



Shelter animals, unwanted pets, or an untapped resource



ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 RECEIVED BY ANIMAL AID ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
When you're done reading, please pass it on




A Division of the Victorian Animal Aid Trust

Member:

Animals Australia

Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM)

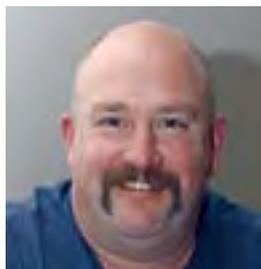
Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC)

Animal Aid Coldstream
35 Killara Road, Coldstream
(Melway Ref 281 F7)

P.O. Box 34, Coldstream VIC 3770

Reception of homeless dogs, cats and
other domestic animals.Pet Education and Resource Centre.
Veterinary treatment of shelter
animals.Adoption service for dogs and cats and
other domestic animals.Hours: Mon - Sun 11:00am to 4:00pm
(closed Christmas Day
and Good Friday)Acting CEO: Linda Marston
Volunteer Program and Promotions
Co-ordinator: Karen Blizzard
Bequests Program: Colin Stephen
Donation Enquiries: Debra Boland
Tel: 9739 0300
Fax: 9739 0423
Email: enquiries@animalaid.org.au
animalaid.org.au
Pound Services
For the Yarra Ranges Council
35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770
Hours: Mon - Sun 9:00am to 5:00pm
Tel: 9739 0300
**Coldstream Boarding Kennels
and Cattery (CBK)**
35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770
Boarding of cats and dogs.
Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm,
7 days a week
(Closed public holidays)
Supervisor: Sharon Smith
Tel: 9739 1988
Email: boarding@animalaid.org.au
Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic
35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770
Veterinary services to the general
public by appointment.
Practice Manager: Carrie Barnes
Appointments/enquiries:
9739 0500
Animal Aid Gippsland
111 Hopkins Road, Fulham VIC 3851
Manager: Debby Goddard
Appointments/enquiries:
5144 5940
Pound services for Wellington Shire
Council
Adoption service for dogs, cats and
other domestic animals
Animal Aid East Gippsland
40 Giles Street, PO Box 1889,
Bairnsdale VIC 3875
Hours: Mon - Sun 10:00am to 3:00pm
Manager: Luis Marquez
Tel: 5152 1389
Fax: 5152 3978
Pound services for East Gippsland
Shire Council
Adoption service for dogs, cats
and other domestic animals
Opportunity Shops
Blackburn
130 Canterbury Road,
Blackburn South VIC 3130
Hours: Tues - Fri 9:30am to 4:00pm
Sat 9:00am to 12:00pm
Supervisor: Karen Blizzard
Tel: 9877 4271
Bairnsdale
13 Bailey Street,
Bairnsdale VIC 3875
Hours: Mon - Fri 9:30am to 3:30pm
Sat 9:00am to 12:00pm
Supervisor: Jo Leysan
Tel: 5152 7682
Croydon
506 Dorset Rd,
Croydon South VIC 3136
Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00am to 4:30pm
Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm
Supervisor: Doreen van Spanjen
Tel: 9723 9551
Lakes Entrance
233 Esplanade,
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909
Operating hours are seasonal:
Spring/Summer:
Mon - Fri: 9am-4pm
Sat and Sun: 10am-2pm
Autumn/Winter:
Mon - Fri: 9am-4pm
Closed: Sat and Sun
Supervisor: Daryl Jeffs
Tel: 5155 5713
Animal Aid News
Editor: Debra Boland
Email: dboland@animalaid.org.au
Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests and other controlled sources
www.fsc.org Cert no. SCS-COC-00941
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

FROM THE CHAIR



This is a time of immense growth and evolution for Animal Aid, but equally it is a time of consolidation. Significant resources need to be channelled to ensure that Animal Aid has a secure future, as we seek to grow and assist

an even greater portion of the community with their companion animal needs.

Not for profit organisations rely on the team at the coal face to keep the wheels turning, but their ultimate success lies with those who dictate its philosophy and the future direction of its operation. As the Acting Chair of Animal Aid, I am aware of the magnitude of this task and take this responsibility very seriously. Fortunately, I have the achievements of our staff and volunteers as a constant source of inspiration to ensure that we keep true to our core objective. They are the epitome of our commitment to create a society in which both humans and animals are treated with respect and compassion.

As a result we have some industry leading animal welfare statistics and our vocational training courses are in demand, as too are our adoption candidates. It is amazing just how often, on hearing of my involvement with Animal Aid, people say 'I got my dog or my cat from there' and I'm yet to meet an unhappy customer.

We were saddened by the passing of devoted board member and Treasurer Max Davis, in August, he has left a void that will not easily be filled. I know that I speak on behalf of everyone at Animal Aid, when I say that I feel so privileged to have experienced the good will and wisdom so freely given by this gentle man. He is truly missed.

