

THE LOST DOGS' HOME NEWSLETTER

Incorporating
The Western Suburbs Cat Shelter
The National Pet Register
Animal Management Services



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By
Dr Graeme Smith

The New Millennium - What Must Be Left Behind.

Our front page picture in this final edition of the "1900" years tells a timely and appropriate story.

The Home's **Michelle Fletcher**, whose work involves animal control work in Port Phillip, is photographed with some kittens that had been dumped as trash in a garbage bag.

Thanks to the garbage collectors, who heard their pitiful cries as the bag was about to be thrown into the collection truck, the kittens were rescued from a horror death by compression.

The story was carried in the *Emerald Hill Times*, (who kindly allowed us to use their picture). It attracted many offers of good homes.

There are many things that society would do well to leave behind amongst the discards of the 20th Century as we enter the new millennium. This story exemplifies

Saved from a cruel and unnecessary death. Animal Control Officer, Michelle Fletcher restores to these rescued kittens their faith in humanity after their grim ordeal. Picture courtesy of the Emerald Hill Times.

an **attitude** that **must** be left behind.

Throughout our long history, which spans most of this closing century, the Home and its staff have had to handle many such situations.

The ways in which animals have been dumped, often in the very environs of the Home itself, are too cruel and graphic to describe in a publication of this type.

They typify an attitude that is still too prevalent in our society. They reflect an unfeeling indifference to animals no longer wanted.

Ironically these are even described in our own State's legislation as "nuisance animals".

Unfit For Ownership

I was quoted in the newspaper carrying this story as saying that one could imagine the uproar if someone left a baby in a garbage bag on Station pier.

I pointed out that kittens and puppies are just like babies. They too rely on their mothers to save them, not to be dumped as rubbish.

Continued Page 8.



OUR PATRONS AND DIRECTORS

PATRONS

Mr Daryl Cotton

Mr Daryl Somers

Ms Julie Somers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRPERSON

Dr Andrew Tribe

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dr Graeme Smith

Mr Peter Brown

Dr John Bryden

Mr Douglas Campbell

Mrs Anne Cordiner

Mrs Margaret Crossley

Mrs Yvonne Lawrence

Dr Andrew McLaughlan

Ms Jenny Scovell

Ms Denise Woolerton

OUR VITAL STATISTICS

DOGS

	ADMISSIONS		ADOPTIONS		CLAIMED		EUTHANASED	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
JULY	937	862	162	115	353	296	422	451
AUG.	994	949	155	147	365	301	474	401
SEPT.	884	774	153	138	338	258	393	378
TOTALS	2815	2585	470	400	1056	855	1289	1230

Adoptions and Claims as percentage of admissions.

1998 = 48.5%

1999 = 54.2%

CATS

	ADMISSIONS		ADOPTIONS		CLAIMED		EUTHANASED	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
JULY	422	395	32	43	10	14	380	338
AUG.	477	430	26	14	20	7	431	409
SEPT.	459	473	27	13	8	11	424	449
TOTALS	1358	1298	85	70	38	32	1235	1196

Adoptions and Claims as percentage of admissions.

1998 = 7.8%

1999 = 9.0%

OUR HOURS OF BUSINESS

STRAY ANIMALS AND VET CLINIC

Monday to Thursday:

10.00 a.m. to 6.15 p.m.

Friday:

10.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday:

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Monday to Friday:

10.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday:

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

LOST AND FOUND ANSWERING

SERVICE: 9329 9493

MISSING ANIMALS BUREAU

9885 3603

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE:

After Hours Pager Ph: 9625 5000 –
Quote No. 35945 and leave message.

CAT TRAPPING SERVICE

Phone 9329 2755 for details.

DOG HYDROBATH SERVICE

Phone 9329 2755 for appointment.

DANGEROUS DOGS HOTLINE: 9329 3150

NATIONAL PET REGISTER

To list your pet please visit our
website (see masthead page 1).

To report finding a registered pet
please phone 1800 134 188.

