleep in a clinic environment can be traumatic and stressful for the vet as well as everyone else.'

To minimise distress, Emma has carefully developed her technique over the years. She uses sedation drugs to first calm the pet so that by the time comes to find a vein, the animal is sleeping peacefully in their owner's arms. A cup of tea is always welcome and helps to create a more relaxed atmosphere.

Meaghan Adams, another client of Emma's, says, 'Her method takes about 45 minutes, at the owner's pace, which provides plenty of time to say goodbye and gives you complete control. You are never rushed. Emma is wonderful – and very understanding of your tears.'

Another area of clinic work that Emma is articulate about is the current trend towards pets having chemotherapy and very invasive surgery: 'I think it sometimes goes too far. You have to weigh up what the pet is going to go through with the quality of life to be achieved... I believe pet owners should be counselled better about their options so that they can see euthanasia as a treatment option instead of a failure or a cop-out.'

*'Pet owners should be counselled better about their options...so that they can view euthanasia as a treatment option instead of as a failure or a cop-out.'*

Many clients often ask about the lovely kelpie pictured with Emma on her website and brochures. 'My Best Friend's name, logo and colours were all inspired by my old best friend Danny, a red-and-tan kelpie who died 2 years ago,' she explains. 'When I first saw her, I fell in love instantly – a client had rescued her from a farm where she was going to be

shot. She used to come to work with me – we were together all the time.' But that's not Danny in the photo with Emma. 'Funnily enough, she didn't like having her photo taken; she was camera shy.' Pictured with Emma, rather, is Sally, who she adopted from Save-A-Dog a few months before Danny died. 'I didn't intend to get another dog at all... A client asked me to view a dog she was thinking of adopting on their website, and there I spied Sally. Again, it was love at first sight.'

And was Danny jealous of the new dog in Emma's life? 'Not at all. Danny showed Sally the ropes in those last few months of her life. It was almost as though Danny organised it all to make sure I was in "good paws" before she died. She really approved of Sally.' Sally now goes to work with Emma most days, as long as it isn't too hot in the car.

My parting question to Emma is perhaps an obvious one: Is it still difficult to deal with sick and dying pets every day? 'It's a challenge, but I receive really good feedback from my clients so I know I'm on the right track. I'm really proud of what I do; I've found my life work, and I'm at peace with it.'



## VicDRG welcomes Pet Pavilion as a new supporter

We are delighted to add a marvellous new pet store to our list of supporters – the recently opened Pet Pavilion in Elwood. Owner Alex Saville-Edells has been kind enough to donate free grooming sessions to some of our rescue dogs, who have gone in looking a little worse for wear and come out looking a million dollars.

'Grooming these dogs well should improve their chance of finding new homes,' Alex says, 'and I think it's very important to give back to the community. We're happy to help wherever we can.'

Pet Pavilion was established in the UK in 1995 and prides itself on offering a high level of service, great advice and quality products – both Australian-made and imported brands. And if you're the sort of owner who experiences a little anxiety when leaving your dog for a grooming, this is the place for you – there is a large



viewing window into the grooming area so you can actually sit and watch your dog being pampered. 'We encourage the owners to stay if they want, particularly if their dog is more comfortable with them there,' Alex explains. 'They can get a coffee, wait in the shop and keep an eye on them.'

**Stop Press:** At the Elwood Twilight Festival on Wednesday December 2nd, Pet Pavilion will be hosting a **doggy fashion parade** in which several of our rescue dogs will be making their debut on the 'dogwalk' after having been spruced up by Alex and his team. We will also be there handing out our brochures and selling our new calendars, cards and other fundraising merchandise. It's a great family event and should be fun, so do come along – the parade will be at approximately 7pm out the front of the store at Shop 3, 122 Ormond Rd, Elwood.

**Pet Pavilion**  
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## Running for Kane – so that he can run again too!



