

TAWL TAILS

Official Magazine of Animal Welfare League Queensland Est. 1959



Winter - Spring 2021

KEEPING PETS AND THEIR FAMILIES *TOGETHER*



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959

AWLQLD.COM.AU 🐾 @AWLQLD

BECOME A PROMISE KEEPER TO HELP ANIMALS IN NEED, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.



EDITOR'S WELCOME

AWLQ is committed to keeping pets and their families together by providing lifesaving support and resources to people in need with companion animals.

In addition to our lifesaving animal rehoming program and welfare work, AWLQ provides community based support programs and services with a focus on keeping pets and their families together. We are committed to support these animals, work to reach those that aren't currently receiving the care they need and continue to be the one people can trust.

Our community vet clinics continue to be an instrumental part in this. To have a community veterinary clinic that is accessible to pets in need, and knowing that no sick or suffering animal will ever be turned away, is truly an outstanding achievement for animal welfare. This is something I am incredibly proud of that we have been able to achieve.

We will always be here to support our community, and their companion animals, however we can. This is only possible due to the generous support of our community – thank you for your continued kind support and for sharing our commitment to animals in need.

It is my absolute honour to share this journey with you.

Denise Bradley
Chief Executive Officer

Animal Welfare League
Queensland Initiatives



Member of Australian
Charities Foundation



Founding Member
of Companion Animal
Network Australia



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959

Animal Welfare League Queensland

HEAD OFFICE

Shelter Road
Coombabah QLD 4216

PO Box 3253
Helensvale Town Centre QLD 4212
07 5509 9000
info@awlqld.com.au
ABN 75 521 498 584

Bequests & Legacy Pets

07 5509 9099
bequests@awlqld.com.au

Business Relations & Fundraising

07 5509 9057
fundraising@awlqld.com.au

Communications & PR

07 5509 9030
communications@awlqld.com.au

Education

07 5509 9034
education@awlqld.com.au

Emergency Boarding

07 5509 9014
emergencyboarding@awlqld.com.au

Fostering

07 5509 9020
fostering@awlqld.com.au

Golden Hearts™ Senior Support Program

07 5509 9033
goldenhearts@awlqld.com.au

Op Shops

07 5509 9056
retail@awlqld.com.au

Volunteering

07 5509 9019
volunteering@awlqld.com.au

ANIMAL REHOMING CENTRES

Beenleigh

16 Rossmans Road, Stapylton
07 3807 3782
beenleighrehoming@awlqld.com.au

Gold Coast

21 Shelter Road, Coombabah
07 5509 9000
callcentre@awlqld.com.au

Warra

523 Telegraph Road, Bracken Ridge
07 3631 6800
warrashelter@awlqld.com.au

Willawong

501 Gooderham Road, Willawong
07 3714 2800
willwongshelter@awlqld.com.au

AWLQ COMMUNITY VET CLINICS

Brisbane Community Vet Clinic

6/10 Old Chatswood Rd, Daisy Hill
07 3808 2892
brisbanevetclinic@awlqld.com.au

Gold Coast Community Vet Clinic

21 Shelter Road, Coombabah
07 5594 0111
goldcoastvetclinic@awlqld.com.au

Ipswich Community Vet Clinic

42 Tiger Street, West Ipswich
07 3812 7533
ipswichvetclinic@awlqld.com.au

SOCIAL HANDLES

@AWLQLD
#awlq #awlqld

AWLQ OP SHOPS

Please see the listing
of all op shops on page 35.

FEEDBACK

Please send any feedback, photos or story
ideas to communications@awlqld.com.au

© No part of *Tawl Tails* may be produced
or used in any form or by any means,
either wholly or in part, without prior
written permission from AWLQ.

CONTENTS

2	NEWS	22	LEGACY PETS	38	DESEXING
4	GOOD NEWS	24	COMMUNITY VET CLINICS	40	GOLDEN HEARTS™
6	COVER STORY	26	VOLUNTEER WITH AWLQ	42	HELP IN A CRISIS
10	TECHNOLOGY	28	VOLUNTEERING	44	WINTER PET PROTECTION
14	THE FOSTER FILES	30	VOLUNTEERING	46	OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS
16	HEARTWORM DISEASE	32	FASHION FINDS	48	A COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY
18	BEQUESTS	36	KITTEN SEASON		

By giving monthly, you become a Promise Keeper, joining a passionate community of people investing in a shared vision of creating a brighter future for animals in need. Visit us at awlqld.com.au or call 07 5509 9057 for more information.

Sensor Saves Pets Left in Hot Cars

PARKED VEHICLES can pose incredible danger to your pet or child. Yet one device can prevent that from happening. Scientists from the University of Waterloo in Canada have developed a sensor that triggers an alarm when children or pets are left alone in vehicles. The device uses radar technology and artificial intelligence to detect whether there are unattended children or animals inside a car. The development team claim the sensor works with 100% accuracy.

Measuring just over an inch and small enough to fit inside a palm, the sensor is designed to be attached to a ceiling or rear-view mirror. The device sends out radar signals to be reflected back by people, animals and objects inside the car. AI analyses the reflected signals to determine whether it should sound the alarm. Once triggered, the sensor would prevent doors from locking and raise an alarm to alert people within the area.

Says George Shaker, an engineering professor at the University of Waterloo, "It addresses a serious, world-wide problem. This system is so affordable, it could become standard equipment in all vehicles."

The device aims to combat the growing number of cases around the world where children and pets lose their lives after being left alone in a vehicle. In Australia, over 5,000 children are rescued each year after being left alone in cars, according to Kidsafe.

Meanwhile, over 500 dogs were found unattended in vehicles in Western Australia alone in 2017. It only takes six minutes for a dog to die of heat stroke – with brachycephalic or short-headed dogs such as bulldogs and pugs suffering more because of their shorter snouts. Unlike humans, dogs can only cool down by panting, which is much harder to do when the air is hot all around.

The development of the sensor was funded in part by an automotive manufacturer, who hopes to bring the device to market soon. The device can analyse the number of occupants and their locations in a vehicle. This information can be used to detect when a child or pet has been left behind, a scenario that can cause serious emergencies in extreme weather conditions.

Shaker added, "Unlike cameras, this device preserves privacy, and it doesn't have any blind spots because radar can penetrate seats, for instance, to determine if there is an infant in a rear-facing car seat."

The sensor, which would run on a car's battery, differentiates living beings from inanimate objects by detecting subtle breathing movements. Researchers are currently exploring whether the technology can be developed to monitor a driver's vital signs to indicate fatigue, distraction, illness, or other impairments. 🐾



Humans See in Clearer Detail Than Most Pets

HUMANS HAVE HIGHER visual acuity than most animals. What looks sharp to you may not be the case for your pet.

Science has long established the visual capabilities of animals that humans don't have – night vision and the ability to see infrared come to mind. Although birds of prey are known to have stunning eyesight, as it turns out, humans still have considerably better vision than most animals, including our favourite household pets such as dogs and cats.

A study on animal vision compared about 600 animal species – including insects, birds, mammals, fish, and reptiles – by their visual acuity or sharpness of their sight. The findings? Most species in the animal kingdom "see the world with much less detail than we do," according to author Eleanor Caves of Duke University.

According to the research, humans can see four to seven times more detail than dogs and cats, and over a hundred times more than a mouse or a fruit fly.

The study also showed that chimpanzees and other primates see a resolution similar to humans.

Are there animals that can see better than humans? There are a few birds of prey that can. This includes the Australian wedge-tailed eagle, which has more than twice the limit of human visual acuity. No wonder they make such good predators, being able to spot something as tiny as a rabbit even thousands of feet from the ground.

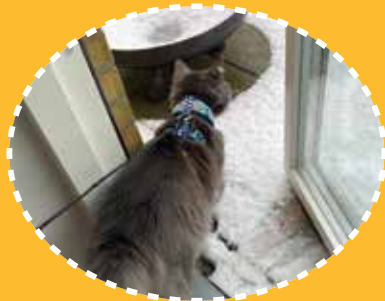
Alas, most birds don't see as well as this, and nor do fish. According to Caves, "The highest acuity in a fish is still only about half as sharp as us."

Remember this when your pet is in a new environment...pet sight isn't as good as human sight, unless your pet is an eagle! 🐾



International Jetsetters of the Animal World

Adoptees are living the high life in far away lands – here are their jetsetting stories!



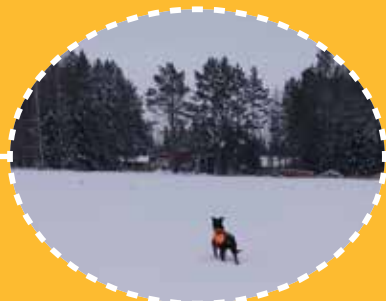
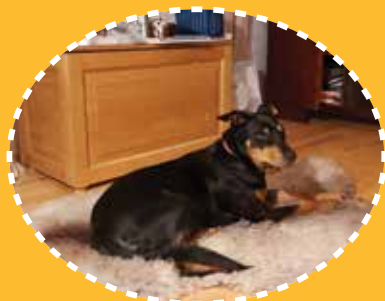
🐾 Coomba 🐾

Coomba, named after the area he's from, was adopted from the Gold Coast Animal Rehoming Centre in 2019. His family recently moved to Denmark. The little furry Aussie was allowed to leave during a pandemic when most Australians have been in lockdown or not allowed to travel. Coomba the cat from Coombabah made his way from Brisbane to Dubai. Here, he had a two-day cat holiday living it up in the Arabian desert. He then landed in Copenhagen and made the long drive to his new home in Aarhus. His family had to get him a jacket for the cold weather for his first taste of snow. As a Queenslander, he's adjusted very well.



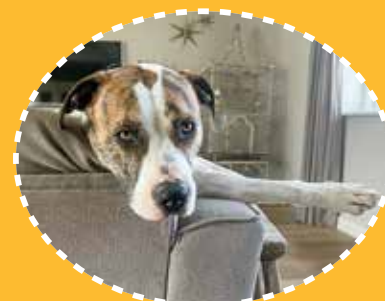
🐾 Alaska 🐾

When Alaska was adopted she had no idea how much her life was about to change. Alaska was 10 weeks old at the time and was taken into AWLQ after being found walking the streets, alone, looking for her family. Alaska's new family travel the world with her in their RV and post about dog friendly trails they find along the way. They couldn't imagine their life without the best travel partner there is!



🐾 Diesel 🐾

This handsome boy now lives in Estonia. He was adopted from the Gold Coast Animal Rehoming Centre. His name used to be Ma-Ti, but he is now called Diesel. One of our former residents is now enjoying a completely different and a new life in deep snow and has much space to run around in nearby forests. Diesel likes to eat wild blueberries – he discovered this when he arrived in Estonia and was taken to the woods!



🐾 Max 🐾

Max was adopted from the Gold Coast Animal Rehoming Centre a little over 2 years ago and it has been quite the adventure ever since. Max now lives with his amazing family on a 5 acre property in the North of England with his best friend – a cattle dog named Bluebell.

If you have adopted from Animal Welfare League Queensland we'd love to hear about your experience. Log onto awqlqld.com.au/about/your-happy-tail/ to share your adoption story.

Keeping Pets and Their Families Together



AWLQ is committed to keeping pets and people together by providing lifesaving support and resources to people in need with companion animals. In addition to animal sheltering, AWLQ provides community-based support programs and services with a focus on keeping pet and families together. We will always support these animals, work to reach those that aren't currently receiving the care they need and continue to be the one people can trust.

CEO of AWLQ Denise Bradley explains what makes the AWLQ Community Vet Clinics so unique.

A change in legislation in 2001 meant that vet surgeries no longer had to be owned by a vet. This meant that AWLQ could open our first community vet clinic in Queensland. We wanted to make desexing and vet care more accessible and affordable to thousands of pet owners in the community. Our first community vet clinic was made possible due to the kind support from a generous bequester.

AWLQ's Community Vet Clinic model is unique in Australia. No sick or suffering animal will ever be turned away and will have access to veterinary care regardless of their owner's capacity to pay. AWLQ commits to keeping pets and their families together. Charitable support is provided to clients for emergency and urgent treatments. All members of the community can access these services.

Prior to the establishment of the Community Vet Clinics, AWLQ received many surrendered pets simply because their families couldn't afford to pay for veterinary treatment.

I still vividly remember the day when an elderly couple came to the vet clinic cradling their small dog in their arms. They couldn't afford to have a lump removed. The advice from the vet was to bring it to AWLQ to be euthanised. This little dog was their only reason for living. They were distraught thinking they would be going home without their pet. Imagine their absolute joy when our vet told them that we would do the surgery to remove the lump. And, this was at a price they could afford. They would have many more happy years together. These are the memorable days that stay with you forever!