KEYSBOROUGH POUND

Phone 9798 7567

Corner Chapel and Homeleigh Roads
(Melway 94B2).

Serving Greater Dandenong & Kingston

**Impounded dogs and cats may be
viewed from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and**

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Monday thru

Friday) and 10-11 a.m.

Saturday/Sunday.



Altona's Skipper Butterfly

A Walk Around Cherry Lake

... a many splendoured thing

Jackie Turner of Glenroy is more than just a firm friend and supporter. Recently she honoured the memory of her long time companion "Missie" - and 11 year old Shepherd x Rottweiler - who had lost her struggle with cancer.

Jackie did so by organising a walk in memory of her lost friend, to raise money for the Home. After all Missie *did* have rather unusual links with our Shelter.

Her mother **Lady** was adopted from us in 1986 - before it became our policy to sell only desexed animals. *Missie must therefore have been one of the last animals with such ancestral connections with the Home.*

Thus it was that on a fine October morning people gathered for a walk around Cherry Lake Altona - an event that attracted support from fifteen local sponsors.

The 4.5 kilometre walk that circles the lake offers ever changing vistas of native bushland teeming with bird life and lush with varied native vegetation.

The Skipper Butterfly lives here - the only place it can be found anywhere in the world. Happily every effort is being made to preserve its gentle habitat.

The vistas offered to the walker are ever changing. - one could be in a gentle and remote glade one minute, and be looking across the bird filled lake at the towering icons of industrial activities, with the



Above: Jackie Turner with her present good companion Samantha. A kind thought and a splendid day to honour the memory of an absent friend.

Below: Cherry Lake. A nature walk par excellence that offers contrasting views of native bush, industrial activity, and distant city vistas.

Melbourne City skyline as a secondary theme in the far background.

If I ever want to honour the memory of a departed pet again I can't think of a more appropriate place to do it.

Thank you Jackie for the nice thought that materialised as a many splendoured walk and a very practical help to the Home.

By Stan Moore

Our Thanks to Our Sponsors!

- Altona Vet Clinic
- Apex
- Bakers Delight
- Broadmeadows Vet Clinic
- Dragon Fly Restaurant
- Fawkner Vet Clinic
- Franklins (Williamstown)
- La Porchetta Pizzas
- McDonalds
- Moonee Ponds Vet Clinic
- Newport Pet Shop
- Routley's Bakery
- Trophy Pet Food
- Safeway
- St John's



From Our Readers

I'll lend you for a little time a pet of mine,
For you to love her while she lives and mourn for when she's dead.
It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call her back, take care of her for me?

She will bring her charms to gladden you and should her stay
be brief,
Promise she will have her lovely memories as solace for your grief.
I cannot promise she will stay since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there I wish my pets to learn.

I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crown life's lanes I have selected you.
Please will you give her all your love, and not think the labour vain,
Nor hate me when I come to call to take her back again.

I fancied that I heard myself say 'Dear Lord, Thy will be done,
For all the joy my pets shall bring I'll risk the grief I'll run.
I'll shelter her with tenderness, I'll love her while I may,
And for the happiness I've known, for ever grateful stay.
And should the angels call for her much sooner than I'd planned.
I'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand.'

N. K

Some Theological Thoughts

Emotions aroused by thoughts of the death of loved pets continue to inspire thousands of poems and musings.

We feature two entirely different works within these pages. First, "N.K." a keen supporter of the Home touches the heart with his love for animals.

Then we offer (below left) the thoughts of the Reverend Paul Bland of Kent. He has probably never heard of the Lost Dogs' Home, since his work appeared in the much respected English magazine "*The Spectator*".

We include it in our final pages of this century and millennium because of his expressive wisdom – plus your editor's inability to resist sharing with you his elegant rebuff of the views of St Thomas Aquinas concerning the spiritual status of animals!

Ed.