Animal Aid has a very bright future ahead, but we will only realise our potential if we have the backing of our supporters and the community at large. Our corporate partners have a big role to play; the relationship that we have built with Bendigo Bank is an excellent model of the power of like-minded organisations supporting each other.

As one of our supporters you too are a partner of Animal Aid and we encourage you to be involved with this dynamic organisation. The animals will feel the ultimate benefit and you might be surprised just how much you gain from it too.

Regards

Paul Dargie Acting Chair

SHELTER NOTES



2012 has certainly been a year of extremes. I can only say that writing this short piece is going to be a challenge as there is so much to relate. From the first public phase of our Capital Campaign, the 3AW live broadcast, the floods in July, my appointment to the position of Acting CEO and the incredible achievements of all three of our facilities, it is hard to know where to start. So let me try with one of our very proudest achievements.

The 1st International Shelter Animals as Therapy Conference, which took place in Lakes Entrance, was a complete success. Aply facilitated by Luis Marquez our East Gippsland Shelter Manager, the conference attendees were exposed to the latest international industry experience.

In true Animal Aid tradition we are always keen to share and hope to assist in the development of Animal Assisted therapies and enhance the value of shelter animals. We believe that shelter animals are an untapped resource. Many shelter dogs, in particular, end up in shelters because they need a job to do, they don't always fit into a normal home.

Animal Aid focus on creating strong relationships with the Councils that we engage with and we have many examples to draw upon. Our Memorandum of Understanding with Yarra Ranges Council to provide a combined response in times of disaster is a Victorian first. The Road to Rescue, which assists eight regional and rural

councils, offers lifesaving opportunities to unclaimed pets and when required, we provide veterinary support, for the Wellington and East Gippsland Shire. We are also communicating with a wide range of community organisations and educational institutions, to see how we can connect and provide mutually beneficial programs for people and pets alike. Our Pen Pals inmates program is under development and we have an unprecedented vocational student attendance, undertaking skills improvement, work placement and research studies alike.

In July, we found ourselves underwater yet again. As in previous experiences, Animal Aid, the emergency response experts, jumped into action like a well-oiled machine. As efficient and resourceful as we are, this incident again highlighted the need to push on with the redevelopment of our Coldstream facility.

Speaking of which, our Capital Campaign has kept us busy with initiatives such as Sampson's Challenge, which epitomises our focus on the human-animal relationship. This relationship is such a big part of who we are and as a result our adoption rates are a credit to our dedicated staff and volunteers. Bringing people and pets together and helping them to lead a harmonious life makes for a healthy and happy community, a goal well worth working towards.

Linda Marston

FROM THE EDITOR

The ever evolving face of Animal Aid continues to grow and produce incredible transformations and happy endings for the many animals that come to our three facilities and the people who interact with and adopt them.

There are so many developments and advances that we are involved in that it is hard to cram them all into one publication, so I hope that this edition gives you just a glimpse of what has been happening at Animal Aid.

Our successes I'm sure will be apparent but the advances are something that isn't easily measured. The changes we are effecting within the industry will only come to light through the passage of time. We truly believe that we have something special to offer in every aspect of our operations and we work hard to meet the exacting standards that we set for ourselves.

So please enjoy this edition, if you have any queries about any of the aspects of our work or how you can help, I would love to hear from you. I may not be the person who ultimately gives you the answers that you need but I would be more than happy to put you in touch with an Animal Aid representative that can.

Debra Boland

DOG DAYS

4



Being the supervisor of the Shelter Kennels is a truly rewarding role. Sure there are decisions that are hard to make but overwhelmingly this role is full of positive outcomes and success stories.

This year we have seen a 10% increase in our adoption rate, which I believe can be attributed to the extra lengths that we go to for some of the more complicated cases that need some pretty intense rehabilitation. This rehabilitation is what we as a team are very passionate about.

Trying to understand what the root of the individuals' issue is, how best to address it and seeing them move forward and up for adoption is a buzz that you just can't buy.

Staff and volunteers all feel a sense of ownership in these cases, we feel a sense of pride in seeing our dogs find that someone special who wants to make them part of their family. We make sure that they know we are always available should they need our support, our job isn't over when they walk out the door, we are there for them for the rest of their lives.

It isn't all about the hard cases. The reality is that the vast majority of our dogs looking for new homes are perfectly normal in every way. Their circumstances are not ideal but there is nothing wrong with them. They are beautiful, loveable and just waiting for someone to take them home.

For these dogs it is just a matter of helping them to cope with their time at the shelter, in particular the 'long termers'. The ones that for no apparent reason just don't seem to attract much attention, dogs like Alfie. Our environment enrichment programs benefit all of the dogs in our care but for dogs like Alfie they are particularly important.

Luckily for Alfie, Jo, one of our fantastic volunteers took him under her wing and with the additional time that she spent with him a bond formed and the deal was sealed, she had to make him her own.

Jo has also adopted another of our long term dogs Hazel. An older and I might say right cranky kelpie who needed to have her leg amputated.