**A victorious Tamsin and Mark at the finish line after the 10-km run, complete with doggy rescue-support team Sharkie (left) and Matilda (right).**

**The fact they had to get up early on a cold Sunday morning didn't deter them... The 10km they had to run didn't deter them... Even the injuries they sustained during training didn't deter them! Who are they? Our Run Melbourne heroes, Mark Puncher and Tamsin Olejnik!**

What on earth could have inspired these enthusiastic VicDRG volunteers to endure all this? It was the story of Kane, our young Ridgeback X, who was dumped at the pound with a severely damaged rear leg. We rescued him and committed to pay for the operation he so desperately needed in order to walk again.

One look into those sad eyes and Mark and Tamsin knew they'd found their reason to enter Run Melbourne. 'Our goal was to raise \$500 for Kane, but we ended up with \$1700 in donations. It was a huge response.. Thanks to everyone who

pitched in,' a proud Mark beamed at the finish line.

Originally we thought Kane would need to have his damaged leg amputated, but our enterprising vet decided to try a different procedure ...and it worked! His leg was saved.

His carer Arlene reports, 'Kane is coming along in leaps and bounds. He's now a normal, happy, active dog, and although one leg is slightly shorter than the other, it doesn't bother him at all.' Kane is now available for adoption – for more details, see page 3.

Mark and Tamsin look forward to supporting Victorian Dog Rescue again in another event like Run Melbourne. Could you do the same? If you are contemplating doing a run, walk or similar event and are looking for a worthy cause, please consider us. If you'd like further info on how to go about it, please email us at: [rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au](mailto:rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au).

**Have you seen the new web site 'Good for Dogs'? The interactive map displays all the shelters in Victoria and the number of dogs each has listed for adoption:**  
[www.goodfordogs.org/](http://www.goodfordogs.org/)

### Did you know?

All funds received from our adoption fees are used towards the rescue and rehabilitation of other dogs.



**Kane looking worried before his leg-saving operation. He has a much bigger smile on his face now, and is waiting to be adopted.**

## Tully melts hearts of Herald Sun readers in Winter!

**Helen of Troy may have had the face that launched a thousand ships, but Tully the Rescue Dog has the face that launched a thousand donations...**



Picture: Manuela Cifra

Well, almost. Our Winter Appeal interview in the *Herald Sun* on July 9 inspired many kind people to donate towards purchasing much-needed heat pads for shivering dogs and cats in the pound, and for new transport crates for their trip to Melbourne.

'With the financial crisis and so many people experiencing hard times, we didn't expect a great response. How wrong we were! It goes to show how dedicated animal lovers are to improving the welfare of these vulnerable dogs and cats,' says Trisha Taylor, President. 'A big thank you to journalist Kelly Ryan

and photographer Manny Cifra for organising everything.' Patient Manny spent an hour-and-a-half in the wind and rain during the photo-shoot with six different dogs doing everything but keep still. But it was all well worth it in the end – Tully the Celebrity Dog (opposite) thinks so, still basking in the warmth of his fifteen minutes' of fame...

VicDRG would especially like to thank Rudducks for the donation of twelve heat discs towards the cause, and Annie and Adrian at Hot Therapy Australia.



# The Drought Dogs Program: our first Mildura collection run...

*Sandra Teele, Mornington Peninsula Coordinator*



**It was a warm, sunny Friday afternoon when fellow foster carer Julie G and I left work early and headed off to Mildura. Our mission? To ferry seven furballs of various sizes back to the city to start their new lives. Little did we know what an amazing journey we'd have...**

We had a couple of vital stops on the way: one to pick up the crates, and the other at the Calder Park KFC, where I introduced Julie to the joys of chicken popcorn. Many trips later, it has become our regular stop-off venue (if you are doing a transport run, pop in for the large-sized popcorn, the dogs love it!)

So with the car all loaded up, we were feeling pretty excited about our adventure. We travelled with what has since become our best friend – NAVMAN. He guided us all the way with few hiccups. At one point we nearly ran out of petrol because we were so busy chatting (well, Julie didn't notice the light flashing on the petrol gauge) and we panicked and went in the wrong direction, finally dribbling into a town looking for a servo (to this day, I have no idea where we ended up).

Fortunately, disaster was averted and we were soon on our way again. It was not an issue for us to talk for 7 hours straight, chatterboxes that we are. The trip up the Calder is pretty much just a straight line – yawn. The highlight was when NAVMAN told us to 'continue on for 320 km and take the third exit at the roundabout'. This eventually brought us to our motel for the night but before bedding down we did a quick visit to the Reject Shop for some collars and leads.

