

A SHELTER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS PEOPLE

animalaid[®]



NEWS

EDITION 12

www.animalaid.com.au



More than
'just a shelter'

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

Many thanks to our major sponsors and
donors for their ongoing support.



rustic charm
at wild cattle creek



A Division of the Victorian Animal Aid Trust
Member: Animals Australia
World Society for the Protection of Animals
Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM)
Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Community (AMRRIC)

Shelter

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 public holidays)
General Manager: Nell Thompson
Volunteer Program and Promotions
Co-ordinator: Karen Blizzard
Bequests Program: David Bramley
Fundraising Co-ordinator: Matthew ETTY-LEAL
Donation Enquiries: Debra Boland
Tel: (03) 9739 0300
Fax: (03) 9739 0400
e-mail: enquiries@animalaid.com.au
www.animalaid.com.au

Pound Services

For the Shire of Yarra Ranges
35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770
Hours: Mon-Sun 11:00am to 4:00pm
Tel: (03) 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: (03) 9739 1988
e-mail: boarding@animalaid.com.au

Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic

35 Killara Road, Coldstream
Veterinary services to the general public by appointment.
Practice Manager: Belinda Gale
Appointments/enquiries:
(03) 9739 0500

Opportunity Shops

Blackburn
130 Canterbury Road,
Blackburn South VIC 3130
Hours: Tues-Fri 9:30am to 4:00pm
Sat 9:00am to 12:00pm
Manager: Maggie Mills
Tel: (03) 9877 4271

Croydon
506 Dorset Rd,
Croydon South VIC 3136
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:30pm
Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm
Manager: Doreen van Spanjen
Tel: (03) 9723 9551

Lakes Entrance
233 Esplanade,
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909
Operating hours are seasonal:
Spring/Summer:
Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm
Autumn/Winter:
Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
Closed on Saturday and Sunday
Manager: Carol Thomson
Tel: (03) 5155 5713

Healesville Animal Aid Dog Obedience Club

Coordinator: Beverley Parry
Tel: 5962 3583

Animal Aid East Gippsland

40 Giles Street, PO Box 1889,
Bairnsdale VIC 3875
Hours: Mon-Sun 10:00am to 3:00pm
Manager: Narelle Brasier
Tel: (03) 5152 1389
Fax: (03) 5152 3798
Pound services for East Gippsland
Shire Council
Adoption service for dogs, cats
and other animals

Animal Aid News

Editor: Debra Boland

FROM THE CHAIR

2009 has been a challenging and exciting year for Animal Aid and as always our fantastic staff and volunteers have come through yet again. All of the great people who make up Animal Aid have shown that we are not only about helping animals but also have an important role to play in the wider community. This was most evident during the tragic fires we experienced earlier this year.

Although Animal Aid's focus has always been on the animals and their care and support we have a significant impact on people's lives through the many programs and services we provide.

Our Pets in Peril program that helps victims of domestic violence with their animals is representative of the way Animal Aid assists the wider community with issues that have not traditionally been something Animal Welfare has covered.

On a lighter but no less important note our Meet your Match™ program is helping people choose the most appropriate pet for their lifestyle and personality. Animal Aid sees this program as an important community initiative to ensure the animals we place with people are the right ones. We are confident that this will mean the right outcome for all concerned and a significant reduction in future unwanted animals.

Other programs such as P.A.T. (Post Adoptive Training)™ reinforce the importance of responsible pet ownership and the need for pet owners to see their commitment to their animals as something not to be taken lightly.

Animal Aid aims to continue to be a resource for people and provide assistance in order to enhance the lives of domestic animals and people alike. The experience of owning a pet can be one of the most positive and rewarding of a person's life.

On a personal note I would like to thank people for their kind wishes earlier this year when my wife Karen and I lost our two 16 year old Golden Retrievers Tally and Brooke. This experience has reminded me of the influence animals have on our lives and why many of us are involved with and support organisations like Animal Aid.

People need animals as much as our animals need us.

Mark O'Donnell Chairman



Newsletter designed by





Ben O'Ryan gets a warm reception after his 50km marathon run for the animals

A SHELTER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS PEOPLE

I am so happy to be bringing you this edition of Animal Aid News - we have so many things to feel a real sense of satisfaction about having achieved. I am very proud of my team.

The ordeal of Black Saturday was enough to shake even the most robust of people and yet our guys and girls are back on the job and committed as ever.

Collectively, we experience the triumphs and tragedies that is animal welfare, no matter what department you work in. While you can credit the organisation with the good deeds, most of the innovative and ground breaking programs that we have instituted have been brought about by the desire of the people involved to make positive changes to how shelters are run. Our aim is to effect change through education in how the animals should be treated, both within the shelter and in the broader community and how to make every dollar go that little bit further.

Education is such an important thread that weaves itself through every aspect of our operations. We welcome on board our Educations Officers Linda Marston and Jodie Limon who are developing and expanding the education opportunities that we can offer to the industry and community. We are constantly striving to school our staff in all the current aspects of Animal Welfare. Cross training and information sessions keep them up to date with the latest information on identification of disease and behaviour. Arming them with the skills to adeptly interpret how an animal is reacting to this often stressful and challenging environment.

I think that this is one of the outstanding features of Animal Aid. The people who are drawn to us are pieces of a constantly transforming puzzle. Animal Welfare is a series of problems that are just waiting, no begging, for solutions. I believe that we are doing everything in our power to find these solutions and each new person that joins our team adds their own touch. Their own piece to the puzzle, some are prominent and some are subtle but none less important than the other. As each new member comes on board our team is bolstered by an injection of new enthusiasm.

Speaking of enthusiasm, our volunteers are an enormous source of this precious elixir. This year our Op Shops profits have gone through the roof, unprecedented. Thank you so much to all of the volunteers involved, your efforts make an invaluable contribution. To all the volunteers that assist the staff in all of the departments, words can't express how much we appreciate your efforts. We may not always take the time to say it, but we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. We simply would not be doing the job that we are doing without our volunteers.

We have seen quite a few changes in staff of late, but this is the nature of animal welfare. Choosing to work or volunteer for an animal shelter is a calling, a vocation. There are no rich rewards, no glory or glamour. You have to be tough to survive in this



Nell and Shunter

business, dealing with people is often harder than dealing with the animals. What you reap from it is your own sense of satisfaction in knowing that you have made a difference to the lives that you have been responsible for. You have given them a chance or an interaction that they wouldn't have otherwise had.

