

Doglovers @DAS

Domestic Animal Services Dogs ... Deserve Daily Walks

October 2017



Paws For Thought

BY EMMA EREAUT, ANIMAL MANAGEMENT POLICY OFFICER, TCCS

Minister Meegan Fitzharris released the final Animal Welfare and Management Strategy 2017-2022 in September. This strategy outlines how the ACT Government will approach animal welfare and management over the coming years, and sets a vision for the ACT to become an Australian leader in animal welfare and management practice.

One of the most important actions under this strategy will be ongoing community engagement, with a focus on responsible pet ownership. The core of this will be the 'Paws for Thought' campaign, which you may have already seen, featuring a rather cute cartoon dog who encourages people to get their dogs registered, micro-chipped and de-sexed, and encourages appropriate dog control. Often pet owners have the best of intentions, but aren't aware of some important responsibilities they have in caring for their pets. 'Paws for Thought' is all about sharing those messages with people in a fun and memorable way.

The campaign will grow over the coming year to cover a variety of other responsible pet ownership and animal welfare messages, including training, socialisation, yard security, appropriate exercise, and choosing the right breed of dog for a person's lifestyle and residence.

As part of this campaign, TCCS will be running information stalls at local shops, libraries, events and some schools across Canberra. Many of our DAS Volunteers have already expressed their interest in participating in these stalls, and will be getting out into the community helping us to educate people about the best ways to care for their four-legged friends. The development of the DAS Volunteers program can help us to promote and drive the responsible pet ownership message to the broader community and, in turn, improve dogs' lives and their welfare across the Territory.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us at TCCS.AnimalManagement@act.gov.au. If you would like to find out more about the Animal Welfare and Management Strategy and the actions it focuses on, you can find more information at www.tccs.act.gov.au.



EVENTS

Don't miss these!

DOGS' DAY OUT AT FLORIADE

Come and enjoy this very popular annual event for Canberra dog owners. This year it will be held on **Saturday 14 October, 10am -7pm**. There will be lots of fun and gorgeous doggy activities. For more information see www.floriadeaustralia.com/dogs-day-out

RAINBOW PET PARADE

PROVIDED BY AIDS ACTION COUNCIL

The beloved Rainbow Pet Parade will return to CBR Fair Day 2017 at Gorman Arts Centre on **Saturday 28 October**

Welcome

PAWS for thought! Read all about a program promoting responsible pet ownership with the help of DAS volunteers. If you would like to help, sign up as a DAS volunteer. Details are in the article.

Our profiled volunteer is Andrew Carter a long term and very committed volunteer who is also generously helping with coordination of DAS volunteers. In DASNEWS you will see an update on the new DAS Volunteers Committee.

Our Feature Article is about Pets in the Park, a wonderful program helping care for the pets of homeless people in Canberra. There are details if you want to donate to this terrific cause.

Finally, DAS volunteers say a sad farewell to Kennel Master Doug Ivill. Doug has been popular with volunteers and cared beautifully for the dogs. All the very best Doug!

Happy volunteering!

Di Johnstone AM

DAS Volunteer and Editor

starting at 1pm! There will be five categories: Waggiest Tail, Pet & Owner Look-a-Like, Best Trick, Best in Show by Popular Opinion and Outrageous Outfit ... so get your fur babies ready for the dogwalk or just come to enjoy the show – it will be an amazing spectacle!

Registration forms will be available online at aidsaction.org.au until COB Thursday 26 October. You can also register your dog on the day at the Northside Community stall (just follow the signs!) before midday.

Andrew Carter



Volunteer Andrew Carter with DAS dog

I initially became aware of the DAS volunteer program through my previous professional position as the ACT Animal Management Policy Officer within Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS).

I was inspired by the dedication of the DAS volunteers and positive welfare outcomes being achieved for dogs in the care of Domestic Animal Services to become a volunteer myself and have been part of the program for almost 2 years.

As a member of the recently formed DAS Volunteer Program Committee I am working with other volunteers to review the structure of the DAS volunteer program, with a view to enhancing the working relationship between TCCS and DAS volunteers.

Reflecting on my experiences as a DAS volunteer I can honestly say that I find the time I spend each week with the dogs at DAS extremely rewarding, so much so that I feel I actually get as much if not more out of the experience as the dogs.

Dog friendly Canberra!