Hazel, unlike Alfie, got plenty of attention because of her amputation, but she never liked the dogs that already belonged to the prospective new family. Jo and her partner were determined to get Hazel and Alfie together and with hard work, and more than a few dog meets, the two are now firm friends.

Jo is just one example of how committed our volunteers are to the dogs that we receive and it is true to say that without them we just couldn't do the job as well as we do.

Thank you to everyone who helps us in the many ways that they do, whether it is with their time or their donations, we are truly grateful and you should all feel the same sense of pride that we do.

See you in the kennels

Susan Taylor



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Our Animal Management Officer Training courses continue to be well subscribed. Noticeably more enrolments are coming from individuals that are not currently working in the animal care industry but want to start doing so. Indeed several of our prior graduates are now employed as council animal management officers, or animal welfare officers at a number of organisations.

In June, we conducted a pilot session with a group of at-risk young people from a local school. The teaching staff and the Victoria Police representative were blown away by the positive response the attendees had to visiting Animal Aid. Their level of focus was in contrast to what they managed at school, they were completely attentive throughout our presentations and conducted themselves very well during the activities.

The development of an in situ prison program continues with Melbourne City Mission and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. We are also laying the ground work for an external program with Fulham Correctional Facility, where prisoners will work

at the shelter and help with animal care. We are looking to develop this into an in-house program.

Our ability to provide educational and vocational opportunities is growing and in response we welcomed a number of visits from schools from around Victoria. These included students from Morrison House Community School, Croydon Community School and work experience students from GippsTAFE, Box Hill Institute of TAFE and GOTAFE.

We invite interest from any institution seeking to gain insight into this fascinating and growing industry, from primary right through to university and beyond.

For all enquiries about upcoming courses or potential educational engagements please contact Dr Linda Marston on 9739 0300 ext 126 or email Imarston@animalaid.org.au.

Linda Marston PhD



CHAT FROM THE CATTERY

6



What a wonderful year we have had at the Cattery. There have been challenges galore but we are always up for whatever comes our way. Our adoption rates have increased again and we have been blown away with how busy the cattery has been, most notably with adult cats marching out the door at an unprecedented rate.

However kitten season is just around the corner and we will see yet another 900+ kittens ageing from 1 day to 5 months inundating our limited facility. Once again we will be calling out for assistance with

raising these babies and caring for their mums. Good quality kitten wet food and dry food is always high on our wish list and if you can lend a hand in this area it would be very much appreciated.

We have also been overrun with rabbits and guinea pigs, either as surrenders or as strays. This has put our pocket pet enclosure into overload during the year. Finding new homes for these little guys is very challenging as many are either too young or underweight for them to go straight up for adoption. Thanks to the two dedicated pocket pet foster homes

who helped us deal with this influx - we couldn't have managed without you.

As I mentioned our facilities are limited, we only have so much room to accommodate all the animals that come our way. Currently we have plans drawn up to build new rabbit housing pens which will cost approximately \$3,000, so we are seeking funding to help with these major works.

Little Patch, pictured here with Animal Welfare Officer Stacey, came to us with his brothers and sisters back in March. Much smaller than his siblings and barely weighing 700 grams, he was not at 'adoption weight'. Each day in the shelter seemed like a challenge for him so we decided that he needed a bit of extra TLC. Patch went home with foster mum Megan for some one on one attention and a lot of eating.

Within 2 weeks Patch had gained 450 grams and was happily terrorising Megan's other cat and eating everything in sight. Upon his return to the Cattery it was only a matter of hours before his new family came to the Shelter and made him their own. Patch has now settled into his new home and new life.

Thank you all for your support and donations over the past few months. There are so many people that can take credit for the successes that we achieve, that to list them would be impossible. Whether you are a volunteer, an adopter, a knitter or crocheter, a food donor or pen sponsor, every donation is valued and always put to good use and we sincerely appreciate it. Our felines do too!

So please check out our wish list in this edition of Animal Aid News and see if there is something that you might be able to help us out with. Alternatively why not come down and see if you can make room in your heart and home for one of our beautiful cats.

Meow for now

Lynn Bell

ANIMAL AID IN THE NEWS!



This May saw the launch of the public phase of our Capital Campaign to begin the next stage of redevelopment of our Coldstream site. We have received some incredible support for this campaign, most notably from the Bendigo Bank and also from 3AW.

To get things going we were very fortunate to host a live broadcast of the Denis Walter Afternoon program on the 22nd of May. As part of this event we invited 50 avid 3AW listeners to share the day with us and we received some amazing feedback from them on how much they enjoyed visiting Animal

Aid and getting to know us. They resoundingly stated that they had gained incredible insight into the work that we do. They had no idea of the extent of our programs and services and they were so glad that they had the chance to visit our shelter.

We extend our sincere appreciation to 3AW and everyone involved in making the day such a success. Special mentions to Dennis Walter, our Campaign Chair the Hon Fran Bailey and Animal Aid Ambassador Meshel Laurie, for being our MC for the official proceedings.