That is what this edition is about, all of the individual contributions that combine to create the unique organisation that we are. Like that of the Yarra Valley Harley Owners group, they support us in many ways but what started as one Harley ride donated as prize for our Trivia Night, ended up being a \$1500 donation. Efforts like this are repeated on a variety of levels and we are grateful to all of their support.

We have adopted the slogan 'more than just a shelter' and we are so much more. We are a growing organisation where every business arm is working for the same goal. To generate the much needed income that keeps us going.

Nell Thompson General Manager

DOG DAYS

Understanding animal behaviour is still really in its infancy, experts are constantly discovering new ways of interpreting what animals are trying to tell us. As an organisation that takes on the responsibility of rehoming animals, we owe it to the people who choose to adopt from us, that we are helping them to select a suitable match for their family.

At Animal Aid we take this responsibility very seriously and as a result have implemented several programs that try to ensure that we are getting it right the first time. Having dogs returned after adoption can be a large problem for many animal shelters; it is heartbreaking for the staff and detrimental for the dogs. Animal Aid has long been attempting to reduce the number of returns by ensuring that our adoption process is thorough, and encourages people to select appropriate companions for their lifestyle. If an adoption is successful then the person is more likely to adopt from a shelter the next time they want to bring a new pet into the family.

We have told you about our A.R.I.T.[™] and P.A.T.[™] Programs in previous editions, but if you are not familiar with them you can learn all about them on the website. While they have had a significant effect on adoption and return rates, we still found that there were certain things that our assessment process was missing. We use the SAFER[™] (Safety Assessment for Evaluating Rehoming) temperament test to determine a dog's suitability for rehoming. It is a valuable tool in testing a dog's tolerance and aggression levels; but it doesn't give any insight into what makes the dogs tick. There had to be a way of deciphering the many silent signals that dogs give us - enter the Meet Your Match[™] Adoption Program.

Our General Manager Nell Thompson first observed Meet Your Match[™] in action in the United States and saw that it could address some of the frustrations we were experiencing. Developed by Dr. Emily Weiss and designed to work in conjunction with SAFER[™]; it seemed an obvious fit. Meet Your Match[™] is based on the premise that just like every person has a personality, every dog has a Canine-ality[™], and every puppy has Puppy-ality[™].



Sharon and Cassie

This year we said good bye to Kennel Supervisor Edward Syme and his role has been filled by experienced animal attendants Sharon Van Den Bergen and Cassie Pearton

Meet Your Match[™] Canine-ality[™] and Puppy-ality[™] Adoption Programs consist of two elements:

The evaluation of the dogs' behaviour through the Canine-ality[™] or Puppy-ality[™] Assessment, which places the dogs into a colour-coded category (either purple, orange or green). Within each category the dogs are allocated a "Canine-ality[™]" or "Puppy-ality[™]" description. We have a full list of these descriptions on the website, but basically purple dogs are more laidback, orange are middle of the road and green are going to be a bit more of a challenge.

The second element is an adopter survey, designed to determine what type of dog the adopter is looking for and how they want a dog to fit into their lifestyle. The survey also places the adopters into one of the same three colour-coded categories.

We launched Meet Your Match[™] back in March and we haven't looked back since. Being able to identify a variety of characteristics that may have implications as to whether an adoption will be successful or not, is an extremely valuable tool. Meet Your Match[™] gives our staff insight into a dog's personality and motivational triggers, alerting us to potential problems such as separation anxiety, fence jumping and inappropriate toileting. Having this extra information can greatly increase the likelihood of achieving our main objective, finding permanent homes for dogs, first time.

See you in the kennels
Sharon and Cassie

FROM THE EDITOR

Coming up with a theme for each newsletter is usually a really easy task because there are so many things to draw on for content. It's all about the animals; they are at the core of everything we do. But we sometimes have to remember that we wouldn't be able to help any animals without the people who are involved with this fabulous organisation.

2009 marks my 10th year as a staff member and 15th year of involvement with Animal Aid and I can't believe how much we have grown and evolved in that time. My perception of how Animal Aid operates is that there are so many diverse aspects other than just straight sheltering. Animal Aid really does look outside the square; we are constantly adapting and seeking to achieve the best possible outcomes for the dogs and cats in our care and in our community.

So come with me as we feature all of our regular updates and turn the lens around for a peek at some of the unsung heroes of Animal Aid. These heroes come from all levels of our operation and many are volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills.

Cheers
Debra Boland

EAST GIPPSLAND

**Hello from Bairnsdale!
We have been so busy down here which as always has its upsides and downsides.**

To start we have had a lot of dogs being surrendered. I'm not sure what's going on, it could be the weather, winter and muddy dogs I guess, but I like to think that our reputation is really starting to get out there. People now know that we are here and we give the dogs the best possible chance of finding a new home. It really is a two edged sword! We would love to help them all but our facility only has a limited amount of space.

The dogs are one thing, but where we have really been feeling the pressure is in our cattery. We have been juggling them as best we can between drawing on the resources of our fabulous foster families and transporting them down to Coldstream. I don't like to think what we would have to do if we didn't have the transportation



Narelle and the Home School Group

option; it's a real life saver, literally.

Making regular drop off runs is also an attractive alternative for another local pound, at Sale. They are also taking advantage of Animal Aid as a resource for their unclaimed cats and dogs.

We have been receiving quite a bit of extra help of late, a Rotary program where parents and children volunteer their time, along with work experience students and trainee veterinarians. I'm not afraid to say that we need all the help we can get, anyone who wants to get involved, come on down and say hello we would love to meet you.

We love having visitors, showing them around and telling them about all the wonderful success stories we have the privilege to facilitate. Like the home

schooling group pictured, who came for a tour and ended up having a picnic lunch on the front lawn, we had a great afternoon.

It is really important to expose our kids to the existence of shelters in the hope that perhaps they can make the positive changes to how animals are valued in their community. I encourage everyone to make themselves aware of their local shelter and pay them a visit to see how you might be able to give them a helping hand.

Narelle Brasier
Shelter Manager

WHAT'S NEW AT ANIMAL AID?

Animal Aid Companion Animal Services

Animal Aid is constantly trying to expand and improve the services and programs that we provide to the community. As part of this we are developing our comprehensive Companion Animal Services. These services will encompass a wide range of products that will assist pet owners on almost every aspect of domestic pet ownership.

This initiative will incorporate all of the services previously provided by K9 Kompany and lots more too. Thanks so much to Cindy Christensen for keeping K9 Kompany going for the last 3 years. She worked tirelessly to provide excellent

service and advice for all of her clients and their dogs and she deserves a well earned break, she will be sorely missed.

