

# CHIN WAG

April 2010

ACT Rescue and Foster Inc.



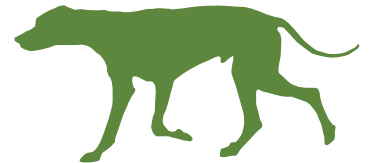
## About ARF

ARF is an incorporated association of people in the ACT and surrounding NSW region who rescue dogs from euthanasia and foster them in their own homes for as long as it takes to find them loving, permanent homes. The dogs are desexed, C5 vaccinated, wormed and microchipped before going to their new homes.

## The ARF Newsletter— April 2010

Welcome to the April issue of ChinWag—the newsletter for ACT Rescue and Foster. This month some of the things you can read about include: the answer to that question, ‘is it okay if I let my dog chase a kangaroo?’; how high can one dog really jump?; hear all about Sybil and her role in British politics and find out what Chet and Bernie have been up to!

Enjoy!



### Dogs re-homed

The total number of dogs rescued and rehomed by ARF in 2010 so far is..... (drum roll please) ..... 40!!



## Walkies!!

If you have some spare time on Mondays, you want to get fit AND help out the DAS dogs at the same time, then we need you!

DAS is appealing for volunteers to help walk the dogs on a Monday after the weekend.

All you have to do is go to DAS and let them know that you are keen to help. Grab yourself a copy of their volunteer guidelines, sign the volunteers book and get the kennel key—then start walking. Most dogs can be walked on the trail and everything you need will be in the volunteer box. We suggest that you take a good collar and lead if you can as these can sometimes be in short supply.

For more information about DAS visit:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/pets/domestic\\_animal\\_services](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/pets/domestic_animal_services)

### ARF gear at bargain prices!

Featuring ARF's great logo!

ARF tote bags only \$4!

ARF T-shirts \$15 (sizes 2 to 10) and \$20 (sizes Small to XXXL)

ARF caps only \$15!

Contact Carol Anderson: [carolanderson@grapevine.com.au](mailto:carolanderson@grapevine.com.au)



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# The thrill of the chase

## Training your dog not to chase livestock

Dogs are hunters. Dogs are excited by fast and/or erratic moving objects and will chase those objects if they are not stopped. Living in the country or a semi-rural environment means that at some point we will have to deal with our dogs taking an interest in other animals, such as livestock and wildlife, and the dog attempting to chase them.

### **Q. How can you prevent your dog from chasing animals?**

If you control your dog from puppyhood onwards around animals such as chickens, cats, horses, sheep etc, and he learns to be obedient in the presence of those animals, he is most likely always going to be obedient around other animals.

If, however, you allow your pup to chase animals at a young age you are setting him up to fail in obedience to you around livestock and wildlife later in life.

By the time they get to 7 months a lot of dogs will have gained the speed and courage they need to cause some serious troubles amongst a mob of kangaroos or sheep. And if he was allowed to chase freely when he was little, why should he now suddenly come back when called?

### **Q. Is it okay if he chases kangaroos, because he cannot catch them?**

All kangaroos in Australia are protected native fauna under Commonwealth, state and territory legislation. Dogs chasing kangaroos, apart from being illegal, is a recipe for disaster. Dogs who initially 'just' chased roos may end up among a mob of sheep. They find sheep to be a lot easier to catch and bring down than roos and your dog, encouraged by success, will now be very difficult to stop from chasing. Dogs can inflict atrocious injuries and suffering on animals, sheep especially, and it is not surprising that farmers make sure that the offending dog or dogs do not get a second chance to attack their flock.

On the other hand, roos can be quite formidable opponents for dogs. Many dogs have been drowned by kangaroos cornered in dams or have been ripped open by a male that fights back.

### **Q. What can you do to stop an older dog from chasing animals?**

The first and most important thing is to keep your dog on lead and under control at all times so he does not get another opportunity to chase. Every time he gets away from you and ignores you calling him, he will think that it is okay to go and chase.

Teaching him to be more obedient around livestock involves a little bit of setting up and should always be done with someone present who has experience with working livestock with dogs. Cattle, sheep and horses that are not used to dogs can be potentially dangerous to your dog and you, so if you do not have much experience with any of these animals it is best to get help from someone who has worked extensively in this area.