DOGS VS CATS

As our campaign drew to a close we couldn't have wished for a better way to cap it all off.

The place: **Cardinia Park Simonds Stadium**
 The date: **August 26**
 The occasion: **Dogs v Cats AFL Game**

Never before have we had such an opportunity to gain this level of exposure to an audience that may not have heard of us before. Simonds Stadium was packed to the rafters with footy fans, a captive audience there to see the Geelong Cats run through a giant banner that was blazoned with Animal Aid branding.

Yet again our sincere thanks goes out to Bendigo Bank for making this possible and also the Geelong Football Club for providing an amazing promotional opportunity.



OUR WISH LIST CAN YOU HELP?

Animal Aid acknowledges with thanks the various forms of support we receive from individuals and businesses alike. Your donations of food and other goods, as well as funds, allow us to focus on the animals we shelter. We always have a large wish list, which can be viewed on our website, but provided below are some of our more pressing needs at the current time. Your assistance in donating funds towards these items, or donating one of these items, would be greatly appreciated.

Shelter Kennels

Secure & moveable chicken coop- to keep our homeless poultry safe and happy **\$450**

Garden/park benches new or used
Plastic Tub beds – medium and large sizes

An endless supply of reward treats for enrichment and training programs

Shelter Cattery

New raised rabbit hutches
x4 **\$130** each

Good Quality Kitten wet and dry food by the truckload

Cat litter (dust free)

Cat pen Sponsors **\$1,000**

Large collapsible animal crates
\$170 each

Bairnsdale

Ride on Lawn Mower, new or in excellent condition

Industrial pedestal fan **\$240 - \$410**

Platform Scales for weighing dogs
\$1,500

Clothes line

Video camera **\$400**

Sale

Hot Water Service and associated plumbing for our wet area **\$4,000** achieved **\$6,000** still to go

Hand motor mower Honda **\$400**

Office Chair **\$100**

Park bench x2 **\$300**

Plastic Storage boxes X 10 **\$20 each**

Promotional banners x 2 **\$300**

Fundraising committee "Priceless"

CBK

Washing machine

20 x Snooza cat igloo beds **\$600**

Dog coats med-large

Volunteers

Vet Clinic

Cordless surgical drill/oscillating saw

\$1,500

ECG **\$2,500**

Shorline Patient cages **\$6,000**

Digital x-ray system **\$35,000**

Ultrasound **\$25,000**

Grooming

Pro vet Fibreglass pens to house our grooming clients **\$10,500**

Volunteer / Opportunity Shops

Split system reverse cycle Daikin air conditioning unit for Blackburn, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance Op Shops @ **\$2,500** per unit

Exhibition folding display board with four double sided fabric covered panels – for our promotional displays
\$770

Aluminium a-frames sandwich board x4 - for our Opportunity Shops

\$160 each

The Animal Aid vehicles are on the Road to Rescue collecting animals in need several times a week and ferrying donated goods between the shelter, our op shops and sister facilities. Subsequently our fuel bill is significant and any contributions towards this necessary expense would be gratefully received either in the form of cash donations or fuel cards.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Animals don't judge people and if you offer them kindness, they respond positively in ways that warm your heart. But what happens when an animal becomes distressed, unwanted, threatened by flood or fire, or needs medical help?

That's why I have such a high regard for Animal Aid and why I'm proud to work here. We're a non-profit organisation that has been providing shelter, veterinary care and the chance of a new home for animals since 1948. And in that time, we have relied solely on people's generosity of spirit to survive because we receive no government funding.

If Animal Aid is to continue in years to come, then we need your help, and the best way to help is to leave a bequest to Animal Aid in your Will.

This can take many forms and doesn't have to affect family inheritances. So if you'd like to find out more, please call me for a confidential chat on 9739 0300, ext 129 or better still, email me at cstephen@animalaid.org.au and I'll give you a call.

Colin Stephen Bequest Officer

FUNDRAISING UPDATE SAMPSON'S CHALLENGE

Remember Sampson who was surrendered to Animal Aid by his owners weighing a whopping 85kg back in June 2011? Well, 15 months down the track he has lost 42kgs and has his goal weight of 40kg well and truly in site. Now, he needs your support to push it home.

We are challenging you to walk your pet five times a week for four weeks and get your family and friends to sponsor you. No pet, no problem - simply pick an activity that suits you and just get active. Being active is good for you and your pet. Help yourself and help raise much needed funds for Animal Aid.

To take the challenge or to find out more go to www.animalaid.org.au and follow the link.

BEFORE



AFTER



GIPPSLAND

We are now into our third year of operation at the Fulham facility and as community awareness of our work increases, so does the activity at our shelter. We are busier than ever.

Our cat adoption rates are improving in leaps and bounds, more than doubling in twelve months. This is in no small part due to our fantastic cat team who spend many hours cuddling and playing with all our felines. Dog adoptions have also doubled, with many of our new families sending photos and e-mails to let us know how well their new family member is settling in, which we love.