If you have wondered how to find the best dog friendly walks and other dog friendly places in Canberra, take a look at this website: www.canberradogwalks.com.au

The team behind Canberra Dog Walks are long-term locals who have explored most of Canberra to find the best dog friendly walks and other dog friendly places that are interesting for humans too. The site provides free information on all things 'dog friendly' in Canberra, such as the best dog friendly cafes (including useful tips for training a café-friendly dog), the best

off leash parks, dog friendly accommodation, dog friendly wineries, dog swimming areas, dog walking groups and much more. It also provides links to ACT dog regulations, off leash maps, and dog related services and organisations. Canberra Dog Walks also runs weekly social group walks for dogs and their humans in different areas around Canberra through Meetup—a great way to socialise your dog. It's time for you and your dog to get walking!

For more information visit www.meetup.com/Canberra-Dog-Walks-Meetup



Canberra Dog Walks social group walk. Photo: Courtesy of Georgia Morris

Dachshund Rescue

BY ANDREA SLUGA

The Canberra Dachshund Club is a group of owners and their Dachshunds who meet once to twice a month so the dogs can socialise and play with one another.

Our meetups often coincide to celebrate a dog's birthday, Christmas or our yearly 'Hallo-weiner' event where dressing up the Dachshunds is encouraged! We are not breeders, just a passionate group of people who share the love of owning Dachshunds. Another focus of the club is to promote Dachshund Rescue Australia and undertake fundraising activities for them. A major fundraising event is the Werriwa Weiner Dash that is held yearly at the Bungendore Show. As well as Dachshund races we also attempt to set a world record for the most number of Dachshunds in one place and in 2017 we successfully set the record with 154 Dachshunds!

For more information about us please visit www.canberradachshunds.com or find us on Facebook.



Keen dachshund at the Werriwa Weiner Dash. Photo: Courtesy of Zac Cockburn

Pets in the Park: Helping homeless people and their pets

BY KAREN VIGGERS—PITP VOLUNTEER AND AUTHOR



Canberra clinic, June 2017

Veterinary care for pets can be expensive these days. So what do you do if you have a low income? Or no income at all? Or if you are homeless? Should owning pets be reserved for the rich? Or should everyone be able to share the joy that comes from the company of animals?

Pets in the Park (PITP) is a wonderful initiative that harnesses the energy of volunteer vets and animals lovers to help care for pets of those who are less fortunate. Providing free vaccinations, worming and other veterinary advice, PITP is a charity that reaches out to homeless people to ensure they can continue to experience the positive benefits pet ownership brings. The service includes new collars and winter coats for pets, and at the Canberra clinic, a lovely lady called Angel now offers basic grooming for pets too. Free desexing clinics are run quarterly, and in July several pets were desexed and also received dental treatment.

PITP all began with one Sydney vet, Dr Mark Westman, who went out to his local Parramatta park with a folding table and an esky of vaccines, and offered free veterinary checks for homeless people attending a food outreach program. His 'pop-up' clinic was so appreciated it became a regular monthly fixture. A need in the community had been identified. From there, other veterinarians and volunteers became involved, and more 'pop-up' clinics were set up in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. Soon there will be one in Hobart too.

What's wonderful about PITP is the rewarding three-way exchange between volunteers, pet owners and pets: the positive energy and goodwill. Owners come with their pets, and the welcome is warm. Heather, a Canberra volunteer, enjoys the wonderful spirit of camaraderie amongst the volunteers. Pat loves to see the joy on a pet owner's face when they see their pets

being cared for, as if a huge worry has been removed. Michelle has volunteered with veterinary charities around the world, but she found that helping vulnerable animals in her own community was uniquely rewarding.

The first time I helped out at PITP was on a cold Sunday afternoon. Our clinic was set up between airy buildings in the middle of Canberra civic. Cheery volunteers erected tables and ferried out eskies of vaccines and boxes of collars and doggy coats. There were no fixed appointments, and anyone could turn up during the designated two hours, so we didn't know who might come. In beanies and coats, we waited, wondering if anyone would arrive. Then, quietly, owners and their pets began to show up.