Meg Ryan will be taking up the challenge of managing our ART, PAT and all training programs. Meg has 20 years of dog training experience in a variety of fields, we welcome her on board and look forward to seeing what she has to add to the Animal Aid mix.

Education Department

I know we say this all the time, but education really is the key to any effective change in a community's attitude towards how animals should be treated. We need to ensure that a consistent message is introduced from a young age, and then repeated throughout their education and on into adulthood.

Although we have attended schools and scout groups on request in the past, we have never had the resources to implement accredited educational tools for schools to take advantage of as part of their curriculum. All this is about to change. Complimentary to our industry training, offered to Animal Management officers and animal professionals, our schools programs will be an important addition to our educational repertoire.

Able developed and delivered by Dr. Linda Marston PhD and Jodie Limon, who have a list of skills too long to even believe is possible, from training paramedics to university lecturer. In upcoming editions of Animal Aid News, Linda and Jodie will keep you informed with regular updates, as this key element of Animal Aid expands and diversifies into every animal related topic.

FROM THE CATTERY

PHEW!! What can I say? Sitting down to write this article for the newsletter is a an excuse to take a well earned break.

The fact is, the team is cat-tired (get it?), we have had one of the longest kitten seasons that I can remember and it still isn't over yet.

We have hit some milestones as well with record numbers for rehoming and that's the adult cats as well not just the kittens. Kittens are highly sought after and therefore relatively easy to rehome, it's the oldies that we can sometimes struggle to find homes for. I'm very proud to say that we have recently rehomed two lovely old ladies (felines not staff) Pug Wash and Matilda.

Pug Wash was surrendered at the age of 18 because her owner had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and had no family to care for her. I must say she was one of the healthiest 18 year old cats I have ever met. In good health, delightful manners, great with other cats and a pleasure to care for, just special.

Matilda at 16 years, a beautiful British Shorthair tabby; she was surrendered because of a family emergency that forced them to return to England. But again, Mathilda was just a delightful old lady and in perfect health and condition for her age. Would we be able to find someone to give them a home at this late stage of their



Lynn and Bailey

lives? The answer is yes! And we have heard from both of the adoptive families and they have settled in very well.

We work really hard to find all of our hopefuls new homes regardless of age, but I couldn't do it without my dedicated volunteers that help me and the girls in the cattery on a daily basis. Our Cattery is always presented to the public in pristine condition, and attention to detail is given to the overall ambience and let's be honest here, the smell, as people pass through.

An issue that has long been bothering has recently been resolved by a \$2000 donation from The Balinese Cat Club. This generous gift has been put towards concreting the rabbit enclosure, so our bunnies will be able to have some free time to dig and play, instead of being confined to their hutches. Everyone is very excited about this new area for the rabbits.

Don't forget that the cats in our community can often get the rough end of the stick and we need all the help we can get to make sure that get the best chance of finding happiness.

Hopefully next issue I will be telling you that we have implemented the Meet Your Match™ Feline-ality Adoption Program and our cats will be experiencing the fantastic benefits it can offer.

Meow for now
Lynn



Mathilda

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Throughout the year Animal Aid has received a helping hand from the local business community.

Their contributions, whether it is their time, their services or their financial support, have enabled the shelter to maintain its level of service to the broader community - from reuniting lost pets with their owners and the importance of desexing, to education on training and finding relinquished and abandoned animals new and permanent homes.

We extend a special thank you to the businesses listed below:

- Bendigo Bank Wandin Seville Branch
- Courtney Quality Print and Design
- South Eastern Office Supplies
- Lilydale International
- The Mail Newspaper Group
- Donation Home Loans
- Creative Junction
- Novartis Animal Health
- Therapon
- Black Dog Wear
- Lilydale Pet Stock
- Clive Peeters
- Ritchies
- I.G.A. Coldstream
- United Petroleum
- Datasend

Many members of the community make regular contributions in unseen and unsung ways. We would also like to recognize their efforts. If your name does not appear on the list, it doesn't mean we are not aware of your generous support.

Thank You.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND MERCHANDISE

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2009 Featuring real shelter animals!

Packet of 10 cards for \$10.00

Send your Christmas wishes by purchasing our Animal Aid Christmas cards. This year they feature animals adopted from Animal Aid for the first time ever! If you have a business and would like to sell our Christmas cards, please contact Karen Blizzard on 9739 0300 or email kblizzard@animalaid.com.au.



ANIMAL AID COOKBOOK

A selection of recipes gathered together by the staff and volunteers to cater for every person's culinary preferences. Ranging from starters all the way to drinks (or should that be the other way round?). Your four-legged friends will not miss out either! We have some recipes for some home-made dog and cat treats that you can prepare to make sure your family pet enjoys your cooking prowess as well!

At only \$10 this is a perfect gift idea for Birthdays, Christmas, or any time of the year! Animal Aid Cook Book is definitely something you can get your paws stuck into!

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING

Chocolate fundraising is a really simple and sure fire way to raise money for Animal Aid. So get your hands on a box to sell in your workplace, school, and community group or amongst friends and family. Every dollar raised helps to cover veterinary and feeding costs for shelter animals.

If you would like to order your box of chocolates, or to know more, please contact us on 9739 0300.



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Moments of Connection is a stunning coffee table book based on scientific research and amazing photography, illustrating the positive effects of relationships between children and animals.

\$22 of the proceeds from the sale of each copy of this charming publication, with a cover price of just \$32 plus GST, go directly to helping animals affected by the Black Saturday bushfires and the tireless efforts of shelters and organisations assisting in their recovery.

\$10 from each sale of Moments of Connection directly benefits Animal Aid. Please visit our website for more details.

MERCHANDISE

Please purchase some of our merchandise, the items make great gifts and help us get the word out about Animal Aid and the work that we do. Please contact Karen Blizzard on 9739 0300 or email kblizzard@animalaid.com.au.

ANIMAL AID AUTUMN FEST

Rustic Charm Wandin North Sunday April 18 2010 10am - 4pm

Highlights include:

- Rhonda Burchmore performing at a special 3 course lunch in the Chardonnay Room
- Light lunches in the restaurant as well
- Wine tastings and tours
- Art exhibition
- Exhibitors' stalls and marquees
- Pamper your self with a massage, skin care treatment, and more
- Fun & games for the children

For more information visit Animal Aid's website: www.animalaid.com.au or call Matthew on 0438 079 475.

WALLACE OPEN GARDEN Melbourne Cup Weekend

The Garden is located at 7 Maddens Lane Coldstream. (Mel Ref 277 A11)

8am to 5pm,

Entry \$5.