Animal Aid Gippsland is very lucky to have so many willing and supportive volunteers and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Without you we would not be able to continue to do the good work we all do as a team. I would like to send a special thank you to Dennis and Robyn Lucardie for their donation of a printer, scanner, and copier and to Cath McDonald for a computer and printer, both donations have really helped to lighten the load.

With the hot weather approaching we are very excited that Wellington Shire Council has approved some funding to improve our cattery. This will enable us to put in a ceiling and fit a split system air conditioner. Not only will this make life much more pleasant for both cats and humans in hot weather but will keep all our felines toasty warm in the winter and help muffle the din of the kennels.

There is so much that we would like to do with this facility, it has a lot of potential. We would like to build a wet area for the washing machines, dryers and hydro bath, move the existing dog exercise yards and build three more, build an outside cat exercise area, plant trees and a garden area and develop a permanent exercise track for the dog walkers.

To see these grand ideas come to fruition will take some serious fundraising, and in this area we need some help. We would love to set up a fundraising committee to plan and carry out activities that will not only raise funds but also engage the community. Could that be you? If you would like to be a part of this group then we would love to hear from you.

For any enquiries about our work in the Gippsland Community please contact me at the shelter on 5144 5940 or by email aag@animalaid.org.au, we would love to hear from you.

Debby Goddard

AUSTRALIA'S PAWFECT PET CALENDAR COMPETITION

We have a WINNER!!!

Congratulations and many thanks to all our Calendar Competition entrants and voters, for helping us raise almost \$12,500. It was wonderful to see that so many of the entrants themselves are shining examples of the job we do and are all very much loved members of their new family, whether adopted through Animal Aid or a similar organisation.

10

A special mention goes out to our top twelve but in particular Teddy who arrived on our doorstep in an emaciated state and has clearly had his life turned around by his new adoptive family. We are so pleased that the face that will grace the cover of our 2013 Animal Aid Calendar is one of our true success stories.

Our goal for the calendar is not only to highlight the joy and satisfaction that shelter pets can provide for their adoptive families but to raise \$20,000 or more to help sustain our important work. We are more than half way there with the entry fees and votes; let's hope that once they are available for sale we can make it the rest of the way and beyond.

Our 2013 Calendars will go on sale in October, so when they do make sure you buy up big! They make an excellent Christmas gift and you will be making a difference to the animals in our care, so watch our website for the release.



2012 TRIVIA NIGHT A TRIUMPH!!

Saturday September 1st saw the culmination of weeks of hard work and the generosity of the Animal Aid staff, volunteers and supporters. The Trivia Night was an absolute triumph with almost \$25,000 raised on the night. It was not only our largest attendance rate at 346 but also the biggest profit margin, so thanks to everyone who made it possible.

First round of thanks must go to our brand new venue, the Dorset Gardens Hotel, Mick and the team were so helpful and generous in accommodating our event.

Big thank you to David Philipsen and Mark O'Donnell who always do a great job with the proceedings and of course our sponsors. Yarra Ranges Council once again stepped up as our major sponsor for the evening and we are also very grateful to PetStock Lilydale, Ringwood Megapet and Rhino Money as our round sponsors.

So dare we plant the seed for Trivia Night 2013 and say that we hope we see all the regular faces there and a few new ones too.

EAST GIPPSLAND



Over the weekend of August 25 & 26, 2012, Lakes Entrance was home to a ground breaking, Australian-first event. The 1st International Shelter Animals as Therapy Conference showcased the knowledge and experiences of the world's leading experts in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), and the many benefits that the use of shelter animals can provide in this field.

Teo Mariscal (President of Bocalan International), Victor Rodriguez (Vice Chairperson of the Association for Behaviour Analysis, Spain) and Tammy Renaud, MA, OTR (Director of Animal Assisted Therapy and Autism Assistance Dogs programs, KidZ TherapEZE, Texas) delivered presentations on AAT, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Animal Assisted Interventions, Sensory Processing Disorders and Sensory Intervention, to name but a few.

This event was a very big deal for Animal Aid, with the proceedings being opened by Victorian Health Services Commissioner Beth Wilson and East Gippsland Shire Mayor

Richard Ellis. Presentations were also made by myself, Animal Aid's Acting CEO Linda Marston and psychologist Melanie Jones (Lead the Way) who currently utilises therapy dogs in her practice.

Among conference attendees were representatives from the Victorian Animal Aid, Department of Human Services, National Bank, Lilydale Heights College, Department of Correctional Services, Monash University, East Gippsland Shire Council, Shire of Yarra Ranges, Brisbane City Council, East Gippsland Specialist School, UnitingCare Gippsland, Diversicare Qld, RSPCA Vic and Gippsland Lakes Community Health.

We couldn't have achieved this event without the local businesses that provided financial and in kind support to the conference. The most notable of these being Coles, Woolworths, Egee Printers, Main Street Vet Clinic, National Office, Tim Bull and Patties Foods. Sincere thanks to Mick and Lorraine Bedford, along with Rembrandt, the delinquent turned prodigy on the cover of this edition of Animal Aid News, for their commitment to the this project.