Some people would say if you can't afford the veterinary treatment for a pet you shouldn't have one but that's not the reality. Sometimes life throws you a curveball through no fault of your own. It is so gratifying that AWLQ will always be there to assist the pets of people in need.

We don't feel it's in the best interests for our community to be faced with having to make difficult decisions such as euthanasia. So supporting and enabling people to keep their pets underpins what we do.

Last year we had 46,553 patients through our clinics. We use state-of-the-art facilities to diagnose and treat them to get them back in good health as quickly as possible. From routine check-ups

and vaccinations, preventative care and medical problems, to emergencies and those times your pets are critically ill, we are here to help.

We offer a wide range of surgical services including dentistry, general surgery, and orthopaedics. Knowing that no sick or suffering animal will ever be turned away, is truly an outstanding achievement for animal welfare. I am incredibly proud that we have achieved this.

TIMELINE



2001

A legislation change allows AWLQ to open our first community vet clinic in Queensland. This makes desexing and vet care more accessible and affordable.



2006

AWLQ opens a second community vet clinic in Ipswich. It provides quality vet care at affordable prices.



2011

As part of the Getting 2 Zero initiative, AWLQ opens a third community vet clinic in Hobart. Low-cost desexing and other essential vet services are reducing unwanted animals in the state.



2020

AWLQ expands its network of community vet clinics with the opening of the Brisbane Community Vet Clinic.

Meet The Vets of the Community Vet Clinic

DR. JOHN

The community vet clinic is a great place to work, I have been here 20 years. One patient in particular stands out in my 20 years here.

And that is a Rottweiler called Taj. He was involved in a car accident and came in completely paralysed with a spinal injury. The only thing he could move was his eyeballs. Initially there was the thought that it might be cruel to keep him alive. But we decided to operate and give him a second chance. He was in the hospital for 6 months, but he eventually began to make a recovery. Soon, he was moving about, dragging himself around on his front legs. Once he got a little mobile again, he did have a bit of attitude.



I got around that because I found his weakness was Mars Bars! Seven months later he walked out the door on all fours, a totally recovered dog!

In such a large practice, we do the whole gamut of procedures. I personally like the challenging cases. I have one this afternoon. I'm trying to fix a puppy whose jaw was broken when it was attacked by another dog. It has already had two surgeries so far. One surgery has been successful, but the other one hasn't. So we're going to have to try and redo the second surgery.

When I first came here, I was a shelter vet, and there was a lot to do. In those days, the mainstream thinking in shelters was that you don't treat the difficult cases. But we managed to change that. We started doing a lot of orthopaedic surgery on broken animals, and then sending them out to foster. Then they would come back, go into the rehoming pens and then find their forever family. We also started quarantining animals that were sick with infectious disease, such as kennel cough or cat flu. A big effort was made to increase the flow in the practice, so they didn't get infectious conditions. The goal was that when an animal came in on day one, by day two they got a health check, by day three it was desexed, and by day four it was rehomed.

Soon, the decision was made to open a hospital to the public. There was a concern that it would run at a loss. So we just opened for two hours a day, and just did the desexings. But it really took off! Next thing you know, it just exploded and we started employing other vets. Now we have 10 to 15 vets treating patients.

If I could offer any advice to people it would be to insure their animals. Emergency clinics are very very, very expensive.

DR. KARISHMA

This year is my seventh year at the community vet clinic. I work here because of the charter. We don't turn away a sick or suffering animal, regardless of finance. We have special payment plans if someone genuinely can't afford to pay. If there are special circumstances, we do some charity work.

A highlight of working here is all the good outcomes that happen with patients. It's great to see a patient successfully through the process – from when they're admitted, to diagnostics, through to treatment plans. And finally to see them walk out the door.

I enjoy lots of different parts of veterinary medicine, and like the challenges, but surgery is my favourite. Typically, we deal predominantly with dogs and cats. Occasionally, there are some vets who do little pocket pets. One of the vets took an eye out of a rat the other week, due to a cancer diagnosis. One of the vets did an amputation on a bird, who had a broken leg that needed to come off. We actually did a stitch-up on a Guinea pig once that was attacked by a cat!

My most memorable patient was a little dog called Lollie. She was surrendered after she broke her front leg. Because of the nature of the fracture, we ended up amputating the leg. I fostered her during her post-operative recovery time. I definitely got attached, but it was nice to see her go on to her forever home.

The challenges for me are getting an emotional attachment to patients. If they get a fairly grave prognosis or a terminal problem that's tough. Guiding clients through the difficult decisions they have to make can be challenging. But there are a lot of highlights. It is a lot of fun and it's a very dynamic team.



DR. SARAH

I have worked here three and a half years. I came to the AWLQ via a slightly different route. I was an equine vet for seven years – a horse girl. Then I fancied doing something a little bit different and started here as a locum. I was just working a few days here and there, and then never left.



When we work here, we not only get to help people and pets, but we are helping the shelter. So rather than earning a private owner money, everything that we earn after a big day of really putting in the hours, is going back to the shelter.

I really like the emergency work that we do here. We're not an emergency clinic as such. But sometimes people end up here having gone to emergency clinics, where they maybe can't afford the work there. I really enjoy the walk-in emergency shift. You often get five people with quite serious things coming all at once, especially on the weekends. There is a bit of multitasking there! We won't turn anyone away, so we see a much bigger variety than a lot of other vet clinics.

Sometimes people bring wildlife in here too. This could be kookaburras, parrots, or tawny frogmouths. Rarely we will get a koala or the odd kangaroo that has been hit by car. Sometimes, people bring in turtles. They might go on the road, and they get hit by a car. We do basic treatment. We'll give them pain relief and antibiotics, and then get in touch with Currumbin Wildlife Centre who take it from there.

It's been great for me to switch to treating small animals. It was not something I was ever interested in at a university. So it's been a really pleasant surprise. I am the newest vet here, so everything's pretty exciting still.

All the patients are special. I love the relationship I have with their owners too. Sometimes that can be intense. I put down a little dog last week. I had known the owner from my very first days here. She'd been through a really tough time. She'd lost her partner and relied on her dog for emotional support. To be able to help that dog all those years ago, and by proxy that owner, felt good. She got to spend three more years with that little dog, which was a blessing in her grieving period.

There's a huge problem with vet shortages in Australia, and worldwide right now. The government are fast-tracking visas for vets because we're so short. My advice to pet



owners is to remember that vets aren't in it for the money, and we really do want the best for your pets. We do go home and think about your animals. We've got some really great clients here, but remember to be kind to your vet.

DR. DIA

I have worked here almost 18 years. I love the medicine side of treating patients. You can get pets that will have diabetes, or other sort of metabolic type conditions. So their illnesses are managed mainly by medications, rather than surgery. I do enjoy the surgery part of the job, though.

I treat a lot of wounds. They can become infected and then the animal can become septic, and this is life-threatening.

One of my favourite patients was a Staffy called Simba. He was hit by a bus, and dragged along the road. He had horrific wounds, over a very big part of his body. He spent a lot of time with us, having bandage changes and treatment for his skin. We had to get a special suit for him to cover his wounds. But he did heal eventually, and he went home to his family. I love to see animals recover and stay with their owners. It is quite emotionally draining when things don't go as well as you would like them to. But overall, the community vet clinic is a good place to be.

My advice to pet owners is if you feel something is wrong, seek treatment earlier rather than later. Because a lot of the time the earlier it's caught, the easier it is to treat, and the better the outcome. 🐾



CVC appointments can be booked online at awlqld.com.au/vet-clinics

BRISBANE

6/10 Old Chatswood Road,
Daisy Hill
Ph: 07 3808 2892

GOLD COAST

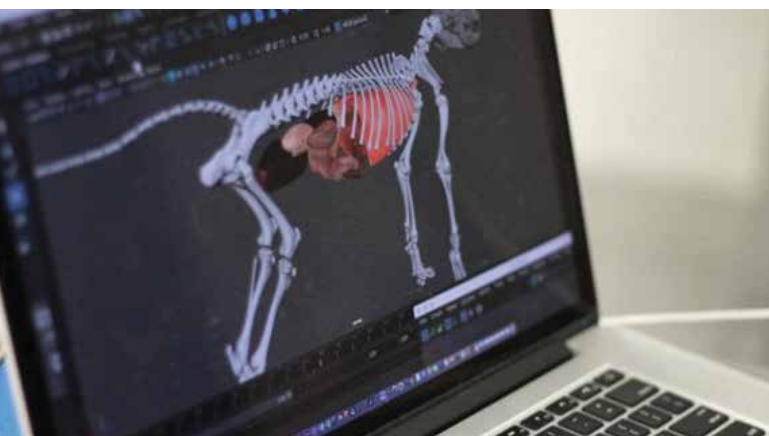
1 Shelter Road,
Coombah
Ph: 07 5594 0111

IPSWICH

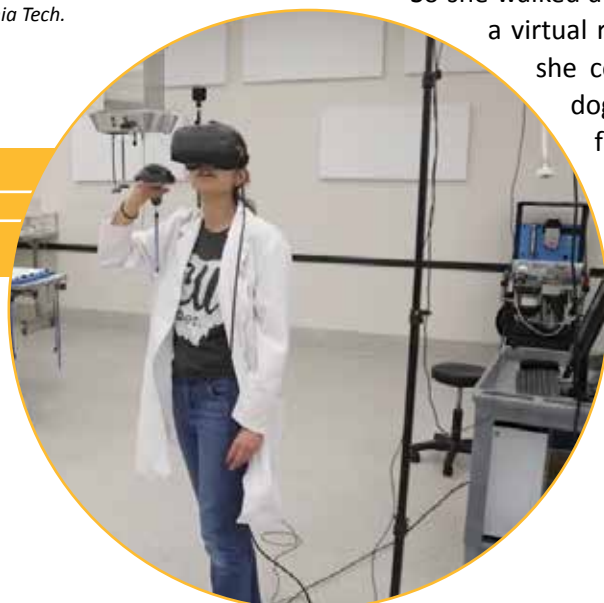
42 Tiger Street,
West Ipswich
Ph: 07 3812 7533

Tech is Giving Dogs the Good Life

Think medical advances are just for humans? Think again! Dogs are now benefitting from some amazing medical breakthroughs.



This is one view of the virtual image of a dog that users see when they put on the VR headset. Credit Virginia Tech.



Virtual Reality exams of dogs are now possible.

Science boffins all over the world have done amazing things for human beings. And now, they are doing amazing things for dogs...These lucky pups are living their best lives because of some very inventive people. Here are some stories from the cutting edge of animal medicine.

VR EXAMINATIONS

Sara Farthing is a first-year student of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. While doing clinical exams on dogs, she had trouble picturing the canine's lungs and the way the heart is positioned inside the chest.

So she walked across the room and slipped on a virtual reality (VR) headset. Suddenly, she could see a large picture of a dog's lungs and skeletal structure floating in mid-air in front of her. She said, "I literally stood inside the rib cage."

The aspiring small animal veterinarian was using a new technology available this semester at the college that brings a dog's anatomy to life.

The VR experience was created by Thomas Tucker, an associate professor in the School of Visual Arts at Virginia Tech. It shows the organs inside the skeletal system of a mid-sized dog. By moving and clicking a button, users can see layers of tissue, zoom in on certain organs, and step into parts of a virtual dog's body. There is no other way to study a dog's organs and bone structure as intensively.

The software that runs this tech is called Unreal Engine, used by video game developers. The project received a \$3,000 grant from the University Libraries Open Education Faculty Initiative. This requires the software to be publicly released under an open license for use by other universities and veterinarians.

"This open-source tool brings forward the ability for students to develop a better spatial understanding," said Anita Walz, a librarian at Virginia Tech. "If this can help them learn faster or more thoroughly, I think it's really exciting."

Kathryn Strait, a first-year veterinary student, put on the VR headset to study where a dog's heart and lungs are located. "It's helpful to have a 3D understanding of how each organ relates. You can see how the spleen wraps around on the left side and how the heart is oriented."

Eventually, there will be more VR sets for lab work, plus more VR equipment in the library for students to use anytime. Tucker is developing an

All of the organs are on show in a VR exam.



augmented reality (AR) dog that would be available as a smartphone app. The AR dog was presented at a veterinary conference recently and there was much interest. More funding is needed, however, to make the AR project a reality.

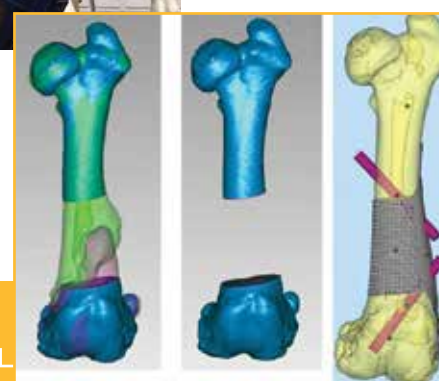
Canines are only the beginning for Tucker. With additional grant money, he said he'd like to develop VR versions of other animals, such as pigs and cattle.