Devonshire Teas available with all proceeds going toward Animal Aid and Cancer Research.

ANIMAL AID DOG WALKING GROUP First Saturday of each month

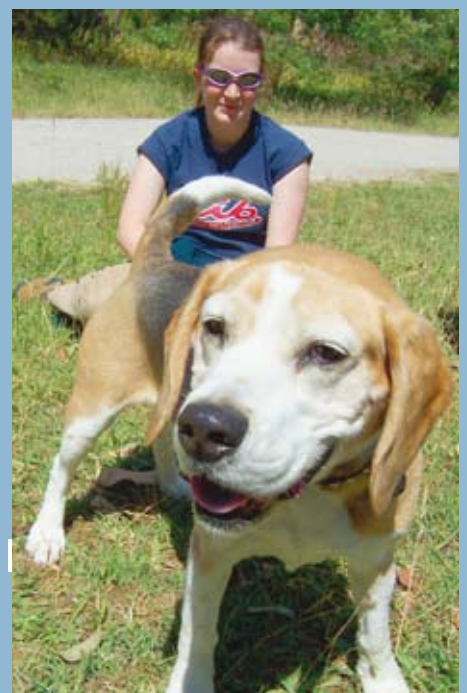
Warburton Trail

Registration at 9:30am, Starts at 10am. (approx 2 hrs duration)

\$5 donation

BYO Morning Tea

Full details and locations can be found on our website - www.animalaid.com.au





OUR WISH LIST

Can you help?

There is a never ending list of items that we would love to buy but our budget simply doesn't allow for. Each time that we publish a 'wish list' of some of the more expensive items we are bowled over by just how generous people can be. Especially if they can see that the item is relevant to the cause or would make life a little easier for the staff or more comfortable for the animals. **Our sincere thanks to all of the donors from previous Wish Lists.**

Our facility struggles to meet the ever increasing demands that we place on it. Redevelopment is the obvious answer, but until we have secured the funds to undertake such an endeavour we have to make do as best we can. We have a long list of items ranging from the extremely expensive to the absolutely affordable. If you can offer your assistance in donating funds towards or purchase any of the items listed on this page it would be greatly appreciated.

Everyday Needs

Kennels and ART Program

- Large heavy duty wheelbarrows
- Dog coats and jumpers
- Dog toys (squeaky, rope, plush..)
- Environmental enrichment toys (toys you can put food in)
- Reward treats (dried liver, smacko's etc)
- Blankets and towels
- Plastic round dog beds
- Clothes horses & trolleys

Cattery

- Dishwashing detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent
- 30 x large, deep litter trays (30cm deep)
- Pre-loved towels, sheets and blankets

- Rubber gloves
- Dish scourers
- Tissues
- A4 plastic pockets
- Cat litter
- Whiskas can food cats & kittens
- Shelter improvements and other needs**
- A4 Laminating pouches
- Plastic A4 4-tier display stands
- Reflex A4 plain paper
- Pens - blue and black
- Plastic storage tubs with lids (50ltr-140 ltr)
- A3 Laminator/laminating pouches
- Guillotine
- Gardening tools and gloves, in good condition please.
- Light coloured 8ply wool

- 3 draw filing cabinet
- Veterinary Clinic**
- Multix Colour Scents Kitchen large tidy bags with handles
- Black Biro's
- Reflex A4 and A5 white paper
- Lexmark black(#34) or colour (#35) ink cartridges
- An A3 laminator/ plastic pouches
- Tissues/Toilet Paper/Sponges

CBK

- Dog coats and jumpers of all sizes for in-house use
- Rescue remedy
- Good condition fridge / freezer
- Good condition blankets, towels, doonas
- 0& sleeping bags

Big Ticket Items Wish List

- New Computer for Vet Clinic Reception area: \$1,500
- Shor-Line Patient Hospital Stainless Steel Cages: \$10,500
- Zip mini boil - hot water unit for staff kitchen (2 needed): \$1,200
- Materials for Emergency Accommodation Cats Exercise Area at Shelter Cattery: \$3,000
- Undercover Area Between Vet Clinic and Laundry/Recovery / Re-configuration of Kennels Laundry: \$6,000
- Materials for 2 x Livestock Yards and Shelters: \$5,500
- Storage and behavioural Assessment area at Shelter Cattery: \$5,000

Vet Clinic Wish List

- New laptop for shelter animal veterinary examinations: \$950
- Oster Golden A5 plug in clippers (2 sets): \$900

Boarding Wish List

- Large artificial plants
- Kong toys: \$200

Shelter Cattery Wish List

- 6 collapsible animal crates (\$350 each): \$2,100
- Cattery floor re-sealing: \$1,500
- Flea treatment & worming for all kittens (\$10 per kitten): \$1,000
- Pullman CB15 vacuum cleaner: \$389

Shelter Kennels Wish List

- Digital minidisk camcorder Sony Handycam DCR DVD 650: \$599

Promotions & Fundraising Wish List

- Hot Water Urn x 2 (\$270 each): \$540
- Portable Icebox/Fridge x 4 (\$419 each): \$1,676
- Battery Trolley x 3 (\$325 each): \$975
- Folding dog pens x 3 (\$209 each): \$627
- Card Tables x 4 (\$120 each): \$480
- Foldable Display Board x 2 (\$495 each): \$990
- Foldable chairs x 8 (\$25 each): \$200
- Plastic foldable trestle tables x 4 (\$80 each): \$320

Capital Works Needs Wish List

- Fire Planning - 2 x 35000L poly Water Tanks \$3500 each
- Sprinklers on Building roofs

IN PRAISE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



Melanie McLaren

MELANIE MCLAREN

I've been volunteering with the kittens and foster program for about 19 months. A passion for all animals, but especially cats leads me to find some spare time so I too could help to make a difference. I am currently studying Canine & Feline Animal Behaviour and hope to one day work full time in this industry.

My three boys eagerly await the arrival of each and every foster kitten. I love to watch them playing with the kittens, they get so much enjoyment from them and a greater understanding of responsible pet ownership. I even heard my eldest telling a friend that he should get his new kitten desexed as there are too many cats without homes already. A very proud moment!