On Monday August 27, Teo, Tammy, Luis and Victor further donated their time to hold a workshop specifically tailored for UnitingCare Gippsland, sharing their knowledge and advice with parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

There is no denying that the 1st International Shelter Animals as Therapy Conference was a resounding success. We look forward to another - even more successful - conference in 2013!

Luis Marquez



VOICE FROM THE VET

2012 has been a very busy year so far with the return of some old faces and the arrival of some new ones. Dr Adele returned to Animal Aid in January, Belinda Gale also returned from her travels and is helping us out in a part time capacity. Dr Elise has taken on the role of Senior Veterinarian and we have two new vets, Belinda and Narelle.

With this full contingency of staff the Clinic can now offer consultations all day on weekdays for our private clients, and has extended our hours on Saturdays to meet increased demand for our services.

On February 28th Animal Aid participated in our inaugural World Spay Day, an international event organised by Humane Society International. After much planning the event was a huge success and we managed to spay 27 cats, dogs and rabbits on the day.

July was National Desexing Month this year. In that month alone we desexed 177 animals, with bookings running well

into August we totalled 208 desexings. Some of you may be thinking that we are obsessed with desexing here in the clinic, and you would be right. It is such a big part of the solution to pet overpopulation; isn't the only solution but it is one that we can play an active part in.

Our routine shelter work continues alongside the special surgeries we need to perform on welfare animals. Corrective procedures such as luxating patella correction, amputations, lump removals, ear and eye resections, hernia repair and dental procedures are required on a regular basis. Thanks to the regular donors and the monthly walking group who contribute to this important fund, giving otherwise unadoptable animals a chance.

Of course we need financial support but equally we have received some very practical support this year. Thanks to the generous donors we have been able to purchase some wonderful new equipment, an Electro cautery unit, a

second pulse oximeter and hospital equipment including drip stands, trolleys and an x-ray viewer.

As ever, a huge thank-you to our wonderful, dedicated and highly skilled team of vet clinic volunteers, without whom the clinic would grind to a halt very quickly!

Carrie Barnes



COMPANION ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Under the Community Welfare Support Services banner we continue to assist all manner of pet owners in times of difficulty. There are so many people who struggle to make ends meet, experience emotional difficulties or are victims of domestic violence. These people, just like you and me, are pet owners too. Their pets get caught in the crossfire and often come off second best. So we are here to help, providing temporary accommodation, discount vet services or just a bag of food when needed.

Being able to offer these services to the community is so important to us, but it is also a very expensive exercise. We see the value of providing emergency accommodation and support or veterinary services to pets of people in crisis every day, but for some reason that doesn't always translate into donations like some of our other programs.

Last financial year was by no means the busiest that we have had in this area, however we were still able to help 35 pets through our emergency boarding service and Pets in Peril Program. These pets belonged to a range of people going through various crises, going into hospital, evictions and homelessness.

I thoroughly enjoy providing assistance to these individuals; it means that they can keep their beloved pets safe while they get the help they need. Seeing them come in to collect their pets always puts a smile on my face. Pets are a part of the family, they don't always have to be the first thing to suffer or fall by the wayside; we are here to help.

Sharon Smith



A MESSAGE FROM THE COLDSTREAM BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY



Brrr, we have had a very cold and wet winter in Coldstream this year, with a couple of floods thrown in for good measure. It is so good to finally see that spring is here and our kennels don't seem quite so dreary. Over the colder months our wonderful team have gone above and beyond for their charges. Layering them in coats and blankets ensuring that everyone is toasty and warm while they are away from their family.

I would personally like to thank those who made such generous donations of bedding and towels after the flood on July 2nd. It was such a great help for not only the shelter animals but the boarding animals as well. I was so proud of my boarding staff and how they assisted in the floods. They were even out with the SES helping fill up sandbags to help protect the whole facility. No job was too big or small for my team.

Now that Spring is here I would like to remind you about the little extra's that we can offer your furry family members when they come to stay with us. We have playtime sessions and one on one or social groups for the dogs and feline pamper and treat packages for the cats. Some great toys are for sale at the boarding kennels that you can treat you dog or cat with, or we can even kit them out with a new coat or collar and lead.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that help out at Animal Aid, special thanks to Jeanette for all the hard work she does around the boarding kennels garden. Jeanette loves to potter in the garden and brings in cuttings from her own garden to plant in our beds outside the office. We are all looking forward to the months ahead to see the fruits of her labours.

Sharon Smith

HEALESVILLE ANIMAL AID DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB



Healesville Animal Aid Dog Obedience Club or HAADOC, as it is familiarly known to us, has been an integral part of the Animal Aid family since 1992. In that time they have provided invaluable socialisation and training opportunities to the residents of Healesville and the surrounding areas. HAADOC have always held the firm belief that dog training should never be a challenge, au contraire; it should be fun for both the handlers and their dogs.