For now, VR is changing the way that Virginia Tech veterinary students like Farthing are learning. Recently, as she gazed at a dog's lung structure with the VR headset, she said she could picture where to place her stethoscope. "I have a mental image now," said Farthing, who in the future plans to work in a small animal veterinary practice alongside her mother, who is also a vet. Tech holds amazing hope for sick animals everywhere, and VR examinations are only the beginning!



Seymour has recovered well.

The bone being healed



TITANIUM FOR A SUPERDOG

A 3D-printed titanium bone implant is giving a senior rescue dog a new lease on life. This is thanks to a team of vets from The University of Queensland and engineers from RMIT University.

Seymour has gone from a sick rescue dog who was 'on his last legs' to a happy pooch who enjoys sunbaking on the deck.

Seymour was presented to Dr Jayne McGhie at UQ Vets Small Animal Hospital by his rescue adopter Sonya, looking to investigate options for a leg that may have been broken for many years. Said Dr McGhie, "When Seymour first arrived in my care he had many problems – including severe skin disease, serious dental problems, dry eye, bilateral patella luxations and evidence of osteoarthritis in both elbows and in his right hind leg which required surgical intervention."



The osteoarthritis in Seymour's hind leg has been repaired.

In the absence of standard solution Dr McGhie contacted Professor Milan Brandt, Technical Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Precinct at RMIT University in Melbourne. Postdoctoral researcher Dr Darpan Shidid also donated his time and expertise to help.

They drew on their current research on new generation implants for human bone disease. And, they came up with a custom-made, lattice-based titanium implant for Seymour. To make it, they used a 3D metal printer.

Said Professor Brandt, "After examining Seymour's CT scans, we designed a robust lattice structure that would support his weight. We attached it to a custom-designed plate fitted exactly to his misshaped bone. The lattice fills the bone defect to restore the femur to its normal length and alignment. And, it allows growth of new bone as the femur heals – eventually the implant becomes a part of the healed bone."

Once Seymour had recovered from his skin and dental diseases, Dr McGhie and her team performed the advanced surgical procedure to install the implant. To encourage bone growth into the lattice, a bone graft was harvested from Seymour's shoulder. This was mixed with canine demineralised bone and Seymour's own platelet-rich plasma. Then it was pressed into the lattice of the bone plate. The lattice and the plate were then placed into the bone defect of Seymour's left femur and secured in place.

After his successful surgery, Seymour was sent home to recuperate with Sonya and her family. "Seymour is such a remarkable little dog and despite all the challenges he's faced, he's never stopped being loving and happy. We're so happy with his recovery – he can do his excited twirls for food

without a limp, and we can take him on walks with our other dog, Cash."

Since then, Seymour has had routine check-ups and thanks to RMIT University and the specialist surgeon team at UQ VETS, he is doing very well.

A NEW PROSTHETIC LEG FOR A SHELTER DOG

Over the other side of the world in Novosibirsk, Russia, there are also a lot of exciting developments in animal medicine. Russian scientists and veterinarians have developed a hind leg prosthetic for pets, which ensures a full recovery after surgery. But the most interesting thing about this prosthetic, is that it doesn't get taken off. It is fused to the bone and becomes a permanent part of the animal's body.

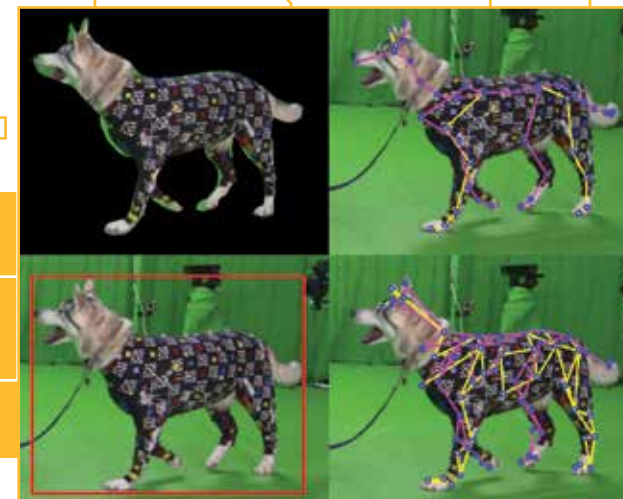
Shans the dog lost his leg due to an accident and was the first patient of the new technique. Initially, vets conducted a computed tomography scan of the patient's hind legs. Then they made a 3D model of the prosthesis. The main part of the prosthesis is made from a titanium-nickel-vanadium alloy.

Says Prof. Sergey Tverdokhlebov, "When we received the implant, our task was to apply a calcium phosphate coating on it. This is necessary to ensure the integration of the implant with the bone. This material deceives the body to perceive the implant as its own. Due to this, the pet has complete freedom of motion after the surgery."

Shans the dog feels well and uses the prosthesis 100% of the time. Shan is currently being looked after by the Varezhka charity fund and waits for his forever home.

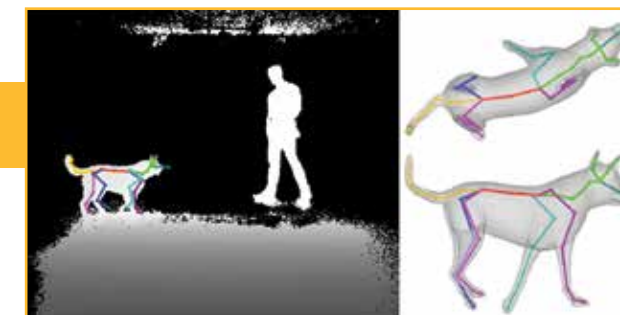


This is Shans the dog with the hind leg implant. Credit The Best Pet Clinics. Novosibirsk.



Dog owners can make a 3D digital representation of their pet!

You can digitise your dog using only one camera.



DIGITISE YOUR DOG INTO A COMPUTER GAME

Researchers from the University of Bath have developed motion capture technology that enables you to digitise your dog. This is all without a motion capture suit and using only one camera.

The software could be used for a wide range of purposes. This could be anything from helping vets diagnose lameness and monitoring recovery of their canine patients, to entertainment applications. Now, it will be easier to put digital representations of dogs into movies and video games.

Motion capture technology is widely used in the entertainment industry. Actors wear a suit dotted with white markers which are then precisely tracked in 3D space by multiple cameras taking images from different angles. Movement data can then be transferred onto a digital character for use in films or computer games.

Similar technology is also used by biomechanics experts to track the movement of elite athletes during training. Or, to monitor patients' rehabilitation from injuries. However, these technologies – particularly when applying them to animals – require expensive equipment and dozens of markers to be attached.

Enter computer scientists from CAMERA, the University of Bath's motion capture research centre. They digitised the movement of 14 different breeds of dog, from lanky lurchers to squat pugs, which were residents of the local Bath Cats and Dogs Home (BCDH).

Wearing special doggie motion capture suits with markers, the dogs were filmed under the supervision of their BCDH handlers. They did a range of movements as part of their enrichment activities.

This data was used to create a computer model that can accurately predict and replicate the poses of dogs when they're filmed without wearing the motion capture suits. This model allows 3D

digital information for new dogs – their shape and movement – to be captured without markers and expensive equipment. Now, only a single RGBD camera is needed. Whereas normal digital cameras record the red, green and blue (RGB) colour in each pixel in the image, RGBD cameras also record the distance from the camera for each pixel.

PhD researcher Sinéad Kearney said, "This is the first time RGBD images have been used to track the motion of dogs using a single camera. This is much more affordable than traditional motion capture systems that require multiple cameras. This technology allows us to study the movement of animals, which is useful for applications such as detecting lameness in a dog and measuring its recovery over time. For the entertainment industry, our research can help produce more authentic movement of virtual animals in films and video games. Dog owners could also use it to make a 3D digital representation of their pet on their computer, which is a lot of fun!"

The team has also started testing their method on computer-generated images of other four-legged animals including horses, cats, lions and gorillas, with some promising results.

Professor Darren Cosker, Director of CAMERA, said, "While there is a great deal of research on automatic analysis of human motion without markers, the animal kingdom is often overlooked. Our research is a step towards building accurate 3D models of animal motion along with technologies that allow us to very easily measure their movement. This has many exciting applications across a range of areas – from veterinary science to video games."

The future looks bright for our animal companions, thanks to some very smart and dedicated boffins. Thank you, scientists, and our companions thank you as well! 🐾

Feline Fostering Heroes



Elizabeth Carter has been fostering with AWLQ for over 13 years. During that time she has fostered over 300 cats. She often cares for challenging cases and some very sick animals. Here, she tells us why she will always be a foster carer for the beautiful felines in need.

Elizabeth is a sucker for special-needs cats. She adores their company and gives them refuge and care. In a different rescue situation, these same animals might be put down. But because of AWLQ's no-euthanasia policy, and because of people like Elizabeth, these cats get a second chance.

Elizabeth has two of her own cats, both rescues. Lily is a tabby/white moggy with chronic rhinitis. "She has been sneezing her head off her entire life. She's a big healthy girl, except for the sneezing. She weighs nearly six kilos, and she's the most hyperactive cat you've ever seen. She never stops. Teddy is 12, and she's a vision-impaired ragdoll. There's nothing else wrong with her other than her eyes!"

Elizabeth has fashioned a great space for the blind cat. She has meshed a whole area on the verandah so the cat can use the whole house, and have an outside area as well, without getting into danger. The mesh also keeps out cane toads, which can be lethal for both dogs and cats.

The success of the meshed area gave Elizabeth a great idea for the other cats she fosters. She managed to construct an outdoor area for the cats using two garden sheds from Bunnings and some mesh donated from a local business. The cats can walk out of her house and into the garden play area in a totally enclosed space. They can enjoy being outside without the danger of getting hit by a car. "Now the cats have outside enrichment and they're much happier than being locked up in the house all day. I could have

had a holiday with the money I spent on it. But that would have been over and done with. The outdoor cat playground will last 20 years, and I'll get 20 years of pleasure out of it."

Elizabeth is about to go and pick up two new fosters, after nursing some more back to health. "I recently had Popeye and Toothless. Both had urinary problems so the vets had to remove their penis and make new openings for them and so they could urinate. The cat before that had a hip removed so I had to nurse him back to health and get him walking on it again. I do get a heck of a lot of cats who are sick with cat flu. If they aren't eating, I do syringe feeding. I blend their food and then feed it to them by hand so they can get strong and well again."

Sometimes Elizabeth keeps the foster cats for a couple of months. Sometimes it takes a bit longer. Some cats need to be socialised. "All that takes is just a little bit of patience and you have to let them come to you. And nine times out of 10, you end up with them just jumping on your lap."

Elizabeth's own two cats get on very well with the foster guests. The blind cat is especially welcoming. "She's absolutely brilliant with all the cats that I have in here. She's just so laid back and so lovely with them. Even if they have a bit of a hissy fit at her, she just goes, 'Oh, well, I'll talk to you another day' and just wanders off!"

Elizabeth used to take 6 cats at a time, which was sometimes a juggle because the cats don't always get along with each other. Once she got interested in looking after very sick cats, she had to take them in smaller numbers. "The sick cats need a fair bit of attention. I need to devote my time to their needs and you can't spread yourself too far."

Looking after cats is Elizabeth's happy place. "I'll never stop fostering cats. I was unwell a couple of months back and I couldn't do it for a little while, but other than things like that, I'll keep doing it forever. I just love it." 🐾

Mothering the Mothers-To-Be

Shelly Old is a fostering hero to felines. Specialising in pregnant cats, she recently took on two sister cats called Snow and Yuki, who were both about to give birth. She tells her story here.



Yuki and Snow and all of the kittens

Ten years ago, I decided to become a foster carer for AWLQ and look after cats. I was always just drawn to the pregnant cats that needed fostering. Recently, the AWLQ said they had two cats and asked if I wanted to have a look at them? I was going to have a break, but then I went and met Snow and Yuki. They had a bit of flu and I just thought, 'Oh no. I've got to take these two!'

I brought them home and they both had their babies safely. They were feeding each other's kittens and then cleaning them. It was beautiful to see. They had three kittens each. Then we had one more kitten who was abandoned, so we put it in the mix to see if the mothers would be interested in taking on the orphan. And straight away they started cleaning the little one. There were no problems at all!

AWLQ provides foster carers with everything they need. I always make sure I've got a long container with some old sheets in them for them to give birth in. Then it's just a waiting game.

Snow gave birth a week before Yuki. But from the word go, when Snow was in labour, Yuki was in there cleaning her and cleaning the babies. It was really sweet.