RYCHELLE WILSON

I have had a passion for animals since I was young. I have helped out and done work experience in various wildlife parks and pet shops. I have one very cheeky and spoilt cockatiel, two dogs and two cats. (An odd mix but we make it work!) I have been volunteering at the Animal Aid Vet Clinic for 8 months now because I am pursuing a career in veterinary nursing. Even though there is no wage, I find volunteering has its own rewards. I have gained so much knowledge about animals and the staff are only too happy to answer any questions I have, they are just a lovely bunch. With the help of the nurses, I have recently started studying Certificate II in Animal Studies and am grateful for the chance to work alongside the vets. Animal Aid has opened up so many more opportunities for me and I can see myself helping out here for many years to come!



Rychelle and Marco



Melanie Hicks Boulton

MELANIE HICKS BOULTON

I chose to spend my time between the kennels and grooming. After the heart wrenching experience of having to re-house my dog, the time I spend working with so many dogs has helped me cope a little better.

I am not an affluent person and I don't have money to spare, my time on the other hand I give freely. I learn a great deal working with the staff in hands on interaction, individual requirements, observation and team work. I hope to find employment in this fascinating industry and every day that I spend at Animal Aid, I gain more experience and knowledge.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS - URGENTLY LOOKING FOR PEOPLE:

Opportunity Shop Staff

for our Blackburn South, Croydon South and Lakes Entrance Op Shops

Garden Maintenance

Looking after the shelter grounds can sometimes get overlooked during our busy schedule. If you love to weed and prune we could really use your skills.

Shelter Kennel Cleaning

It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it. If you are confident with dogs and love everything about them, and I mean everything, please consider coming down one morning a week to help clean out their kennels.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Some people are reluctant to volunteer at the shelter, fearing they may be saddened by the plight of the animals, but there are many other ways to help. We have a great team of volunteers helping in a variety of ways, but we always need more.

We hope you will consider joining us. The animals need you!

SHELTER ANIMALS AT HOME



JASPER

Hello ladies in the Cattery,

Every day that I head off to work I feel so guilty about leaving the lovely Jasper (formerly known as Ricky) at home alone, I'd much rather stay and keep him company. Don't worry about him too much though, he makes me pay for it when I get home by sitting on my chest for two hours forcing me to lie on the couch. It's a chore but someone's got to do it.

I think that Jasper is pretty happy with his new home, after all, he has the run of it. Lots of toys, lovely sunny window spots and soft chairs to snooze in, He even sleeps in my bed at night.

Thank you for bringing us together.

Lots of love,

Jasper's (formerly known as Ricky) mum

JACKSON

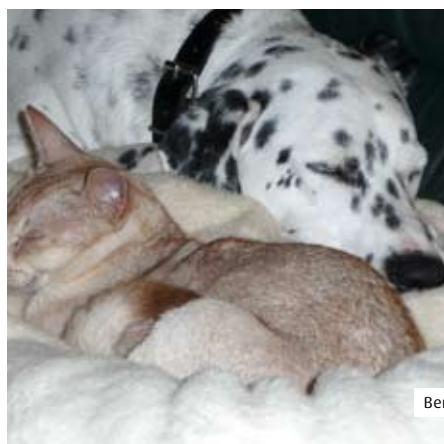
Hi there!

Jackson has settled into his new home well. He's always in the kitchen hoping for a treat (which he usually gets) whenever I'm there. He would be at his most talkative then. He can be a rather discerning kitty however, as he really prefers fresh meat to dry cat food. He gets a special mince for cats at dinnertime - I buy it from the supermarket and it is aptly named 'Fussy Cat'!

The living room sofa is his favourite snooze spot. He's actually got a lovely new plush soft cat bed but he turns up his nose at it, looking at me as if saying 'no no that won't do, I prefer the sofa thank you very much'. My kids adore him and being the only cat in the house he gets all the attention... in other words thoroughly spoiled.

Thanks for a wonderful new friend

Eileen



BEN

We adopted Ben back in 2006, a 10 month Dalmatian cross named Spotty who had been surrendered. He has not been without his challenges and is somewhat larger than we expected, he has turned into a gentle giant.

Last year when we started "Liptelvin Hillside Retreat", our "Pet Friendly" accommodation business near Mansfield, we soon found that Ben was our greatest asset. So far we have hosted more than 40 dogs, and he has befriended them all. There have been large dogs (Rottweilers) and tiny dogs, friendly dogs and timid dogs. Ben even squats down for the small dogs so they do not feel intimidated, and gently encourages them to play.

Ben, our Pound Hound, is everything we could have wished for, and we are so glad we chose him to share our lives.

Christel

DONATIONS

Our sincere thanks go out to all who have made a contribution this year. Large or Small, your support has meant that we have been able to continue providing and growing our programs to help animals in need.

A very special thank you goes out to our core of dedicated monthly donors and Pen Sponsors, your consistent support is much appreciated and invaluable to our ongoing success and to those who have made large contributions we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

NO OPPORTUNITY MISSED

Keeping Animal Aids doors open is a constant financial battle, a battle that is made a little easier by a very dedicated band of volunteers that operate our three Opportunity Shops.

Our longest running shop is the Blackburn South store. Canterbury Road has been this store's home for over 25 years and though the faces may have changed over the years, the common goal of raising the much needed funds at their heart, Blackburn continues to better its income every year.

The Croydon Op Shop has had many manifestations over the years, several shops have operated in the Kilsyth, Bayswater and Croydon Area. The last move they made was with in Croydon, to the Dorset Road, Merrindale shopping strip. They are going great guns and are quite literally bursting at the seams.



Robyn and Nell at Lakes Entrance Op Shop

Our newest op shop is situated in Lakes Entrance, it is a wonderful compliment to the shelter in Bairnsdale and I hope they are already feeling like they are a part of the team even though they seem so far away. We hope that in the near future we can open another shop in East Gippsland, a site has not yet been decided on as it is a huge area and the choices are numerous.

There is one thing that I can say about the op shop crew, and it doesn't matter which store you go in to, they are all very passionate about what they are doing. They may not be working hands on with the animals but they are all very clear about why they're there and are driven by the same desire to raise as much money as humanly possible.

Opportunity shops are a vital source of income for Animal Aid. Our shops are always looking for willing volunteers to spare a morning or a day once a week or even once a month to give them a helping hand.

If you think you can help please call Karen Blizzard on 9739 0300 or email kblizzard@animalaid.com.au.



Lorraine at the Croydon Op Shop

HAADOC

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 for over 17 years now.

In that time they have provided invaluable socialization and training opportunities to the residents of Healesville and the surrounding areas. HAADOC have always based their classes on making it fun for both the handlers and their dogs.

Their location has changed over the years, as have many of the faces, but the commitment of the people who make it possible every week is as strong as ever.