My first patient was a little white Maltese dog owned by an old man called 'Mike'. We

sat on a wooden bench seat as 'Mike' shyly explained 'Molly's' issues with bad teeth and sore ears. He told me how 'Molly' was too old to live with him on the street anymore, so she mostly stayed with his friends. He visited her often, but he was worried she wasn't receiving the right care – she hadn't been vaccinated for years and also had a nasty ear infection. With the help of another kindly volunteer, we cleaned 'Molly' up, treated her ear infection, vaccinated and wormed her, and supplied her with a new winter coat. 'Mike' was profoundly grateful, and I was deeply moved to assist someone who really needed my help.

Those of us who own animals know the value of human-animal bonds. Research has shown the social, emotional and physical health benefits of owning pets. This is especially important for homeless people who don't receive unconditional love, companionship, emotional support or security from elsewhere. Each night in Australia, 100,000 people sleep on the streets, and many of these people own pets. Sometimes pets are the only thing that keeps homeless people going. Pets can offer a reason for being, a life buoy in otherwise tragic and difficult circumstances.

In a society that is preoccupied with achievement and wealth, taking time to care for others is essential. It's part of what makes us human. Pets are part of our families, and helping homeless people look after their pets recognises the vital support pets can provide. This is why PITP is so important. A national website providing more information about PITP should be up and running soon. The current link is www.petsinthepark.org.au, and any donations should be marked for Canberra PITP.



Canberra clinic, June 2017



DAS News

Domestic Animal Services — Keeping Canberra Safe

Emergency number for dog attacks

A dog attack can be a very traumatic experience for everyone involved. If you are ever involved in, or witness a dog attack, it is important to know who to call for help. Where an attack is occurring, or involves serious injury to an animal or person, in the first instance you should call ACT Emergency Services on 000 and report the matter. ACT Policing will call Domestic Animal Services to attend. Dog attacks that have occurred or involve a minor injury should be reported to Access Canberra on 13 22 81, who will advise DAS to follow up.

DAS Volunteer Program Committee

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) recently proposed the establishment of a committee to oversee the DAS volunteer program. As a first step in the process of establishing the committee, expressions of interest were sought from DAS volunteers to form a working group to assess the viability of the Committee and its potential structure.

The first meeting of the working group was held on **Friday 8 September 2017**, at which the working group agreed to form a committee that will develop the role, structure and constitution for the DAS Vol-

unteers Program with a view to establishing an incorporated association at some point in the future.

The committee will meet regularly over the coming months, with a focus on volunteer recruitment, expansion of volunteer roles, and improved communication.

If you have any questions about the Committee or its work, or if you would like to pass on any feedback/ideas for consideration, please contact Animal Management Policy Officer, Emma Ereat at TCCS.AnimalManagement@act.gov.au

Farewell for Doug

It is with a heavy heart and a drooped tail that we have to say goodbye to Doug Ivill. Doug has been with DAS since February 2016 in various roles including Ranger and Kennel Master, and has done a fantastic job of looking after all the dogs at the shelter. The shelter itself has never looked cleaner or smelled better! Many dogs across Canberra have also found a new home thanks to Doug's tireless work promoting them for rescue. Doug is leaving us for a new role as Kennel Master for ACT Policing, where we



Popular Kennel Master Doug Ivill with DAS dog

are sure he will continue to do great work. Doug will be missed by all TCCS staff and DAS volunteers.

Dog coats

Again this year there was a donation of many lovely new dog coats by Sydney-based Knitting for Australian Dog Rescue Groups. DAS warmly thanks the knitters and sewing experts for their generosity in making these beautiful coats available free of charge to the dogs at DAS for winter. The dog in the photo above is wearing one of these coats. For more information and dog coat designs check out their Facebook page on www.facebook.com/Australian-Dog-rescue-knitters-page-457100764314744/



DAS works to ensure the welfare of domestic animals in the Territory. The DAS facility at Mugga Lane, Symonston caters for dogs found roaming or lost in the ACT.

To become a volunteer

Telephone: 0411 399 374

Email: TCCS.AnimalManagement@act.gov.au

For more information

Telephone: 13 22 81

Fax: 6207 2252

Email: dogcontrol@act.gov.au

ACT Rescue Groups

The major Canberra based dog rescue organisations working cooperatively with DAS are:

RSPCA ACT

www.rspca-act.org.au

ACT Rescue and Foster Inc.

www.fosterdogs.org

Canberra Pooch Rescue

www.canberrapoochrescue.org.au

A number of breed-specific organisations also rescue dogs from DAS.