I think a lot of people are scared to foster pregnant cats, but for the first three weeks, they pretty much look after themselves. All you have to do is clean out mum's litter tray. It's just such a joy to see the mum giving birth.

I have had on the odd occasion, lost some kittens that have had severe cat flu. That's quite a heartbreaker. But the joy far outweighs anything bad that's happened.

There's a few of us that only do pregnant cats. I work at a hospital so I have a large network for when we need to find homes for them. Several nurses have ended up adopting some of the babies which has been awesome – I get to see them grow up which is brilliant. 🐾



Kittens everywhere!

*Interested in fostering?
Log onto awlqld.com.au/foster
for more information*

Heartworm Preventives Must be Administered Strictly on Schedule.

Heartworm disease, which can occur in both cats and dogs, is caused by a parasitic worm that lives in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels. It causes severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body of cats and dogs.



Sleeping a lot is a symptom of heartworm in cats.

How heartworm looks once extracted



Dogs are a host of heartworms. This means that they can grow and reproduce in the animal, while cats are a dead-end host, meaning the worms cannot reproduce in the animal. Most cats are infected with only a few worms and they may not be fully mature, though the disease can be just as deadly for cats as it is for dogs.

How is heartworm spread to cats and dogs?

Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes – heartworm larvae are found in the bloodstream of infected dogs. Mosquitoes pick up the larvae of the heartworms when feeding and then transfer them to other animals. The larvae then grow and mature into adult worms.

What types of heartworm prevention are available?

It is important to consult your veterinarian before starting any preventative treatments. Several types of prevention are available for both dogs and cats, including monthly oral preventive, this works by killing the immature worms. It is extremely important that heartworm preventives be administered strictly on schedule. Unfortunately in as little as 51 days heartworm larvae can mature to the point where prevention is no longer effective. Those worms then mature into adults that cause heartworm disease.

What are the symptoms of heartworm disease in pets?

The most common signs in dogs are coughing, tiring easily, collapse or fainting episodes, decreased appetite and weight loss. Many dogs, however, show no signs at all early on. Later in the infection process, heart failure can occur, and this is often displayed as a distended abdomen full of fluid. If a dog has large numbers of worms late in the disease, it can cause complete blockage of main arteries which is fatal unless emergency surgery is performed to physically remove the worms. Heartworm disease in cats is less obvious, with one common sign being a cough.

What's involved in testing for heartworm disease?

Early detection is key to treating heartworm disease successfully. Because many dogs show no signs during early infection, a blood test is required to indicate whether an animal is infected. All dogs should be tested annually for heartworm infection, and this can usually be done during a routine visit.

Because most cats are infected with only a few worms and they may not be fully mature, heartworm infection in cats is harder to detect than in dogs. The preferred method for testing is an antigen and an antibody test. Your veterinarian may also use x-rays or ultrasound to look for heartworm infection.

How is heartworm disease treated and with what medications?

If your dog tests positive for heartworm disease, there are several steps to treatment:

- Your dog's normal physical activities must be restricted as soon as the diagnosis is confirmed. This is because physical exertion increases the rate at which the heartworms cause damage in the heart and lungs.
- Before heartworm treatment can begin, your dog's condition may need to be stabilised with appropriate therapy. This is more common if your dog has pre-existing conditions.
- Once your veterinarian has determined your dog is stable and ready for heartworm treatment, they will recommend a treatment plan involving several steps.
- After treatment is completed, your veterinarian will perform a heartworm test to confirm that all heartworms have been eliminated.

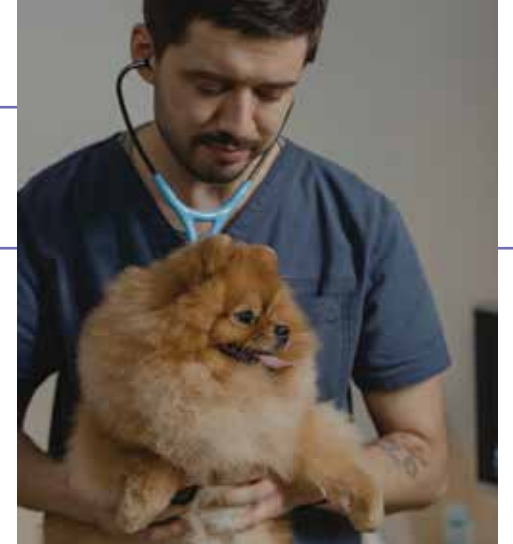
There is no treatment to eliminate heartworms in cats, so prevention is extremely important for felines. The only option for cats is to provide treatment for the symptoms they are showing.

What's the prognosis for heartworm disease?

With treatment, dogs who have mild or no clinical signs of the disease have a very good prognosis; even dogs with severe disease or heart failure do well in most cases. The main factor in how dogs fare during treatment is whether their activity is adequately restricted. If heartworm disease is untreated, the dog will continue to experience damage to his heart and lungs, and ultimately it will be fatal. 🐾

If you need to make an appointment with the vet clinic, go to awlqld.com.au/vet-clinics

Heartworm, left untreated, is lethal in both dogs and cats.



Leave A Gift in Your Will

Leaving a gift in your Will ensures AWLQ's life-saving work continues. With these funds, they can save stray and homeless animals for many generations to come. Here, Chrissie Shaw tells us why she has chosen to leave a gift in her Will to AWLQ.



Macleay Island is the second-largest of the four Bay Islands. The islands are in the Moreton Bay Marine Park at the southern end of Moreton Bay, and are protected by North Stradbroke Island to the east. There's no bridge, you can only get there by ferry. This is the island paradise that Chrissie Shaw now calls home, and she loves it. And so does Harmony, her Labradoodle, who gets taken for beach walks multiple times a day.

Chrissie moved to the islands to live out her dream retirement after leaving Adelaide aged 50. Now 70, she can't imagine living anywhere else. Once she was established on the island, she made friends quickly and it was during one of their social events that she stumbled upon AWLQ. Her friendship group were doing a lot of fundraising activities for the charity.

There are a lot of animal lovers on the islands. Says Chrissie, "I've pretty much always had a dog, but when I was between dogs, I did pet minding on the island. There's a great demand for that."

While Chrissie is from South Australia, she has been in Queensland for 20 years and she wanted to leave a gift for a local charity. "The AWLQ don't get any government funding. They have a no euthanasia policy for sociable, rehomeable, healthy animals, and I just thought, yes, that's where I would like my dollars to go to. When I speak with people I always stress that it is a no-euthanasia shelter. I don't have

family, so I am more than happy to leave my estate to AWLQ. I tell my story to others and hope that others think about what I am doing and get inspired in the same way."

Chrissie's labradoodle, Harmony, is registered with AWLQ's Legacy Pets Program, so Chrissie knows that if anything should happen to her, Harmony will be rehomed to a loving family. "The AWLQ has a copy of my will, and they know everything about Harmony, it's all very organised. It is important for people on their own to have a plan if they aren't able to look after their pet. I mean, we are not 22 anymore!"

Harmony herself was a rehomed dog. Chrissie was pet-sitting her on the island, but unfortunately her owners suffered a divorce, and neither could take Harmony with them. When they mentioned rehoming Harmony, Chrissie was already in love, and jumped at the chance to take her. "She wasn't de-sexed, all her vaccinations were out of date, and I hoped she didn't have heartworm. But I was so happy to help! Harmony was 19 months old when I got her, so I've had her 10 years and 3 months and 2 days. Not counting though! A dog or a cat can really enhance somebody's day. I take her to the nursing home at Victoria Point. She just makes so many people happy. She will continue to do so on the island. And of course, she makes me happy every day." 🐾

Harmony has a hole in her gate so that she can watch the world go by. Local artist Cathy Marsh has taken to painting wonderful frames for Harmony's little face. Cathy updates these often, to the delight of passers by.



Whole or part of your estate: you can leave your entire estate or any part of your estate to AWLQ.
A fixed specific gift is a gift in the form of other property such as shares, investments, vehicles, boats or items of jewellery.

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL is an important decision but it does not have to be complicated. AWLQ has relevant information, support, and advice available to make the process as easy as possible. AWLQ appreciates that family and loved ones should always come first, so they encourage you to talk to your family about your Will. After you have spoken to your family, here are other things to think about:

MAKE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL

Your Will is an important document that must be properly prepared. AWLQ always recommends using a solicitor to make sure your Will is legal and valid. Your solicitor can advise you on the different ways of leaving a gift.

DECIDE ON YOUR GIFT

After family and loved ones are looked after, a bequest gift may be the most significant donation many of us will be able to make.

TYPES OF GIFTS

A fixed sum of money gift: is also known as a pecuniary bequest. This gift is in the form of a specified cash amount.

By leaving a residual gift: to AWLQ you are instructing your executor that, once your debts are paid and specific gifts are distributed to loved ones named in your Will, the remainder (or a percentage of the remainder) of your estate will be paid to AWLQ. A residual bequest is a simple way to leave a gift that need not interfere with any other specific bequests left to loved ones.

SUPPLYING A COPY OF YOUR WILL


While it is not essential to have a copy of your Will, it assists AWLQ to ensure your wishes are fulfilled. Your details are held in the strictest of confidence and treated with upmost respect.

AWLQ COMMITMENT

When people entrust AWLQ with a gift in their Will, these are the assurances AWLQ makes:

- They respect the time needed to make this decision – a Will is personal and it is your decision about when to write or review your Will.
- They understand you might change your mind – they recognise circumstances change. You have the right to reconsider your decision at any time.
- They will honour and respect your privacy and your decision regarding your chosen level of engagement and communication with them.
- They will work with all parties handling your gift with care, sensitivity, and respect to ensure your wishes are met.
- They will give you and your loved ones the choice and opportunity to connect with the work they do. It is all made possible with gifts like yours.

AWLQ will thank you and remember you for the enduring support you are giving to so many animals. AWLQ always recommends obtaining advice specific to your circumstances from a solicitor or lawyer. If you would like some assistance, please contact AWLQ's Bequests Manager in confidence at bequests@awlqlld.com.au or call 07 5509 9099. 🐾

A woman with grey hair, wearing an orange top and white pants, is kneeling on a grassy lawn. She is smiling and clapping her hands. To her left, a small tabby cat is sitting. To her right, a white dog with a brown collar is running towards her. In the background, there are trees and a house with a white railing.

Let your love of animals live on through a gift in your Will.

When you leave a bequest to Animal Welfare League Queensland in your Will, your gift will directly help create a brighter future for animals in need. Bequests allow us to continue our lifesaving work and provide a safe haven for close to 10,000 stray and homeless animals every year.

To every one of these animals who we welcome through our doors, a promise is made – to never euthanise a healthy, sociable, or treatable animal in our care. It is this promise that separates us from any other animal welfare organisation in Australia.

None of this could be possible without the financial support of animal lovers like you. A gift in your Will now, ensures your passion for animal welfare and love of animals continues to live on into the future.



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959

The Gorgeous Dachshund Tribe

Rod Gibbons and Darren Sampson own an Austclean franchise, which is part of a franchise network that operates Australia-wide. They first became involved with AWLQ after cleaning the offices and seeing the wonderful work AWLQ do for animals in need. Here, Rod tells us why their pets are registered with the Legacy Pets program, and why they will be leaving a gift in their will to AWLQ.

Approximately nine years ago, we started cleaning the AWLQ offices. We just love the place and we feel part of the family. We used to clean in the afternoon, and we got to know everybody. Then Corona happened. So now we clean at 4am before anyone is in, so we keep our contact to a minimum as we clean for a lot of older people and we don't want to pass anything on.

As we cleaned, we got to see everything that the AWLQ do. We could see the love they have to give. Even the CEO has animals in her office. I have often gone into there to have a cat jump out of nowhere! Scares the hell out of me every time! You go into the accountant's office, there's dogs in there. You go into the boardroom, there's dogs there! Everyone at AWLQ just go out of their way. You see it day after day.

There's been so many times we have heard stories of the police going and getting someone's cat or a dog and bringing it to AWLQ because the lady or the gentleman has to be put in hospital. It basically happens on a daily basis, some days. We love to see the vollies, the volunteers. They come day after day after day.

We have made friends through the AWLQ, and we go to all the parties. Our trouble is we've got to start so early in the morning, so we drink quickly!

Darren and I have three dachshunds. We had four, but Rupert came to the end of his life last year. He was 13. We got Little Rupert from AWLQ. We were at the front reception desk and this woman bought him in, in her arms. She said, "I had to put my mother into a nursing home. I promised her I'd look after Rupert, but I can't. Will I have to put him down?"

AWLQ took him in. We got one look at him and said, "No, no, no. We're taking him." And little Rupert had such a good retirement with us. Even though he was 13, we'd take him down the beach, and he could keep up with our other three dogs. It was just gorgeous.