It all started back in 1992, as a 10 week basic training course over summer, until the word spread and the demand meant that they ran the classes all year.

While there have been many trainers and helpers over the years, some stalwarts of the club have been Beverley Parry, Beryl McCarthy and Carmel Green. We don't think that we would be exaggerating to say that they are the reason that the club is still going strong. But they didn't do it on their own, they were ably assisted by a long list of HAADOC devotees. In no particular order, Sue Grosvenor, Kim Hudson, Jane Roberts, Michelle Melville, Hazel Plunkett not to mention someone who just happens to be our General Manager, Nell Thompson, to name just a few.

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 socialize and have a bit of fun in a supervised environment. If you are after competitive training then this is not 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. They can do agility or basic obedience, right through to reactive dogs that need patience and time before they can even think about joining a normal class set up.

Not only are you and your dog benefiting from attending classes, so are the cats and dogs at the shelter. Thousands of dollars have been raised over the 17 year history, from class fees, raffles and the Annual Christmas Party. We can't write an article about HAADOC without mentioning one very special person. Debra Niewand has been a bit of an unsung hero. We know she doesn't like anyone to make a fuss but we just have to say thanks for all of the things, big and small, that she does to keep the club going and the funds coming in. You can catch up with her at the monthly Warburton Trail walks.

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 Beverley Parry on 5962 3583.

VOICE FROM THE VET

I think that I can safely say that things have a feel of normalcy now after the trauma that Black Saturday inflicted on our community and our clinic.

The clinic is always buzzing with customers and their fur kids, here for an appointment with our vets or groomer. We have not been immune to changes in staff either. Since the last issue we have said good bye to two vets and two nurses. We were all sorry to see them go, but we know that they are still part of the Animal Aid family and wish them all the best.

In losing them we have gained some very welcome additions to the team, Dr Adele Cheing and Dr Amber Lavery. Vets nationally are thin on the ground and if we could clone these two we could keep all four of them busy.

Our clinic treats far too many pets for preventable complaints and spring can be a very busy time. There are a series of problems that accompany the burst of growth brought on by the warmer weather. Here are some of our tips to keeping your pets in tip top condition.

SPRING TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Flea Control

Fleas are a common cause of skin problems in dogs, and the spring weather provides an ideal environment for flea breeding. With the newer forms of flea control products available, your pet should never have to experience a flea problem! Only 5% of the flea population in your pet's environment are adults which live on the pet, so finding one or two fleas on your dog can be an indication that there are many more about to appear because one adult flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day!

Flea collars, shampoos and rinses all have a low efficacy at maintaining a flea-free environment and can be harmful to young animals, so ask your vet for some information on the newer forms of top-spot and tablet-form medication available.



Belinda

Grooming & Bathing

It is important when bathing your dog to use shampoos and conditioners specially formulated for dogs because their skin has a different pH to our own. It is also important not to do it too regularly, as a general rule we say no more than once every 2 weeks for bathing. There are lots of dog shampoos and conditioners available, including ranges which cater for dogs with sensitive skin.

Cats usually do not require bathing, but regular grooming, especially in cats with long hair, will result in less hair being shed on to you and your clothes, and also will prevent matting and knotting of the coat which may then require professional grooming.

Skin Allergies and Rashes

Spring is a common time of year to see rashes and allergies on pets. They are often related to plants in your own garden, but can also be a result of airborne allergens similar to hay-fever in people. Common plant irritants include bamboo, wandering dew and ivy and various grasses can also cause problems. Sheepskin or woollen coats and bedding are also common irritants.

If your pet is experiencing problems with itching or irritated skin and you have them on a good flea control program, then allergies are a possibility and you may need to visit your vet to seek advice and treatment to keep the animal comfortable.

Grass Seeds

In spring we see a lot of dogs (especially long haired dogs like Border Collies, Maltese and Cocker Spaniels) with grass seed abscesses. These are caused by

barbed-grass seeds lodging in the skin surface and burrowing in to the skin. The wounds are usually very painful once they become infected, but are often first noticed when the dog is seen to be licking at the area incessantly. It is necessary for these grass seeds to be removed and this may require surgical exploration. Regular checking of dogs' skin, especially ears and feet, and removal of any grass seeds found will reduce the likelihood of any problems. In some cases though, it is best to avoid areas with long seeding grass where possible and mow your own lawn regularly.

Fly Bites

Heading into summer older and less active dogs can become the victims of a nasty pest indeed. They present with wounds on the tips or tops of their ears, usually caused by fly bites. These dogs are generally not as good at chasing the pesky flies away, but occasionally we see the condition in young active dogs. The injury can be prevented by applying animal-safe insect repellents to the ears. These products come in creams or sprays and work very well, but you need to be careful to avoid getting the product in your pet's eyes!

We know that your pets are a part of your family and we can help you to ensure that you are doing everything in your power to keep them fit and healthy. Our Vet Clinic can cater to all your pets needs and all proceeds from your custom helps to subsidize the welfare work carried out by Animal Aid.

Warm Regards

Belinda Gale

The Team at Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic

AN EFFECTIVE FLEA CONTROL PROGRAM TREATS NOT ONLY THE PET, BUT ALSO THE ENVIRONMENT. YOU MUST ALSO TREAT ALL PETS IN THE HOUSEHOLD. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER USE YOUR DOGS FLEA TREATMENT ON YOUR CAT OR VICE VERSA, IT COULD BE LETHAL

MAX - A VERY HAPPY ENDING

Every now and then, Animal Aid sees a case that has a profound effect on us, one such case is the handsome Siberian Husky named Max. There are a lot of complicated circumstances involved in this story, some that we still can't share with you for discretionary reasons. So in an unnamed suburb on an ambiguous date, a Shire of Yarra Ranges Local Laws Officer received a call from a distressed resident concerned about a dog living nearby. It was their belief that the dog was being tethered by his foot, yes his foot. Intrigued by this possibility, the Ranger thought that it required investigation.

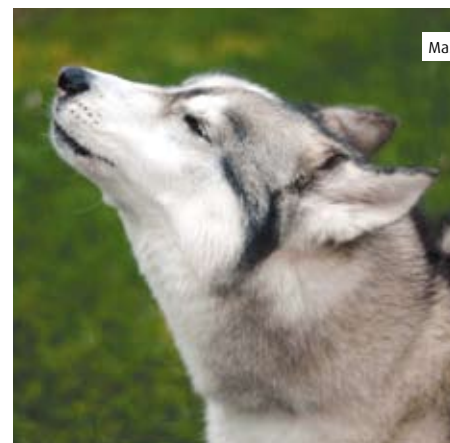
The Council was aware that there were dogs living at the property because previous infringements had been issued for dogs wandering at large. Perhaps this novel tethering system may be a desperate attempt to confine the dog. Easily rectified with a stern talking to and a wrap over the knuckles or perhaps discuss the potential of surrendering the dog if it was unsuitable for the situation.