Remind me why on earth we were up the next morning at 5.30 a.m.? Oh, that's right, the dogs! It was pitch black, and we

**Julie getting ready to collect the dogs at 5.30 a.m. Ah, the dedication!**

had no idea where to go. Luckily we were met by Carolyn from Sunraysia Animal Rescue Group (SARG) who gave us directions to the pound and we followed her... At least, we were meant to. Of course we got lost (how can you get lost on a straight road?)

Finally, after a couple of U turns, we located the pound and waiting there, ever so patiently, were a group of lovely Mildura foster carers and their bundles of joy, ready to head to the big city for their next big adventure – and loving new homes.

*'We weren't too far out of Mildura when a certain aroma wafted through the car...one of the dogs must have been fed breakfast...'*

For those of you who don't know me, I cry at the drop of a hat when it comes to dogs, and as soon as I saw them, out came the tears. After I dried myself off, with the help of Gary the Ranger and the foster carers, the dogs went into the transport crates and we started our trip back to Melbourne.

We weren't too far out of Mildura when a certain aroma wafting through the car alerted us that one of the dogs must have been fed breakfast... So, Stop No. 1: everyone out of the crates for a quick wee, walk and (hopefully) a poo. The crate was cleaned up and new bedding inserted... Lucky we bought plastic bags with us!

Our next stop was Weederburn (whoops, Wedderburn) for water, a leg stretch and, of course, a wee. The dogs were brilliant: they all walked together, drank together and got along perfectly.

Close to 7 hours later, we arrived at the Parkville meeting-place with our precious cargo. The new foster carers and adopters were waiting expectantly, and after some teary goodbyes, it was all over. We were comforted by the one dog left, however – Pablo, who was to be rehomed by Austra-

lian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) at Keysborough. So we headed off once again to deliver our last furry charge.

We limped home to the Peninsula about 8 p.m. – what an absolutely *fantastic* journey. After that day Julie and I started making regular trips to Marong or Charlton where we would meet the Mildura drivers. (Most trips are only halfway to Mildura, are done on a Saturday and don't require an overnight stop.)

It is always wonderful to meet the Mildura rescuers and carers – the passion they have for the animals they save is plain to see. We would like to thank all our volunteer drivers who week after week donate their time (and car!) to collecting the rescue dogs. I know other drivers have had unique adventures of their own on the trip, so do write and tell us your dog tails!

**Postscript:** *The Drought Dog Program (DDP) has been operating for three years now. We rarely have to do a round trip to Mildura as nearly every week the local Sunraysia Animal Rehoming Group (SARG) finds a driver to bring the dogs to Charlton or Marong, meeting the city driver halfway. The Mildura Council has generously author-*



**Sandra in a bit of a tangle during a 'wee stop'**

*ised use of one of their utes when a council employee/SARG volunteer is available to drive. The DDP has over 150 volunteers involved in saving these dogs (and cats where possible). Once in Melbourne, the animals are placed in our network of foster carers until a loving forever home is found – however long it takes.*



## Did you know Victorian Dog Rescue now has its own online Merchandise Store?

Choose from our exclusive line of T-shirts for only \$20, car stickers and, coming soon, our Christmas Cards and 2010 Calendars – starring our own rescue dogs! All proceeds go towards our continuing work. See [www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/merchandise.html](http://www.victoriandogrescue.org.au/merchandise.html).

What's better, become a **Friend of VicDRG** (see back page) and get 20% off each and every order!



**Our new car sticker – help us take the  
rescue message on the road!**

**Only \$2.50 in our online merchandise store.**

**Please email Saskia to order:**

[saskiaa@primus.com.au](mailto:saskiaa@primus.com.au)

## Is there a Ritchies supermarket near you?

**If so, we'd love your help!**

Thanks to supporter Jenny Horne, VicDRG is now signed up as a beneficiary of **Ritchies' Community Benefit Card Scheme**. Next time you're at a Ritchies check-out, please follow these instructions to make your purchases count for rescue dogs!