Angie is the only girl in our tribe, and she was from AWLQ. Angie was from a broken family. And they decided to give her to AWLQ. We saw her in the arms of Mel, the shelter manager. We just said, "We'll take her for the night." Well, she never went back!

Then we have Dougal. He is also from AWLQ. Dougal was our first dog. He came to the shelter from the street, after being picked up by the pound. The pound contacted the breeder, who then contacted the new owner. The owner and she said, "No, I don't want him back." He was only six months old at that stage, no wonder he had terrible separation anxiety.



We thought if we found another dachshund Dougal would feel happier. We decided to find a breeder and we were given a breeder's contact details. When we made contact and explained how we got Dougal, the breeder recognised the story and said, "I've got Dougal's brother." And by an amazing stroke of coincidence, we had been offered his actual brother, Hudson.

So, we immediately said, "We are on our way!" The breeder was at Lockyer Valley, and we hit the road. We drove there on a Friday night; it was middle of a completely wild thunderstorm. Here we are driving through a little country backroad, and it was pouring down with rain. We finally reached the breeder, and we picked up Hudson, and went back into the storm! It seemed like a rather ominous start! But Hudson just wanted to cuddle. He wanted to cuddle his brother, he wanted to cuddle us. Through all this, the lightning continued, and the rain pelted down, but we were now a tribe.

Darren's 54, and I'm 65. So we have all of the dogs enrolled in the Legacy Pets Program so if anything happens to us, we know AWLQ will look after them and find them a similar home. We have given our permission for AWLQ to break into our house if they have to, to get our dogs. And, we have requested that the dogs are never split up – they are to be re-homed together. They couldn't be separated; they sleep with each other. Little Angie sleeps in the middle of the big boys.

The dogs have added so much to our life – they're just so loving. They just love the cuddles. We have chosen to leave a gift to AWLQ in our will. We know they will continue to show love for animals into the future the way they do now, and this makes us happy. 🐾

Joining AWLQ's Legacy Pets Program is free of charge and will provide you with the peace of mind that if something ever happens to you, there is a secure plan in place for your pet's future.

For more information contact AWLQ's Legacy Pets Program on 07 5509 9099 or bequests@awlql.com.au

ASK THE VET

The AWLQ vets are vessels of knowledge when it comes to animals. Here are some of your questions answered.

What is a blocked bladder?

Urethral obstruction (UO) (as a result of a blocked bladder) is a life-threatening emergency for cats. It means that there is a blockage in their urethra (the tube that drains urine from the bladder) which is preventing urine being emptied from their bladder. Their bladder is continuing to fill with urine, getting bigger and causing them pain and risking rupture. Due to the urine remaining in their body they can also have kidney and heart problems as the urine toxins are not expelled.

What are the signs of a blocked bladder?

- Blood in their urine
- Vomiting
- Crying or meowing when trying to urinate
- Eating less or not eating at all
- Frequent visits to the litter tray with little or no urine being produced
- Hiding away

What causes it?

Risk factors include your cat being male, being overweight, eating an exclusively dry food diet and being an inside-only cat. Stressed cats are at a much higher risk of UO and stresses can include new cats in the neighbourhood, a new family member or pet in the household or a visitor, a change in their routine and weather changes such as storms.

What will happen when I bring my cat to the vet?

Your pet will receive a complete physical examination. We will run blood tests prior to their surgery – these tests may alter the medications we use and the

prognosis for your pet. Every unblocking procedure requires a full general anaesthetic. The average stay in hospital after the unblocking surgery is 5–7 days, however it can be up to 10 days.

How much does the surgery and post-operative care cost?

The cost of a blocked bladder is dependent on how long your cat needs to be hospitalised for and if they require a second unblocking procedure. Total estimate of costs for a blocked bladder cat: \$1200–\$2300. If your cat is not desexed we recommend desexing and this can be done at the same time.

What do I need to do once my pet comes home?

Try to decrease their stress and increase their water consumption. Here are some ideas:

- Increase the number of litter trays and changing the litter more frequently.
- Change their diet (the vet will have some recommendations here).
- Use a Feliway Diffuser or spray to decrease stress. Feliway works by mimicking cats' facial pheromones, making an area feel safe to them.
- Use Zylkene capsules daily for reducing stress. Zylkene contains a natural product derived from casein, a molecule known to promote the relaxation of newborns after feeding. It can be sprinkled on food and is given daily.
- Offering still and running drinking water through the use of multiple bowls and a water fountain.
- Improving environmental enrichment, for example vertical perches and hiding places. 🐾

AWLQ was the first organisation in Queensland to open a Community Veterinary Clinic to the public. It still is the only organisation to do this. This unique service makes essential vet care accessible to all pet owners, including people who could not afford treatment for their pets. They are open 7 days a week. To book an appointment, go to awlqld.com.au/vet-clinics

COMMUNITY VET CLINIC LOCATIONS

Brisbane 6/10 Old Chatswood Road Daisy Hill, QLD 4127 07 3808 2892	Gold Coast 21 Shelter Road Coomababah QLD 4216 07 5594 0111	Ipswich 42 Tiger Street West Ipswich QLD 4305 07 3812 7533
--	---	--



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959

COMMUNITY VET CLINIC

**Quality vet care at affordable prices,
for all pet owners.**

**Book your appointment today by visiting
awlqld.com.au/vet-clinics or call 5594 0111.**

**AWLQ's Community Vet Clinics
keep pets and people together.**

Open to the public 7 days

BRISBANE
6/10 Old Chatswood Road
Daisy Hill, QLD 4127
07 3808 2892

GOLD COAST
21 Shelter Road
Coomababah QLD 4216
07 5594 0111

IPSWICH
42 Tiger Street
West Ipswich QLD 4305
07 3812 7533

Making a Difference, Saving Lives

Tawl Tails meets volunteering supercouple, Pam and Rob Dent, who have been assisting AWLQ for nearly 12 years. They tell us about the remarkable difference they have made to the many lives that pass through AWLQ.

My husband and I had retired, and I wanted to put my time into a good cause. My daughter manages the Warra Animal Rehoming Centre. She suggested that I should get involved at the Beenleigh Animal Rehoming Centre. Our family has always loved animals and supported them. And I loved it right away. It will be 12 years in November that I have been volunteering there.

I do anything from walking the dogs, cleaning out the kennels, washing bedding or taking care of anything that needs to be cleaned. I do folding, feeding, and playing with the dogs. Whatever they need or want, that's what I do.

When I started, we had a lot of rain that year. They had no facilities for puppies at all, and my husband was a builder. So, I said to him that he had to come and build new puppy pens, which he did. And then he started to volunteer as well. Now we are both volunteers.

Before Rob started building the puppy pens, they only had an enclosure made with bird wire. They used to keep goats and everything in there. And if

they had any little puppies that needed to be outside in the fresh air, they would be put in there. They had one gate in and of course, trying to put nine little puppies in and get them out was very tricky. When it rained, the water would just run right through the pen. It was just a mud heap. We knew we could help to make things better.

So my husband did all the earthworks and we got the two puppy pens built. Rob built some larger yards too on the grass, so the dogs can run around. The yards used to be made with just temporary fencing. With the help of other volunteers, Rob created yards and put agricultural drains in, to stop the earth being so wet. We also planted some trees.

Once a month for maybe four or five years, Rob and I, with other volunteers did voluntary cooking at Gasoline Alley, a business that sold Harley-Davidsons. The money that we raised there, went towards getting all of the fences and the trees that we planted.

Rob now does maintenance, which is whatever needs to be done. That's anything from mending

fences, odd jobs, building, driving, and walking the dogs.

My favourite part about volunteering is the animals, even though I love the people there! We come every week to give the animals some quality time. If there's a little one that needs fostering, I've got a couple of friends that foster, and I take them to my friends. Rob and I foster too.

We've encouraged lots of people over the years to volunteer, because we know how fulfilling it is.

Rob's favourite part of volunteering is walking the dogs at the rehoming centre. There's quite a large area with tracks, through the bush. It is about 800 metres of track in the circuit. We sometimes walk them all day. It's great exercise!

We also have our own dog, Twinkie, who we adopted from AWLQ. She was a surrender at five weeks from a breeder. This little dog was born without any radius bones in her front feet. She was brought in to AWLQ, so we decided to foster her. Twink couldn't walk, so we had to source a wheelchair for her. We couldn't get any wheels



Twinkie and her wheelchair



Pam and Rob Dent have been volunteering for AWLQ for nearly 12 years.

for her in Australia because they only made them for dogs with injured back legs. So we found this organisation in America. We measured Twinkie up, and they made her a wheelchair and sent it out with no money to change hands. It was made so that it could be adjusted as she grew, so she still uses it today.

Twinkie is fabulous. She's just a great little all-rounder. Every time we volunteered, we'd bring her along. And so she's been with people and big dogs and little dogs ever since she was a baby. She's just terrific. She's a real little social butterfly.

I get attached to every single animal we look after! But we love to volunteer, and we will do it for as long as we are able to. We don't want accolades. We do it for the dogs – it's that pure and simple. 🐾

How You Can Help

Interested in volunteering your time to help save animal lives? Then read on.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to give back to your community. You also can make new friends and give your life much more meaning. And if you love animals, then it's a win-win! At the moment, COVID-19 regulations means that the usual volunteering opportunities are slightly limited. However, keep an eye on AWLQ website for the all-clear to fire up all cylinders again.

AWLQ relies on volunteers who make a huge contribution to the organisation. Volunteers readily offer their time, love and compassion to the welfare of the animals in care. They make such a difference to AWLQ.

WHAT IS NEEDED? Volunteering with AWLQ is a fantastic way to make a difference in the lives of the animals in care.

There are 2 types of commitment when volunteering:

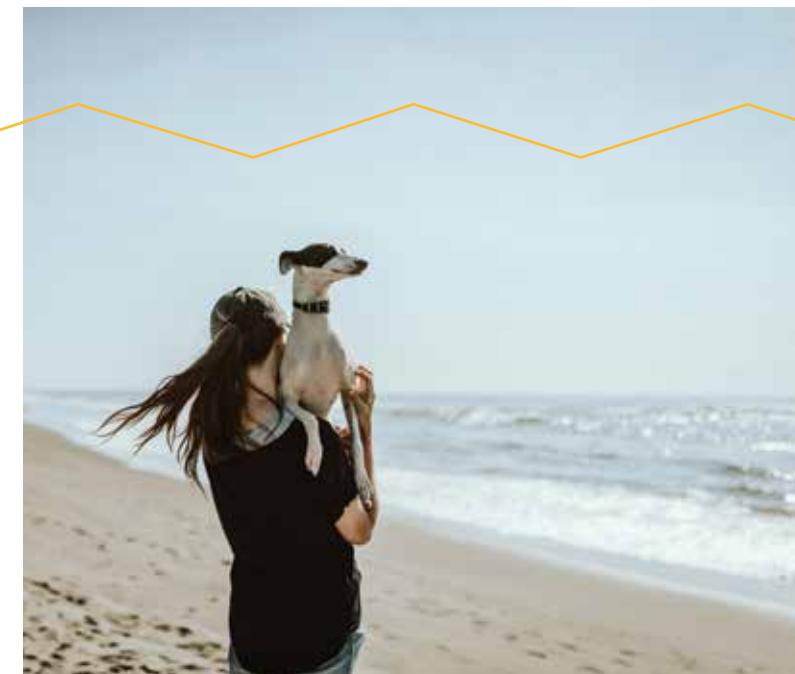
- **Rostered Volunteers** – Expected commitment: rostered and regular 1 x 4hr shift / weekly (for minimum of 3 months). These types of volunteers are the core of the Volunteer Program.
- **Casual Volunteers** – Expected commitment: casual (unrostered) 1 x 4 hr shift / weekly (for a minimum of 3 months). After you have volunteered for 3 months on the roster, you can drop back to casual hours. These types of volunteers might not be able to commit to a specific day, but are able to come once a week for a 4 hour shift. Some of the volunteers do more than one shift per week, whilst some are not able to lock into a set commitment. If this is the case, AWLQ can talk to you about the opportunities that are available when you can come.

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

AWLQ genuinely encourage volunteers from all parts of the community. There is value in diversity – all members of the community can make a difference. Unfortunately, due to legal and insurance regulations, there are limited opportunities for anyone who is under 18 years of age. But do not see this as an obstacle. Instead, consider collecting donations of food and bedding, fundraising, fostering, or asking AWLQ to come to your school to raise awareness. Or, you could look into the teen volunteering program.

TEEN VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

If you are aged 13-17 and would like to volunteer, AWLQ host a Teen Volunteering Program during the school holidays (subject to the availability). This is an intensive one-day course where you will learn what it takes to be a volunteer, learn activities relating to the role, and discover the joy of caring for animals.