On arrival, the Ranger was greeted by a small, what should have been white, dog. The front yard had a small and

rickety fence that would be no obstacle to a medium sized dog as a means of containment. There was indeed another dog there but something was stopping him from approaching. As the Ranger got closer he could see that there was a tether attached, and it did appear to be involved with his foot in some way. All too soon it became apparent that the tether was indeed connected to his foot. However it wasn't tied around his ankle, there was a hole in his foot in which a hiking clip had been inserted.

Mortified by what he had discovered, any thoughts of negotiation flew out the window. This was a wanton act of cruelty and everything would be done to stop this person from reclaiming their dog. He was urgently disconnected from the anchor point, as Animal Aid is the pound for Shire of Yarra Ranges, he was conveyed to our vet clinic to remove the insidious device.

Lots of ideas were suggested as to how this could have happened? Could it have been a freakish accident? But the wound was not fresh, it had been like this for some time, there was no blood or recent scabbing.



13

All the facts pointed to it being weeks old rather than days, it must have been intentional, and that was all the evidence was needed to make a case for prosecution.

The legal system is a frustratingly slow and painstaking process and as the months ticked by, Max waited. He coped incredibly well considering his breed and the length of time that it took to get a verdict. Thankfully all his waiting has paid off as the guilty verdict was handed down. The news spread like a Mexican wave around the shelter as staff and volunteers gave a cheer of victory. Thanks to the Shire of Yarra Ranges the case was won and Max's future was now secure, there was no way that he would have to go back to the person that had betrayed him so cruelly.

Max is now a very loved and pampered boy indeed. He regularly comes to stay at our Boarding kennels with his new best friends, also Huskies, thanks to the keen eye of a concerned citizen. Please don't turn your head if you suspect an animal is being mistreated; tell somebody, you could make the difference between a life time of sanctuary or a long life of suffering.

NEWS FROM THE GROOMING ROOM

Our Salon has been incredibly busy over the last few months in what is normally a quieter time for us. Not only are our loyal clients making their regular visits, but we are attracting many new clients as well.

The elderly animals are treated with kindness and respect for aching joints, deteriorating sight, deafness and other problems associated with old age. Our puppies associate grooming with lots of cuddles but are also trained at the same time in a firm and understanding manner. Our grumpies can snap and snarl as much as they like we still love them to bits and do our best to make their visit less stressful.

Every animal that visits our salon is treated like they are one of our own. We make no judgement on the condition of the pets coat when they come in but, we offer sound advice where needed for future care. We can suggest in-between grooming routines, flea control, correct grooming and products training ideas.

Our Salon has the added advantage of being in direct contact with the veterinary clinic. If we discover a problem while grooming your pet we can consult the attending vet for advice. This also means that any animal that requires sedation will have the best possible care by veterinary staff.

Judging by the increase in client numbers over the winter months, I believe that Spring and Summer will be very, very busy indeed. The salon will be open 5½ days a week and we will be grooming any where between 8 - 12 hours a day.

There is no way that I could run such a smooth operation with out the help of my wonderful band of volunteers. They wash dogs, then dry dogs, they do the laundry and clean up, all with big smiles on their faces. They get wet, they get dirty and they get covered in hair with out a word of complaint. They know that they are helping to make your pet look its best and that everything they do helps the shelter.

So many dogs in the community are inadequately cared for, and this is never more evident than when you are dealing with long coated dogs. It's not hard to keeping their coat trim and looking good, and at our prices it is very affordable too. There are no excuses now, give me a call and we can make them look a million bucks.

Warm Regards

Linda Shambrook, Head Groomer



A MESSAGE FROM THE COLDSTREAM BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY

Hi everyone, my name is Bella and my parents wanted to go on holiday and if they thought they were worried about how I would go at a kennel, I was concerned too. So they have arranged a trial stay to see how I will like it, because they couldn't possibly enjoy their holiday if I didn't enjoy mine.

The big day arrives, I'm nervous, but my first impression is pretty good, the people seem nice and I can hear dogs barking 'throw it to me' and 'you can't catch me'. I'm a little curious, I didn't expect to hear that, if I'm not wrong they're having a good time. So reluctantly, we say our goodbyes and Mum assures me she would be back for me tomorrow and if I don't like it I won't have to come back.

I steel my nerves as the back door opens, I'm hit with a barrage of smells, sights and sounds. Everywhere I look dogs romp and play in fenced grassy yards. The dogs still in their pens are barking encouragement from the side lines, it is all a bit overwhelming. I look up at the lady who is walking with me for some reassurance, she can see I'm not sure and she takes the time to make sure I'm OK and gives me the confidence to keep going.

We make it to my bedroom with out incident and the nice lady helps me to settle in. She shows me where the water is and where I will be sleeping and she even fluffs my blankets up before she leaves me to settle in.

I hear the guy next door barking, 'I'm next, me, me, me, I'm next'. He was right, his gate opens and out he flies. He does ten laps of the yard before acknowledging the nice lady. She obviously wants to play with him she is waving the rope toy frantically trying to get his attention, which she does, eventually.

I've been waiting for a little while when I catch a whiff of a familiar smell, could it be dinner, already? Gee the time is flying, where has the day gone? I wonder what's on the menu. No surprises there, just like at home.



I inhale my dinner and the nice lady collects my bowl and lets me out to go to the toilet, which I appreciate. Then it's time to go back to my bedroom, I don't want to but I'm persuaded with a liver treat. Everyone seems to be settling in for the night, the guy next door tells me that his Mum hires PJs for him to sleep in, why didn't my Mum do that for me? I head for my bed feeling a little rejected but when I lay down, it's already warm. There's a heat pad under my blanket, Mum does love me after all.

The night passes and as everyone starts to stir, I really need to go to the toilet. The nice lady is heading my way and I try catching her eye, being so cute it's easy, I'm out. Which again, I appreciate. The breakfast trolley comes around and everyone seems to know the routine, they are all having a fine time, come to think of it, so am I. Dougal, the dog next door, is a wealth of information and he tells me that you can get the full treatment here, hydro bath, professional groom and a manicure, they even have a vet if you need. His brother Jinx, he's a cat, is staying here too, apparently he gets a precious puss pamper package when he comes, I wonder what that is.