Stitches in Paradise

From the Reverend Paul Bland

Sir: If any of us (man or beast) go to Heaven, it is a matter of God's grace; ultimately it is a mystery 'that passeth all understanding. St Thomas Aquinas gives a logical and rational explanation why our pets should be excluded from Paradise but he manages to miss the point completely because he starts with the head and not the heart.

I buried my own little dog in May.
A brass plaque on the plinth in the garden records:

Here lies the body of Stitches, who united in the one frail body a

loyalty of heart and nobility of spirit rare in animal and quite unknown to man.

Everyone who has ever loved a pet – and been loved in return with the simple, uncomplicated and transparent love that only a pet can give – will know that they are somewhat closer to the Kingdom of God than many of us blessed with Reason can hope to find ourselves.

Paul Bland
Canterbury College, Kent



Dear Tracy,

Thank you for your kind enquiry about how Tiger is doing! Sorry I have taken so long to get back to you, but we took some photos of Tiger and they were still on the roll in the camera, until we finished the film.

As you can see, she has grown plenty since we have had her! She's completely adorable and very happy, with three teenage girls to love her and our dear old Rusty to play with. Tiger sleeps every night on the bed of my youngest daughter!

She is very pampered but she deserves it as she is the best-natured dog I have ever met and our local vet agrees.

With kind regards,
Cecilia Egan

Below: Tiger and one of her playmates.



Max in a relaxed mood.

Dear Lost Dogs' Home,

I have been meaning to write to you for ages to tell you about the progress of the dog we adopted on February 1st this year. His name is Max (previously he was JUL20), and he is the most fabulous, wonderful dog we could ever have hoped for. (*see photo above: ed.*)

We live only a couple of minutes away from the Yarra, and everyday he goes for a six to ten kilometre walk, plays with many other dogs, and often has a bit of a swim as well. He is an incredibly friendly, non-aggressive dog, and has a great time with any other dog we meet, as well as being very interested in a lot of human company.

We had a baby a couple of months after getting Max, and they are now great friends – Maya (the baby) comes on the walks in her pram, and Max is already very protective of her, and has never shown a sign of resentment or anger towards her, even when we had to pay him a little less attention during the first couple of months.

He's one of my best friends, a fantastic companion, and loved by everyone in my family – my brother comes over every weekend especially to see him, and they spend hours in the backyard playing. He's also a great guard dog, and helps to make me feel very secure – our house has been burgled before, but I doubt it'll happen again.

So thank you for making me feel as though I've won Dog Tattsлото. If I had searched for months and months I could not have hoped to find a more perfect dog than Max. I'm enclosing a photograph so you can see what a handsome boy he is.

Kind regards,

**Emma Honey
Richmond**



Lucky's Column

Did you catch the item in the paper lately about taking dogs to work?

Apparently over there in Silicon Valley (where I assume the microchip was invented) that sort of thing is now encouraged.

They say it cuts down employee stress. (Maybe their dogs get stressed instead. Anyone thought of that? – Just kidding!)

I'm told that all this means that our presence at the workplace helps



Relaxing after a hard day at the office?

employees to release endorphins (by patting us), and “boost their productivity” (presumably because we're there to keep an eye on them).

On top of all that we are apparently good “ice-breakers” (are they talking about huskies I wonder?), and we “force people” to take breaks from their computers. (Presumably because we like our walkies on time).

Well if we do all those things I reckon we deserve executive status. I

persuaded a mate of mine to show how well fitted we canines are suited to such a role.

Give us a decent chair, desk, secretary, and an expense account and we'll be ready for bigger things.

Meanwhile we are always happy to bring cheer into your lives. You humans are a funny lot – but we love you just the same.