Once teens have completed the course, they can make an application to AWLQ volunteer department to become a volunteer. This process includes an interview by the volunteer department staff with both the teen and at least one of their parents.

WHAT EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED?

No formal experience is required, however volunteers need:

- Good communication skills.
- High fluency in English – spoken and written
- Good level of physical fitness
- Willingness to learn
- Regular and reliable
- Love of animals and an understanding of the purpose of the organisation.

Position descriptions are available online and provide a full list of the responsibilities, requirements and capabilities necessary for volunteering with AWLQ. Training and instructions are supplied for each position. Many positions are entry-level which the majority of new volunteers will start in. Other positions are more advanced roles.

As a volunteer you can gain important transferable skills in animal handling, team work, fundraising, campaigning, management, data entry, administration, customer service and many more.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering at AWLQ is a four-step process. Read the position descriptions carefully and decide which position you would like to volunteer in, then:

- Complete the volunteer application form for the chosen shelter location.
- Book and pay for a scheduled volunteer induction at the chosen shelter location. In order to cover the training, equipment, resources and volunteer T-shirt that is issued, we ask you to make a \$33 payment to cover these costs.
- Attend and participate in our volunteer induction at the chosen shelter location.
- Be assigned on the roster for your first shift, commence volunteering and training. Log onto www.awlqld.com.au to start the process. Happy volunteering! 🐾

Spotlight on Our Volunteers

The AWLQ volunteers are absolutely instrumental in helping the charity save lives every day. Here they tell us what they love about volunteering.

At AWLQ centres at the Gold Coast, Beenleigh, Willawong and Warra, 379 volunteers have given a total of 6,141 hours of their time. And that's just in April. It is impressive stuff!

GAYLE JORDAN

I work in the grooming room. When the rescue dogs come in, they are usually matted and dirty. We groom them and get them ready for presentation to the public.

I love to make a difference with all the dogs that come in. We give them a bath, we shampoo them, and blow dry their hair. We make them look beautiful. Sometimes, we even put bows in their fur! Then we put them back into the pen, all happy and healthy and clean, and ready for adoption. I've been doing this for five years and still absolutely love it!

I volunteer overseas as well, in Bali, my second home. There are a lot of street dogs there, so I help feeding and rescuing dogs on the beaches and streets. But when I am in Australia, I am working in the grooming room every Monday.

I have always been an animal lover. I had pets from a very early age, my mother always rescued animals. There was always a rescued stray in our yard! So I think I got that love from my mum. I will absolutely keep volunteering for the rest of my life! I love it.

LORRAINE WALKER

I have always loved animals. My family lived in the country, and we had to move to the city because I have an intellectually disabled brother and he needed services here. I volunteered in an op shop in the country, and that was a great experience. But when I came here I decided I wanted to volunteer for something different, and my next love was for animals.

During Covid, I worked in reception when people were coming in to adopt a pet. They come in with expectation on their face. They might come in because they have lost an animal, and they've had their grieving time, and it's time to adopt again. Some come because they've got a big gap in their life, and they need a companion. Others come in and are hesitant because they've come several times and haven't found a companion that they really can connect with yet. But eventually they find one! Most people want a cat or a dog, but there are also the smaller animals they, like the guinea pigs and rats, and birds.

Before I greet people, I go and check to see what animals are available for adoption. I see what cats are available and then sometimes I tell them about one that I think will really suit them. There is a saying about cats – you don't choose them, they choose you. When the people and cats connect, the adopters come out with a great big smile on their face. That cat can make a difference straight away! There are some delightful moments where you can see the change in the person as they come through the door knowing they have found their companion.

When people visit the cats, I tell them to sit, just be quiet, and the cat will come up to you. The cat will dictate the terms of the relationship.

VANESSA O'BRIEN

I volunteer with the cat team. The first thing I do is I check out all the cats and see who's there this week. I change the kitty litters, check the water supply, sometimes I clean the cages and do other things. If we get everything done, then we can spend time playing with the cats.

Some of the cats are long stayers, and some get a forever home quickly. Some don't get adopted quickly because they are old. The older cats unfortunately are going to be there for a while. Or, if they are black. Unfortunately, it is a thing, the black cats. They always seem to take longer to rehome. People still think they are unlucky. However in other cultures black cats are considered lucky! Also there is the personality to consider. The ones that aren't so open aren't adopted quickly.

I applied to volunteer here as soon as they reopened the volunteering applications after the Covid shutdown. I did the first induction session after Covid, and have been helping here since. I've been an on-and-off volunteer for a long, long time. I started fostering cats for AWLQ 20 years ago! And then I had a "failed foster" ... I ended up adopting one! I do want to return to fostering when my home situation is suitable. I love the old cats. I have a soft spot for the seniors, versus the actual kittens. Everyone is like "kittens, kittens!" ... And I am like... Alright cool, where's the oldies? The older cats are chilled, I just like their energy, they have wisdom about them.

JOSHUA MCDONALD

I have volunteered here for at least a year, then I was stood down for the COVID shutdown. Now I am back. My volunteer role is to look after cats and see if anything needs to be done for them while they are in the quarantine section, things like that. The cats might need a change of their litter or their water bowls need refreshing. Sometimes I scrub down the cat section or clean the fans. No one likes to have a dusty fan in the cat section!

I'm definitely a cat person. We have three at home at the moment. I got one of them from AWLQ a couple years ago, and before Covid came. And we fostered cats too.

I don't like to see cats treated badly. We try to do our best to look after each and every animal. It doesn't feel right when you don't look after them properly.

I like volunteering here, and plan to keep doing it for a long time. 🐾

To volunteer, log onto awlqld.com.au/support-us/volunteer-with-awlq for more details.



Op Shop Until You Drop

Rummaging through the Gold Coast's Op Shops is a great day out, as well as being a great way to save money. Plus, the money you spend goes to charity. It is eco-friendly, and if you are going for a vintage style, you'll have the authentic look!

Here are some items that we found during a good rummage. These will probably be sold by the time you read this, as they are once-off donated items, but this is just an exploration of all of the possibilities. So go forth unto our stores and chase that thrill of finding something exciting!



DRESSING UP OR DOWN

Looking for a summer-ready dress? Here's a gorgeous yellow printed frock with ruffled sleeves we found from the Burleigh Shop. It's an adorable and romantic piece that's easy to wear and pair with throughout the day. Wear with open-toed sandals and a sling bag for a casual day out, or layer on a structured jacket to wear it at night!

BEACH DAY BEAUTIES

Driving to the beach has never been more chic in these adorably thrifted outfits, and you will never run out of them at The Thrifty Kitten! These looks can take you from the city to the open road – wear them while on a coffee run, or with your car windows rolled down as you make your way to the sea.



SWIM READY

Going to the beach today? Your next outfits might just come from us. Get Insta-ready with these trendy pieces from the shop at Shelter Road. We love the outlined detail and bright colours – just the right look for some seaside frolicking.

CUTE FINDS

Who says you can't find anything at a thrift store? With a little imagination, you can find everything you need and much more. Here's a gorgeous first date outfit, all sourced from AWLQ Op Shop's finest at Coombabah. The right mix of sweet and romantic, you can't go wrong with this look!



LITTLE WHITE DRESS

The little white dress is the new LBD. We love a good all-white ensemble for a vibe that's fresh and chic. Plus, white looks much better on a hot summer day. Cop these gorgeous finds from Thrifty Kitten, and get dressed in monochromatic fashion from head-to-toe.

STRIPE NIGHT

The Op Shops aren't just for the ladies. Guys you can get any look from any of the stores, and it is very wallet-friendly. This look is perfect for a Sunday session. And guys, get those legs out, they are looking suave.



BEACH WEDDING PRETTY

When it comes to the season's hottest resort weddings, you don't want to miss out on a good hat moment. Make a statement with these gorgeous summer hats that add a certain oomph to your outfit. Remember to pin the hat on for a beach wedding in case of wind!

ROCK THE COCKTAIL

Get ready for any cocktail in this stunning dress from the shop at Shelter Road Rehoming Centre! We adore the split neckline of this dress, and its black accents that add some sensual detail. It's perfect for a night out at the club, or a sunset affair.



IMPRESS WITH CHESS

Whether you're an avid fan of chess or not, your space will look all the better with this stunning metal chess set from the AWLQ Op Shops' Gumtree website. The board is clad in gorgeous stone patterns, and the intricately detailed pieces show off an aged patina that adds character and elegance.



CUTE BOOTS

Who says you can't rock the summer in boots? These cowgirl boots add a little edge to any outfit. They will look as great with denim and a shirt, as with a flowy dress.

EXOTIC BOXES

The Nerang Op Shop has the most exquisitely sourced finds for any home-take. For example, this East Asian chest that's just brimming with character and history. Your most prized trinkets will have a special home in this beautiful storage box.



COLLECTIBLES

Whether you or someone at home is a Star Wars fan, the force is strong in this 1977 retro collectible mug from the Warehouse. They don't make merchandise like these anymore – it's a definite must-have for any serious collector!

RARE FINDS

There's always something so special about chinoiserie-themed interiors. And no living room is complete without an elegant ginger jar in a gorgeous deep blue. This stunning decorative piece is from our Miami store.



COOL WALLS

Whether you're a fan of Rebel Without a Cause or simply a pop culture savant, there's no better way to spice up a bedroom or quarters than with a print of this eternal style star. Found at the Beaudesert shop, it's a fitting piece if you want to inject some coolness into your space.

ELEFUN

At our stores, we have the most charming bric-a-brac that will add life and personality to your home. These elephant pieces come with a gorgeous, lived-in detail that can only come naturally with age.



WONDERFUL WICKER

Wicker looks absolutely perfect in beautiful summer homes. Take home this beautifully crafted wicker basket from our Miami store, which can hold your home's most personal essentials, or simply beautify a corner.

DÉCOR DELIGHTS

From larger than life prints, mirrors, and lush plants, the AWLQ Op Shop offers gorgeous décor for the home that will spruce up a gorgeous traditional gallery or a breathtaking modern living room.



IN CONCLUSION

The AWLQ op shops have a dedicated Facebook page – you can like the page at facebook.com/awlqopshops. You could spend the whole day browsing on this page, there are some great items on there! They have an Instagram account, which features some amazing items – visit [@opshopsawlq](https://www.instagram.com/opshopsawlq)

And remember, all funds raised will go towards helping animals find their forever homes.

The AWLQ Op Shops

Ashmore City Bookshop
206 Currumburra Rd
Ashmore QLD 4214
Mon to Fri: 9am – 4pm
Sat: 9am – 1pm

Beaudesert
Shop 1, 15 William Street
Beaudesert QLD 4285
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm

Burleigh
Cnr Lower GC Highway & Elder Street
Burleigh Heads QLD 4220
Mon to Fri: 9am – 4pm
Sat: 9am – 12pm

Coomababah
Coomababah Plaza, Hansford Street
Coomababah QLD 4216
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm
Sat: 9am – 1pm

Coomera
31 Dreamworld Parkway
Coomera QLD 4209
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm
Sat: 9am – 12pm

Currumbin
2/56 Currumbin Creek Road
Currumbin Valley QLD 4223
Mon to Fri: 8.30am – 2.30pm
Sat: 8.30am – 12pm

Ipswich
189 Brisbane Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
Mon & Tue: 9.30am – 4.15pm
Sat: 9am – 12.15pm

Labrador Warehouse/Op Shop
Unit C6-239 Brisbane Road
Labrador QLD 4216
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm
Sat: 8.30am – 12pm

Miami
5/10-14 Pacific Avenue
Miami QLD 4220
Mon to Fri: 9am – 4pm
Sat: 9am – 12pm

Nerang
61 Lawrence Drive Nerang QLD 4211
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm
Sat: 9am – 12pm

Shelter Road
Coomababah QLD 4216
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm

Southport
4 Railway Street
Southport QLD 4215
Mon to Fri: 9am – 3pm

The Thrifty Kitten
Unit 6/18 Bailey Crescent
Southport QLD 4215
For days & times –
Facebook [@awlqopshops](https://www.facebook.com/awlqopshops) or
Instagram [@the.thrifty.kitten](https://www.instagram.com/the.thrifty.kitten)

Do you have good quality items to donate? Drop your goods off to any of our conveniently located op shops or if you have a large amount or bulky items to donate we can often collect them from you – just call 07 5509 9056.

HOW YOU CAN HELP DURING KITTEN SEASON

Animal Welfare League Queensland cares for 1800 kittens a year, with the help of foster carers. This provides a safe haven for them, but your help can make a difference!

Beat the Heat

- Desex your cat before kitten season. When you desex your pet, you're doing yourself, your pet and your community a big favour.
- If you are in financial need, contact the National Desexing Network on 1300 368 992 about accessing low-cost desexing.