The nice lady is back again and she has a lead in her hand, and she's heading for me. YES, Mum must be here. I am so happy to see her and I let her know in no uncertain terms. The nice lady tells her that I have been fine and that she doesn't think I would mind coming back again so Mum makes another booking. I wonder who I will meet next time?

Bella

POSITIVE PAWS SCHEME



The Positive Paws Club offers supporters valuable discounts on shelter, Veterinary and Boarding services and products (excluding animal adoption fees). We are grateful to Clive Peeters and the many veterinary clinics in the Melbourne metropolitan area, who support our shelter by participating in this program, and offer discounts to other Positive Paws Program supporters. There may be a participating clinic in your area, visit our website for a full listing of the participating clinics.

A BEQUEST WITH THREE LEGS



I regularly have telephone discussions with people who are planning or updating their Wills and considering including a bequest to Animal Aid.

One such discussion was with a gentleman who had a very "special" cat named "Chrissy". She was very dear to him at 13 years old and only having three legs; his primary concern was would Animal Aid look after Chrissy when he passed away. I explained that we would indeed care for her, but ultimately we would arrange for her to be fostered by a special family.

The gentleman found comfort in the knowledge that Chrissy would be alright and in return he decided that he would make a bequest provision for Animal Aid in his Will. It would cover any costs that would be incurred in housing, feeding and finding her a family to care for her for the rest of her days

Sadly, some time later the gentleman passed away and Chrissy was brought into our care and we immediately knew what the gentleman meant by "special". Her gentle nature and power purr won all our staff and volunteers over, she was quite the centre of attention.

It didn't take too long to find a special family who would lovingly accept her special needs. Enter the Middleton Family - Kerri, Elyn, Olivia and Phoebe were sure that they had what Chrissy needed and were very keen to take her home.

Chrissy's owner's wishes were carried out and a generous bequest was indeed left to Animal Aid helping to fund the care costs of Chrissy until the Middleton family arrived to the rescue. Soon after, we were delighted to receive a lovely letter from the Middleton family which describes their inspiring journey with Chrissy.

It's absolutely amazing the stories and situations I hear about, it just goes to show how precious people pets are to them. I am often moved by the wonderful outcomes we achieve for Chrissy, and those like her.

If you haven't considered what would happen to your pets should they outlive you and would like to discuss your bequest

plans, I would love to hear from you. My telephone number is 03 9739 0300 on a Tuesday or mobile 0400 431 996 at any other time.

With over 40 years experience in dealing with Bequests and Will preparation I would be delighted to have a chat about how you can help Animal Aid and your Pet(s) through life's journey.

David Bramley

A letter from the Middleton Family

As a regular visitor to the Animal Aid Cattery, although it was sometimes heart wrenching to leave without taking a furry friend with us, we had until now managed, but then there was Chrissy. At our first meeting, Chrissy was a furry calico bump in her basket, some what overshadowed by her more outgoing ginger pen mate. By our second meeting however there was no doubt in our minds that Chrissy had to come home with us.

I'm not sure whether it was her beautiful eyes, larger than life purr or the cautious and clever way she manoeuvred the ramp on three legs that made leaving without her unthinkable.

Lynn informed us that Chrissy must have been a much loved pet when, at the age of 13, she was brought to Animal Aid as part of a bequest after the last member of her family had passed away. We were eager to give her a warm, loving home and while she was somewhat unimpressed by the car trip, she was very quick to settle in taking up residence in her specially prepared basket by the heater.

Any concerns we had about her being accepted by the other members of our animal family were quickly dispelled, as was our fear that she may not be happy with us. Her unwavering affection and obvious contentment, together with her growing curiosity about her new home constantly reassure us that we made the right decision for her.

Having the ongoing support and interest of the cattery staff and Animal Aid veterinary service have also added to our peace of mind in regard to adopting an older cat. The fact that Chrissy has only three legs has little impact on her ability to rule the whole house. She sleeps on the beds when she wishes, we just need to make sure she has suitable steps to make her way down, which she does with the greatest of ease.

Chrissy has been a beautiful and precious addition to our family. Her constant and unconditional love makes giving her a loving home a pleasure and being able honour her precious owners wishes, a privilege. We would recommend to anyone looking for a loving sensible companion to consider an older cat who needs you, like our Chrissy, they will soon let you know how much you needed them.

Kerri, Elyn, Olivia and Phoebe Middleton.





HOW YOU CAN HELP

For over 60 years Animal Aid has been caring for lost, injured and unwanted animals and finding them new homes. This has only been made possible by the kindness of many donors and supporters over the years. To continue this important work we rely on the generosity of the public. Animal Aid receives no Government financial support. **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 one:

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

Kennel/Cat Pen Sponsorship details:

Full Pen: \$800
 Half Pen: \$400
 Quarter Pen: \$200

- Please send me information on monthly donations
 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: __ / __

Signature _____

PLEASE SEND ME:

- Information on kennel and cat pen sponsorship
 Details on how to make a bequest to Animal Aid in my will
 Information on Volunteer/Foster programs
 Tick if you would like to be removed from our mailing list

Title _____ Surname _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ Suburb _____
 _____ P'code _____
 Contact Phone _____ Email _____

Please send your completed form to the following address:

Animal Aid
 P O Box 34, Coldstream, VIC 3770

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

As it costs approximately \$13.50 a day for food and veterinary costs for each animal taken in, Animal Aid has substantial ongoing costs to cover to enable it to continue to care for unwanted and abused animals. Our Sponsorship Program was established to help cover some of these costs.

The program provides a great opportunity for families, community groups and companies to support the shelter. To acknowledge sponsorship of a kennel or cat pen, a plaque can be attached to the front of the pen, displaying the sponsor's company/family name (for the duration of the sponsorship).

Sponsorship funds of \$800 per year (full pen sponsorship), \$400 per year (half), or \$200 per year (quarter) are put towards the costs of food and veterinary care for the animals that pass through that pen in the course of the year. Plaque size is in accordance with level of sponsorship.

Sponsoring a kennel or cat pen on behalf of a business is a fantastic way to promote your company and let others know of your community spirit as you support the work of the Animal Aid.

If you would like to participate in this program, please complete the appropriate details in the form on the back page of Animal Aid News, and send it with sponsorship funds to: Sponsorship Program, Animal Aid, PO Box 34, Coldstream VIC 3770. Alternatively, please call the shelter on 9739 0300 to discuss kennel or cat pen sponsorship.