Lucky



CHRISTMAS 99 PET FOOD APPEAL

PARTICIPATING SAFEWAY STORES

Ashwood	Ferntree Gully	Mt Eliza
Balwyn	Fitzroy	Mt. Waverley
Bayswater	Glenhuntly	(Virginia Street)
Boronia	Glen Waverley	Newmarket
Bentleigh	(The Glen)	Niddrie
Blackburn North	Glen Waverley	Oakleigh South
Box Hill	(O'Sullivan Road)	Preston
Burwood East	Greensborough	(Dundas Street)
Camberwell	Hampton	Preston
Carlton	Heidelberg	(Murray Road)
Carnegie	Highpoint	Seaford
Chirnside Park	Hogans Corner	Southland
Coburg	Karingal Hub	St Kilda
Croydon	Kew	Templestowe
Dandenong	Malvern	Toorak
Deer Park	Mentone	Vermont
Doncaster (Devon Drive)	(Balcombe Road)	Waverley
Doncaster (The Pines)	Mordialloc	Gardens
Eastland	Middle Brighton	
	Moonee Ponds	
	Moorabbin	

Your Bequest . . .

There are many different ways that your bequest can help us in the future. Here are a few:

CAPITAL WORKS

Major expenses which never end since growth must continue, and that means new buildings, extensions and renovations.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

Your funds can be applied to any aspect of our work to accomplish our mission of helping, and reducing the incidence of lost and abandoned animals.

MEMORIALS

A plaque can be placed within the Home. This can commemorate the life of a beloved pet, or of an individual who has worked for the welfare of animals. Other forms of memorial are possible e.g. – the endowment of a new wing for the Home to be named

after the animal, person or organisation of your choice. Please contact Dr Smith for details.

SPECIFICS OF YOUR CHOICE

You may wish your bequest to be applied to specific aspects of our work. Examples: to provide a new animal ambulance; to offset veterinary expenses incurred looking after stray and unwanted animals; to update our technology; to promote our work to the public. There are many options here. Again – it would be wise to discuss this with Dr Smith before finally deciding your wishes.

Many people however are happy to allow the Home to decide how best their bequest can be used at the time it becomes available. That is what happens in the absence of a specific nominated choice.

If you would like a copy of our bequest brochure to be sent to you in confidence please contact the Home.

. . . Our Future!



Photo: Manuela Cifra; Courtesy Herald-Sun.

The New Millennium *(Continued from front page.)*

Clearly those who cannot recognise their obligations to animals are unfit to own them.

Such a situation cannot be allowed to come with us into the 21st Century. One good reason for this (amongst many more) is that the world's population recently reached six billion people, and is still rising rapidly.

If, in spite of such pressures, we human beings are to continue to enjoy the undoubted benefits of companion animals in our lives we must not shrink from the responsibilities of helping those animals to adjust to the necessarily changing demands within our society.

Pet ownership related problems, which have arisen in recent times, could have been avoided had owners realised this and helped their animals to adjust accordingly. The need for this will become more acute in the years ahead.

That's why the Lost Dogs' Home has continually advocated a system of licensing pet owners. It is an issue that has attracted a lot of support and – so far – no opposition at all from those who have contacted us about it.

Such legislation would certainly help. But what would help more would be the moral acceptance of the responsibility that goes with pet ownership, and the willingness to accept the commitment that comes with it.

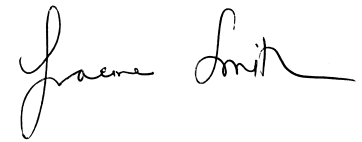
In short the Home would like to leave behind the all too common 20th Century experience of dealing with animals that have been dumped and abandoned simply because their owners have become bored with a commitment they would never had taken on had they known what was involved.

“A Pet is For Life, not just for Christmas” is much more than a catchy slogan. It is a reminder of a fact that was so well expressed in a fairly recent movie “Nine Months”.

The context was different in that one woman in the film was expressing misgivings to her best friend on how her carefree husband would respond to the news of her own pregnancy.

Her friend replied that he would have to realise her pregnancy meant “that he had to grow up”. She was of course saying that he was entering a new era in his life, one, which called for greater responsibility. Certain attitudes had to be left behind forever.

Not a bad thought to have about pet ownership as we enter a new age for the whole of humanity and their companion animals.



Graeme and Friends at the close of the century,

“A Pet is For Life – Not just for Christmas” – much more than a catchy slogan in the era to come.