Foster a Litter

- Help kittens grow before they are adopted. You can visit awlqld.com.au/foster and register to become a foster carer.
- Fostering is one of the most important ways you can help animals in need. Providing our residents somewhere to stay for just a short amount of time helps save lives.

Kitten Shower

- You can help AWLQ save lives by donating items our incredible foster carers need to care for litters of kittens.
- Help us prepare for the busy kitten season by donating new items such as Snuggle Safe brand heat disks, Miracle nipples, small teddy bears for orphaned kittens to snuggle up to, kitchen scales for weighing and soft cat carriers.

What to Do if You Find Kittens?

Mum is most likely off hunting for food or a safe place to nest. Check if they're warm, healthy and safe. To give newborn kittens the best chance of survival, follow the below steps:

- If the kittens are in no immediate danger, watch them from afar for a period of time to see if their mum returns.
- The mother cat offers her kittens' best chance for survival and the best food for the kittens is their mother's milk.
- Are the kittens in poor condition? Do they appear underweight, dehydrated, sick? Is the mum not coming back? Call us on 07 5509 9000 for further advice.



Desex Your Pet – Here's Why

Desexing your pets as soon as you can is a really good idea. Thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies come into AWLQ's four Centres in South East Queensland. Many more don't make it to shelters, rescue groups or pounds, and are abandoned to live and breed on the street and around shopping centres and industrial complexes.



Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. Almost two-thirds of Australian households currently own pets. Despite these figures, many cats and dogs die every hour of every day in pounds and shelters nationwide. Due to the ongoing problem of pet overpopulation, these healthy, loving animals are being killed because there are not enough homes available.

Cats are prolific breeders in warm climates:

- With one female cat capable of having up to three litters a year.
- Cats can begin breeding at four months of age, live anywhere between 10 and 18 years and have up to three to four kittens at a time.

It's a recipe for overpopulation if they aren't desexed.

When you desex your pet, you're doing yourself, your pet and the community a big favour. Your pet's health and longevity improve, you're saving yourself large vet bills from all the health complications that could come from an undesexed pet, and you are preventing unwanted litters ending up in pounds or shelters.

To prevent accidental or early litters, kittens can be safely desexed from two months of age and one kilogram in weight. It is ideal to desex your pets when they are kittens or puppies as the recovery process is much faster.

There are many reasons why pet owners should desex their pets. As well as helping to stop pet overpopulation, the following are some of the benefits associated with desexing cats and dogs.

HEALTH

- Reduced risk of getting cancer or other diseases of the reproductive organs, such as testicular cancer, prostate cancer/disorders in males, and cystic ovaries, ovarian tumours, acute uterine infections and breast cancer in females, and also other diseases like mammary cancer, perianal tumours and perianal hernia.
- Females can suffer from physical and nutritional exhaustion if continually breeding.
- Pets generally live longer and healthier lives.

BEHAVIOURAL

- Pets are less prone to wander, fight, and are less likely to get lost or injured.

- Reduces territorial behaviour such as spraying indoors.
- Pets are less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviours and they often become more affectionate.
- Eliminates "heat" cycles in female cats and their efforts to get outside in search of a mate.
- Reduces male dogs' urge to "mount" people's legs.

COST

- Reduces the cost to the community of having to care for unwanted puppies and kittens in pounds and shelters.
- No additional food or vet bills for the offspring.
- No need to find homes for unwanted or unexpected litters of puppies or kittens.
- Saves cost of expensive surgeries from car accidents or fights, which are less likely to occur if your pet doesn't roam.
- Dumping puppies and kittens is an ethical cost, as it can cause immense suffering. It is also illegal.

AFFORDABLE DESEXING

The National Desexing Network is part of AWLQ's

commitment to making lasting changes for animals in our community.

The NDN offers year-round low cost cat and dog desexing to pension/concession card holders at participating vet clinics across Australia.

During National Desexing Month in July, vets across Australia are invited to offer reduced priced desexing to everyone to encourage pet owners to desex their pets before the spring breeding season.

Councils across Australia are assisted by NDN to run desexing programs for all residents in need of support.

Since 2004 AWLQ has assisted with the desexing of 200,000 cats and dogs nationwide. The goal is to end pet overpopulation by making this service more affordable to those who might not otherwise be in a position to desex their pets.

If you're a pet owner you could be eligible for discounted desexing for your pet, directly on-line if you are a pension/concession card holder; or through calling our NDN team to access a Council Cooperative Desexing Program.

If you are a vet, you can join hundreds of vets across Australia who are helping the National Desexing Network end pet overpopulation. 🐾

National Desexing Network is a proud initiative of the Animal Welfare League Queensland. For more information visit www.ndn.org.au or call 1300 368 992.

A New Palace for Queen Cleopatra

Golden Hearts™ is a program that is designed to support people aged 65 and older with pet ownership. Golden Hearts™ member Helen Hill tells us how she and Cleopatra the cat became companions for life.

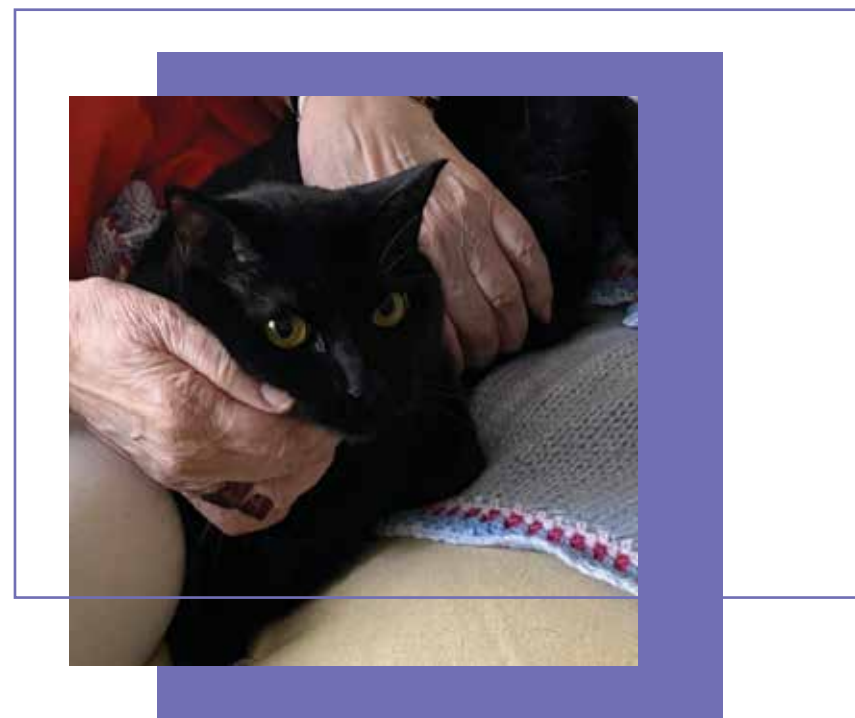
I am a cat person of long standing. I had two brother cats who I adopted years ago. I had them for years and years. They were ginger, and they were just gorgeous. I lost Louis when he was 14. It was then that I decided that his brother Jasper and I, would move to the wonderful environment of Victoria Towers. It's an Over 50s fifties retirement tower, right in the heart of Southport. It's very animal friendly, and it's delightful to think that when you move here, your pet can come with you.

Sadly, Jasper started to slow down. The vet told me that the only way he could survive was to be on a machine. He would have no quality of life so I had to put him down last December. I was sad because I'd had Louis and Jasper since they were a year old.

I let the AWLQ know that Jasper had gone to the cattery in the sky, because I was registered with the Golden Hearts™ Program.

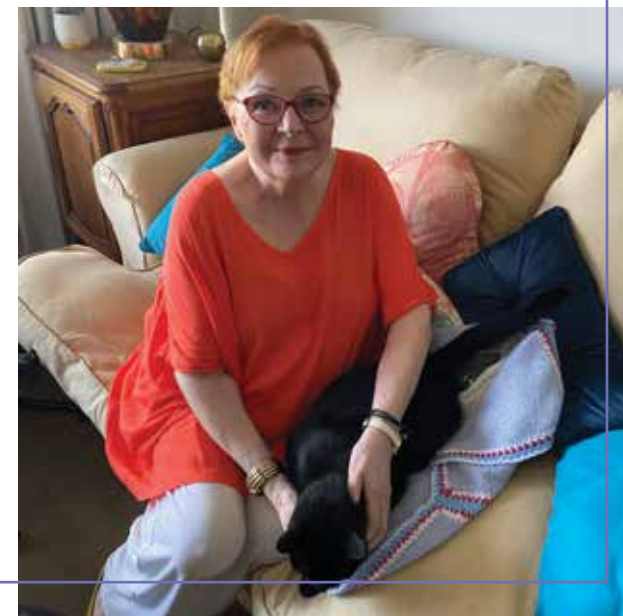
I am a big supporter of the AWLQ. When I moved to Victoria Towers, I donated my excess furniture to the AWLQ. When I downsized my wardrobe, I gave the excess to them as well. I do as much as I can for them. I have even held a morning tea where a representative from AWLQ came and spoke to the residents here.

A few days after reporting that Jasper had passed, I got a call from Billie-Rose from the AWLQ. She said that there was a cat that had been through a lot of trauma that was looking for her forever home. Billie



had acquired a real fondness for my Cleo. So she asked me if I would consider adopting her. I thought, goodness, me! I was going to do something, but I didn't think it would be that soon!

I went with Billie-Rose and visited the lady who was fostering her. Cleo is the most gorgeous creature. She's got a beautiful, thick black coat, which is almost like mink to touch, especially on her tummy. She's got magnificent big golden eyes. Beautiful. She looked like a queen.



I'm an ancient history fan and I am currently reading a series by the famous Australian author, Colleen McCullough. The plot centres around ancient Rome – with wild tales of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Of course, Queen Cleopatra, who ruled over Egypt, took both as lovers! I have a black statuette of a cat in the Egyptians style, and it looked like my new cat so much! So I named my new companion Cleo, because she is a queen.

When she first came to live with me, she was obviously very nervous. But I said I would give it a go, even for just a couple of weeks. Knowing cats as I do, I thought, well, she's just got to call the shots until she settles in. Slowly she came out of the bathroom where she had been put. And, finally that evening she jumped on my bed and I thought, well, I think we're getting somewhere. That was in January.

She is settled in now, although she's a very timid creature. But she's got her little places she goes. Any unexpected noise, and she's straight under my bed. Right now she's sitting on an ottoman in my bedroom, looking out the window. She has a magnificent view looking right out across the Broadwater over to Surfers Paradise, and she can stay there as long as she wants, living like a queen.

She loves cuddles and she squeaks...she doesn't meow! She is a very quiet little thing, but sometimes she actually runs around and plays. But she'd be no good around other cats. I don't plan to have any more cats, so we are perfect for each other. I didn't adopt her – she's actually adopted me. She's taken over my heart.

I have nominated AWLQ in my Will. I am absolutely concerned about how animals are treated, and I know that the AWLQ will look after any animal in their care to the very best of their ability. 🐾

Golden Hearts™ Seniors' Pet Support Program

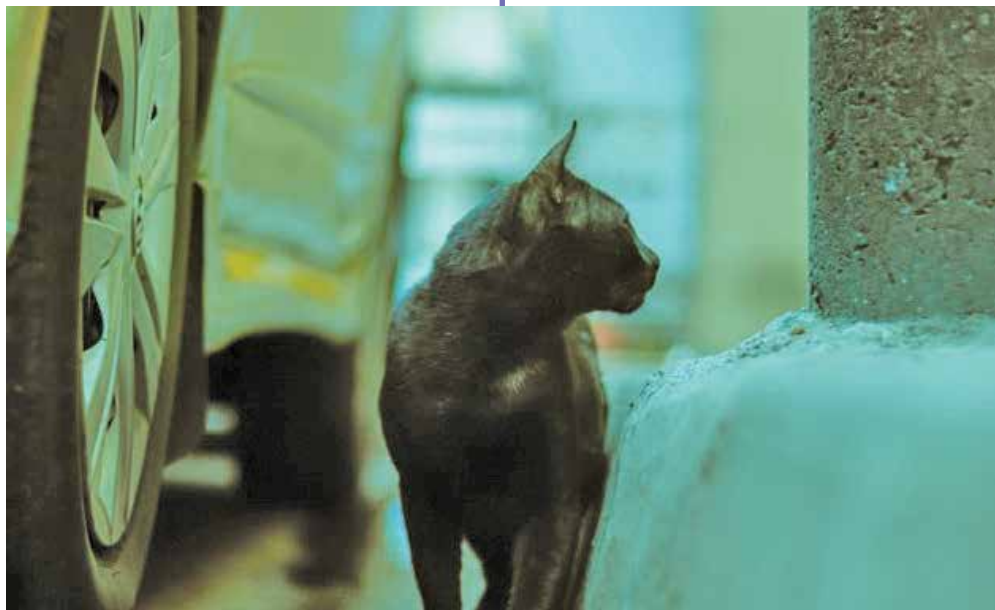
AWLQ's Golden Hearts™ Seniors' Pet Support Program is a unique program to support people 65 and older with pet ownership. Golden Hearts™ supports its members with emergency foster care of their pet if they have to go into hospital. Members can also receive 50% off annual vaccinations through its Community Vet Clinics, plus 10% off everything else. We also have discounted pet grooming.