- Our registration no is **81496**. Simply tell the cashier we are your chosen charity.
- Your individually barcoded Community Benefit Card will be issued immediately. Choose between a key tag to place on your key ring

or a plastic card for your wallet or purse.

- Every time you shop at Ritchies, you will need to present the card or key tag to the cashier.
- Each time the barcode on the card is scanned, 1% of the money you spend is allocated to us.

We require 5 to 10 members spending a total of \$1,000 between them in the month to qualify for the minimum donation from Ritchies of \$10 per month.

## President's Corner



It's been a long time in the making, but I'm delighted to welcome readers to the first edition of our newsletter, and we particularly thank Saskia for bringing all this together. Part of our mission is to promote responsible pet ownership and develop networks of communication for those involved in animal rescue, so this newsletter helps to fulfil those aims.

A few of us from VicDRG are attending the National Desexing Network Summit at the end of September (see page 4 for details). Two headline speakers from the US will be outlining how they helped several shelters there achieve No-Kill status, but primarily we hope to see some real and positive consensus come out of the gathering. Perhaps in the not-too-distant future laws will be enacted nationwide that prohibit the sale of live animals in pet shops, along with the puppy mills that supply them. Until that time, rescue groups like ours will only ever be applying a bandaid solution to the larger and heart-breaking problem of too many unwanted pets in our pounds and shelters: innocent animals facing a death sentence.

Our services continue to be as in demand as ever. Just yesterday we received word of two starving dogs being dumped at another small country pound, their condition appalling, and calls come in daily about whether we have room for 'just one more' unwanted pet. Tragically, we often have to say no. But we are so very thankful to the other shelters and rescue groups for their support as what is most important is not which group helps the animal in need, but that yet another innocent creature doesn't have to die for no reason.

Because we want to do more for these animals, we are launching our 'Friends of Victorian Dog Rescue' initiative this month. We are asking supporters, if they are able, to become regular monthly donors to fund our ongoing rescue work. As we have no paid staff and administrative costs most often come out of our own pockets, every dollar we raise will go directly to giving innocent dogs a second chance. I hope you may be able to assist us in this vital work.

Thank you for your concern for the animals. Your compassion for these creatures who have done nothing wrong and depend on us makes us all feel a little more encouraged.

*Trisha Taylor,  
President, VicDRG*

There are also around 4000 weekly specials containing extra discounts for Ritchies' Community Benefit Cardholders. These "CB" specials are clearly marked with red shelf tickets bearing the Community Benefit logo and can save you anything from 5 cents to \$5 per item!

For locations of Ritchies supermarkets, please see [www.ritchies.com.au/vic\\_stores.html](http://www.ritchies.com.au/vic_stores.html). Thank you!

# Become a Friend of Victorian Dog Rescue



Jane was left under a house to die, but we were able to give her a second chance. Help us save more dogs like Jane!



**We are staffed entirely by volunteers and receive no government funding. In order to survive, we rely on donations from our kind supporters. Can you help?**

For as little as \$10 a month – around 34 cents a day – you can help us rescue dogs on death row in Victorian pounds and find them loving forever homes. You will become a ‘Friend of Victorian Dog Rescue’ and receive the following as an expression of our gratitude:

- Our quarterly newsletter emailed or posted to you
- Personal invitations to events and fundraisers
- Enjoy 20 per cent off all merchandise in our online store
- Receive a free VicDRG car sticker – ‘Give a dog a second chance’.

With your help, we *can* save more dogs; improve conditions for animals in pounds; educate the community about rescue animals versus pet-shop and puppy-farm purchases; and further promote responsible pet ownership. **Your support will make a difference.**

## Yes! I want to be a Friend of Victorian Dog Rescue.

Please sign me up for a monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month (\$10 minimum)

**OR** I would like to make a one-off donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My preferred method of contact is (please tick) Email  Phone  Post

Would you like to receive monthly emails from VicDRG containing news and events info?

**Please post this coupon to:** VicDRG, PO Box 584, Elsternwick VIC 3185, **OR** scan and email it to: [rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au](mailto:rescue@victoriandogrescue.org.au). We will then contact you with easy payment options.

**On behalf of the animals, thank you!**