Though many human faces have passed through the club, even more canine faces have benefited from what HAADOC has to offer, including many dogs adopted from Animal Aid. It is an excellent opportunity for dogs and people alike to socialise and have a bit of fun in a safe and supervised environment. If you are after competitive training then this probably won't be the club for you. Many club members come purely for the social aspect and the positive role model that their dog can provide for the newer members.

A variety of activities are on offer from basic obedience and agility, right through to assisting reactive dogs that need patience and a little work before they can join a normal class set up. Run totally by volunteers, the quality of the advice and training skills are first class and we highly recommend that if you are a dog owner in the area, you join and experience it for yourself.

You and your dog will not be the only ones to benefit from attending these classes, so will the deserving companions that are waiting for a new home back at the shelter. Thousands of dollars have been raised over the 20 year history, from class fees, raffles and the Annual Christmas Party.

HAADOC are always looking for new members and trainers to join the ranks. If you would like any more information or can volunteer your skills please call Beverly Parry on **5962 3583**.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life blood of Animal Aid. They give their time and skills in every aspect of our operations. This number continues to grow to meet the ever expanding scope of our dynamic community of animal advocates.

Collectively we extend our sincere gratitude to every individual that has helped Animal Aid to be what it is today and we look forward to what we can achieve in the future, because together we are unstoppable.

We encourage you to join the Animal Aid community and you too can discover the mutual satisfaction that volunteering can create. Whether you are an individual or a corporation, Animal Aid needs you. There is always more that we can do to reduce the number of homeless animals and with your help we can do it.

For more information on volunteering at Animal Aid call Karen Blizzard on 9739 0300 ext 103 or visit our website to see how you can get involved.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

We would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the support we receive from the following businesses in the form of cash donations, gifts in kind and or special offers. When you have the chance, please support these businesses who are valued partners of Animal Aid.

Dorset Garden Hotel

The Dorset Gardens Hotel can cater for all your entertainment needs under one roof. Mick and the Team agreed to provide their major function room free of charge for our 2012 Animal Aid Trivia Night. Bookings and enquiries can be made by calling 9725 6211 or visit www.dorsetgardenshotel.com.au.

Mitsouri Architects

Mitsouri Architects has been a very important part of our redevelopment ventures. Contact Melissa or Matthew if you need any assistance with a building project on 9077 2723.

Ken Smith & Associates

Ken and his staff provide Pro bono legal advice for Animal Aid. If you have a legal issue call their office on 9735 0955.

Black Dog Wear

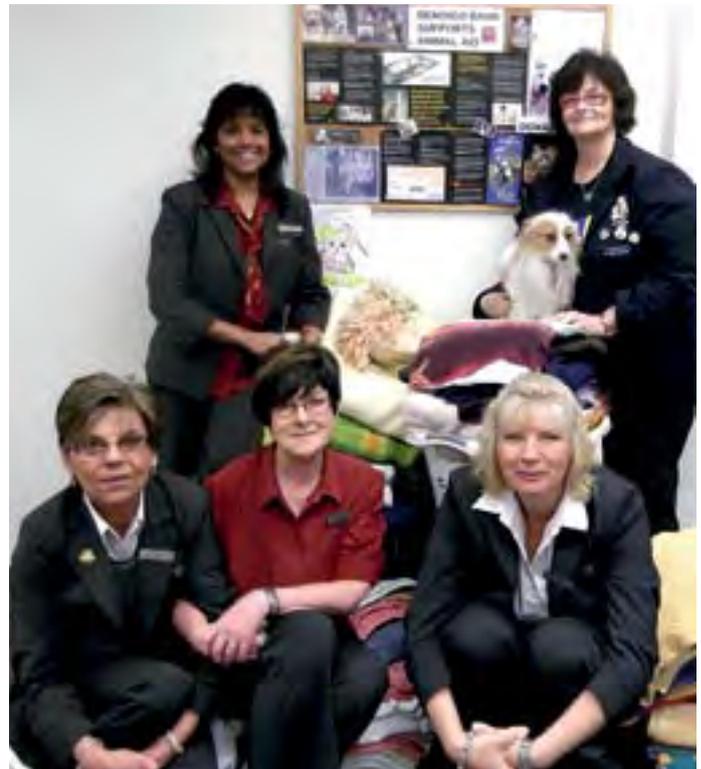
Wayne and his staff have made ongoing donations of training equipment for use in the shelter kennels. For high quality, Australian made canine training equipment please call 9762 4782 or visit www.blackdog.net.au.

Kennel Solutions

Kennel Solutions can offer comprehensive consulting services to all the animal care and housing industries. They are kindly encouraging their customers to purchase heavy duty dog beds (see our wish list) to donate to Animal Aid. Please call 1800 251 766 or visit www.kennelsolutions.com.au.