AWLQ also supports older people who need to transition into an aged-care facility that does not allow pets. Animal Welfare League Queensland understands this is a very difficult time and offers free surrender of a person's beloved pet and matches them with a loving new home in a similar environment to the one it had come from.

Golden Hearts™ also has annual social events where members get to enjoy the company of like-minded people. It is completely free to join and supports a senior-aged person through every step of pet ownership whether they adopted their pet from AWLQ or not.

It is FREE to join.

You can sign up by calling (07) 5509 9033 or email goldenhearts@awlqld.com.au to learn more.



Bandit learned that the streets are mean.

When You Can't Be There – AWLQ Can

The Emergency Boarding Program is an important, lifesaving service – without it, many pets would have to be surrendered or euthanised. Sandra Hudson faced disaster right before she was due to move interstate. Here she explains just how much AWLQ helped her in her time of need.

Bandit was just a special cat. My husband and I got him from a pet shop at Coomera. He'd been there for many months – no one wanted him. We already had another cat, Mitzi. So we didn't feel like we could take on another cat.

Bandit may have had a bit of the cat flu at the and I think it turned people off taking him. As we were saying goodbye to Bandit, a chap in the shop said, "Oh, we've got four cats and they've all had cat flu. You just give them a bit of an antibiotic and they get over it. He's a great cat and it's nothing." That was all the encouragement we needed. So we went back in and got him. He fast become our fur baby.

Unfortunately, I lost my husband some time after that. I was devastated and decided to move to Adelaide to be near my son and his family.

A week before I moved to Adelaide, Bandit, my cat, went missing. Normally he was an indoor cat, and I would tie him up on a long lead outside. He could wander around happily. But this one time he ran out of the door and didn't come back. It was very stressful and upsetting.

How could I go with Bandit missing? I walked the streets searching. We used to live in the house behind us before we moved to our current house. So I put letters in the letter boxes around both houses in case someone found him. I visited AWLQ every couple of days, with no result. I tried every trick in the book but could not find him. I had to leave. And it was just dreadful.

Five weeks passed and finally I got lucky. He wandered into my neighbour's place where I used

Bandit ready to fly to Adelaide



Sandy and Bandit happily reunited



Bandit & Billie-Rose's last hug at the airport



to live. She rang me to tell me that they had seen him around here and there. So I asked them to feed him to keep him coming back. Soon enough, luckily, they managed to catch him.

Bandit was very underweight when the neighbours found him. They took him to AWLQ. They explained that I was in Adelaide, so if AWLQ couldn't take him in, he would be back on the streets again. Thankfully, AWLQ accepted him. Not only that, while they looked after him, they got him vaccinated and made sure he got a bit healthier.

Because we were in the thick of COVID, flights were hard to come by. It was really hard to get him on a flight to me, because some borders were shut while others weren't.

After a period of time, and with the support of Billie from AWLQ, we got Bandit on a flight. Billie was just wonderful. I don't know what I would have done without her. I was very teary because I was still heavily grieving over my husband. And I had to give up a couple of animals, like my chooks when I moved, so that upset me. I'd ring up with silly questions. And Billie was just so patient with me. I look back and I think, "Gosh, she was a sweetie." She was so good to him. Nothing was too much trouble. And I'll forever be grateful.

I don't know what I would have done without AWLQ's Emergency Boarding Program. I was left with no choice, absolutely no choice. If he went back to the streets, I would have never seen him again. The emergency boarding program probably saved

his life, because he was very underweight when he was finally found.

When I finally picked him up at the airport and brought him home, all he wanted to do was just eat and eat and eat and eat! He was just obsessed with food. It took a while for him to settle back in. After he put on some weight, our other cat Mitzi finally realised it was Bandit! She was very happy and would sit near him and lick him. Just as I got him back, I found out Mitzi had kidney disease and I had to put her down a few weeks later, which broke my heart. But at least they were reunited before she passed. Bandit's settled and happy now and gets on well with our dogs.

Bandit has learned the lesson that the streets are mean. He's got such a funny, roguish, naughty personality. Because I've lost Mitzi, he's very much loved and my baby puss now. I am so grateful for everything that AWLQ did for me in my time of need. 🐾

For any enquiries about the program, please contact the Emergency Boarding Coordinator at emergencyboarding@awlqld.com.au or call 07 5509 9014.

Tips to Keep Animals Safe in the Cold

Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin. But these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer. Here's how to prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's health.



Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified. If your pet is wet, towel-dry them as soon as they come inside, paying special attention to their feet and between the toes.

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply keep them trimmed. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

Check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes. Massaging paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect them.

Bath your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturising shampoo and/or rinse.

Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.



Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cosy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect. Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops, keep your pets inside with you and your family. Dogs are happiest when taken out frequently for walks and exercise but keep them inside the rest of the time.

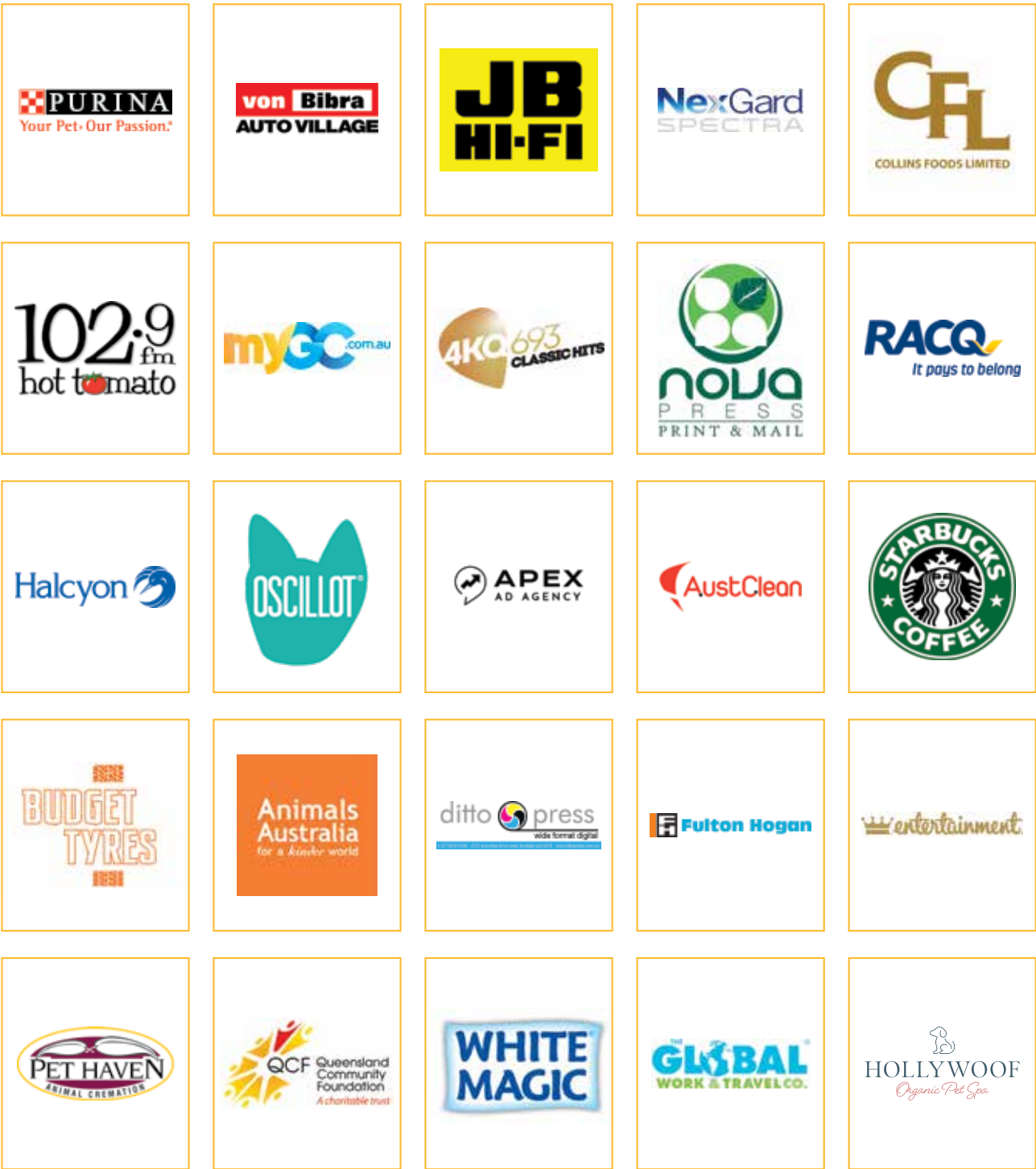
Cars are one of many hazards to small animals. Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

Be sure your horses have access to a barn or a three-sided run-in so they can escape the wind and cold. While not all horses will need to be blanketed, blankets will help horses keep warm and dry, especially if there is any rain. If you've body-clipped your horses, keep them blanketed throughout the winter.

Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather. Cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death. 🐾

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our corporate supporters who have enabled us to achieve so much in accomplishing real and long-term improvements in the welfare of companion animals.

A WLQ are honored to work with our corporate partners and sponsors. They lend their support, engage their communities and help raise funds so that, together, we can continue to provide a safe haven for close to 10,000 stray and homeless animals every year. Together, we ensure sick or suffering animals will have access to veterinary care regardless of their owner’s capacity to pay, we work with the community to end pet overpopulation, and provide emergency boarding for vulnerable animals. We love our partners, and they love animals as much as we do. Thank you to all those working with AWLQ to create a brighter future for animals in need. 🐾



TOGETHER, WE CAN GO THE EXTRA MILE.

AWLQ is committed to keeping pets and people together by providing lifesaving support and resources to people in need with companion animals.

In addition to animal sheltering, AWLQ provides community based support programs with a focus on prevention. We will always support these animals and work to reach those that aren't currently receiving the care they need and continue to be the one people can trust.

AWLQ'S LIFESAVING WORK IN ACTION

- We promise to never euthanise a healthy, sociable or treatable animal in our care. These animals will be cared for until loving new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes.
- Preventing the birth of unwanted kittens and puppies through the National Desexing Network and increasing the number of Councils participating in their Cooperative Desexing Programs.
- Working with the community to achieve zero killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs (more than 90% of all incoming stray and surrendered cats and dogs) in whole communities through our Getting 2 Zero movement.
- Ensuring vet care is accessible to all pet owners regardless of their situation through our community vet clinics.
- Through the Golden Hearts™ Program support seniors through every step of pet ownership.
- Improving the community's attitude toward all animals through humane education.

THE RESULTS

As the champions for animals in need, AWLQ is committed to creating lasting changes for animals in our society – not only those animals in our care, but also those animals in our community.

Between January and May 2021, together we have:

- Cared for 3071 homeless and stray animals.
- Reunited 549 lost animals with their families.
- Rehomed 1972 animals and provided them a second chance.
- Cared for 72 animals through our Emergency Boarding Program.
- Saved the lives of 1376 animals through our foster program.
- Provided \$139,500 in charitable support through our community vet clinics.
- Kept 690 pets and their families together through our community vet clinics.

We will always be here to support our community, and their companion animals, however we can. This is only possible due to the generous support of our community – so thank you. If you are interested to know more please go to awqlqld.com.au/donate 🐾

Who will look after them after you?

Most of us assume that we will outlive our pets. But what if you're the one who becomes incapacitated, or dies, first?

Animal Welfare League Queensland's Legacy Pets Program ensures that, upon your death, your pet comes into the lifelong care of the AWLQ family. As part of that care, we will hand-select a new owner and environment that we feel best suits your pet's needs. Most importantly, they will receive the love and support like they had with you. When your pet is part of the Legacy Pets Program they will also receive free veterinary check-ups and routine care (conditions apply) for the rest of their life.

Joining AWLQ's Legacy Pets Program is free of charge and will provide you with the peace of mind that, if something should happen to you, there is a secure plan in place for your pet's future.

For more information please visit awqlqld.com.au/legacypets or call us on 07 5509 9099.



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959



Animal Welfare
League Qld
Est. 1959

WE PROMISE
TO NEVER EUTHANISE
A HEALTHY, SOCIABLE
OR TREATABLE ANIMAL
IN OUR CARE.
HELP US KEEP THIS PROMISE,
DONATE TODAY.
AWLQLD.COM.AU • @AWLQLD