Goodwill wine

Local online wine supplier Goodwill Wine has started selling high quality unlabelled wine to help raise funds for charity organisations. Animal Aid is one of the charities that people can support. Simply nominate Animal Aid as your preferred charity, for more information go to www.goodwillwine.com.au.



Bendigo Bank

A big thank you to Bendigo Bank at both their corporate and branch levels. Across the State every branch supported our capital appeal, displaying our posters and taking donations. There were some great fundraising efforts and collections of food and blankets, but that's not all.

Bendigo Bank Project 500

Several local branches of Bendigo Bank have set up a new program whereby individuals who set up a new account with them or purchase another product or service can contribute to their favourite registered community organisation, including Animal Aid. Wandin Seville Community Bank Branches have introduced the scheme to raise much needed funds for local organisations.

Under the Project 500 program, when you set up a new account, take out a loan or transfer your banking to those Bendigo Bank branches, each time Animal Aid will earn up to \$500 per activity. For a home or business loan we will receive \$500, for a new credit card \$150 and for a cheque or savings account \$100. You just need to specify when setting up the account that you've heard about the program through us, and you want Animal Aid to be the recipient. You can choose whether you want us to know about your support, or remain anonymous.

For further information about supporting us through Project 500, or about their banking services, call Wandin Seville branch on 5964 4595 or Seville branch 5961 9303.

Will a future to Animal
Making a Will is a legal way of telling people how you want your property distributed after you die.
You can specify a bequest of money, shares, real estate, or even the residue of your estate to family and friends, as well as favorite charities.
Leaving a bequest in your Will to Animal Aid will help guarantee its future to protect and secure the wellbeing of animals after you've gone.
For details contact Colin Stephen
Telephone 9739 0300, ext 135
Email cstephen@animalaid.org.au
animalaid
more than a shelter

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 RECEIVED BY ANIMAL AID ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



HOW YOU CAN HELP

If YOU are able to help financially, please complete and return the donation form below.

Yes, I want to support your efforts to help lost, stray, unwanted and orphaned animals.

Please tick:

\$100 \$50 \$20 Other: \$ _____

Monthly Fortnightly Once only

Monthly donations can be debited directly form your Bank Account or Credit Card through Ezi Debit.

KENNEL/CAT PEN SPONSORSHIP DETAILS:

Full Pen: \$1000 or \$84 per month

Half Pen: \$500 or \$42 per month

Quarter Pen: \$250 or \$21 per month

Monthly Fortnightly Once only

Monthly donations can be debited directly form your Bank Account or Credit Card through Ezi Debit.

Information on kennel and cat pen sponsorship

I do not wish to have a plaque mounted on the pen

I do wish to have a plaque mounted on the pen

Name: _____ (Please print clearly)

YOU CAN PAY EITHER: by CHEQUE (payable to Victorian Animal Aid Trust)

OR: by DEBIT (please fill in the details below)

DEBIT MY (please tick one): Visa Mastercard

NUMBER ON CARD: _____

EXPIRY DATE: __ / __ CCV: ___

Signature _____

PLEASE SEND ME:

Information on regular donations to Animal Aid

Details on how to make a bequest to Animal Aid

Information on Volunteer/Foster programs

Animal Aid Annual Report

All mail electronically ONLY

Title _____ Surname _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Tick if you would like to be removed from our mailing list

Please send your completed form to the following address:
Animal Aid, P.O. Box 34, Coldstream, VIC 3770

This newsletter comes to you through the generosity of

DMCTM
DIRECT MAIL
CORPORATION

Tel: 9427 7267

www.directmail.com.au

For over 64 years we have relied on the generosity of the local and business community and their willingness to get behind our brand of Animal Welfare work. Don't forget that all donations made to Animal Aid are tax deductible, perhaps the added incentive for donating to our worthy cause. Your contribution will help us to make significant changes for the animals in our care, setting them up for the best possible chance of finding their forever home.

There are so many ways that individuals or businesses can help to support us. Cash donations, Gifts in Kind, Workplace / Payroll Giving, Pro bono professional assistance, Sponsor a Pen or Fund a project.

Whilst we appreciate all the support we can get, you don't have to make a financial contribution, your time and skills are just as valuable. If you do choose to donate your time there are just as many ways that you can assist us.

Volunteer on-site

- Work in the kennels or cattery
- Administration
- Dog walking
- Animal Rehabilitation
- Pet Grooming
- Vet Clinic
- Garden Maintenance
- Corporate Volunteers

Volunteer off-site

- Opportunity Shop Staff
- Foster Carer Scheme
- Making dog coats, craft items and specialty goods.
- Join our Promotional Team

For all enquiries about becoming a volunteer please contact Karen Blizzard on 9739 0300 email kblizzard@animalaid.org.au or visit www.animalaid.org.au.

ANIMAL AID GROOMING SALON

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS
BE GROOMED BY THE BEST

Professional service at a fair price
with great results and sound advice

No job too difficult
No job too small
We even groom cats
We can groom them all

make your appointment today

9739 0500