The method that I use is based on teaching sheep dogs to work sheep, with the difference that this dog is never allowed to get near the sheep. We block the dog from getting to the sheep with either a plastic rake or a plastic bag tied to the end of a lunging whip. It is important that the introduction of the dog to the sheep is done in such a way that the dog never is allowed to get ahead of the handler. The dog must stay behind the handler and away from the sheep at all times.



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Although this is quite a simple method, it can be highly effective if executed strictly. The handler is also encouraged to practise the 'Come' command on a daily basis with food or toys. Over the next several sessions we gradually take the dog and the sheep into larger yards, teaching our dog that we are in control at all times in the presence of other animals.

**Q. Will this stop my dog from chasing kangaroos?**

Once your dog accepts that you are in control around a variety of livestock and at different distances, he should generalise this acceptance to wildlife as well. Keep your dog on lead near roos and keep practising the 'Come' in their presence until you are sure that he is going to return when called, no matter what.



**Important note to the photos**

All the animals are owned by me and are familiar with each other. The dogs were working the sheep and horse on my command.

Thank you to Heike Hahner from Canine Communications for this story.

**'A door is what a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of.'**  
Ogden Nash

**Caption competition**

**Just what is going on in this picture?**



Email us at [info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org) to win a package of doggy treats!

**Last month's winner is...**

Erica Flett

Everyone knows that's my seat!



## ARF needs more foster carers

Without foster carers, ARF is useless! Strong words but true.

We currently have around 20 carers in the ACT and NSW. These people rescue dogs from pounds in the region and look after them in their own loving homes until the right people can be found to take care of them for the rest of their lives.

Not all carers can take dogs all of the time. They may have just rehomed a dog and have to wait the three weeks cooling off period ARF requires before the adoption is signed off. They may have their maximum number of dogs and be waiting for one to be adopted before they take another. They may need to travel for various reasons.

So we are trying to build up our foster carer numbers so that we can rescue and rehome more dogs.

ARF's current foster carers say that while the job can be challenging, the rewards far outweigh the problems. It's just so satisfying to see the dogs find their loving, forever homes—and the delight on the faces of the new families!

To find out what's involved in being an ARF foster carer, visit our website [www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org) and go to Number 7 in Top ARF Links—What does foster care involve?

ARF's Foster Carer Co-ordinator is Helen Shannon: [helen.shannon@yahoo.com.au](mailto:helen.shannon@yahoo.com.au)

### ARF at Collector Pumpkin Festival and RSPCA's Million Paws Walk

ARF will have a stall at the Collector Pumpkin Festival on 2 May and at the Million Paws walk in Commonwealth Park, Sunday 16 May.

Come along, say hello and check out our excellent products!

### *Thereby Hangs a Tail— Chet and Bernie again*

Here's the second in this series—the first, *Dog on It*, was reviewed in ChinWag July 2009 (also by Wendy P!) In *Thereby Hangs a Tail*, Bernie and Chet are hired to investigate threats made against an unlikely target—a pretty, pampered show dog named Princess. What seems like a joke turns serious when Princess and her owner are abducted. And to make matters worse,

Bernie's on-again, off-again girlfriend, reporter Suzie Sanchez, disappears too. When Chet gets separated from Bernie, he tries to put the pieces together, find his way home, and save the day.

It's another great yarn, full of intrigue and humour.

Chet has his own website: [www.chetthedog.com](http://www.chetthedog.com)

Thank you to Wendy Parsons for this review.

### Great Heights!

I bet you have always wanted to know just how high a dog can jump, right?? Well no need to wait any longer! According to the Guinness Book of Records, the highest jump ever recorded by a dog was 172.7 cm. 'Cinderella May' of Miami, Florida, jumped the amazing height at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge National Finals on 7 October 2006. Coincidentally, the highest backyard fence ever installed was by Kate Long (Cinderella's owner)! (Kidding)



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# What's in a name?

Did you know the most popular dog name in Australia is Max, which means 'large spring'?

Some famous furry screen 'Maxes' were the Bionic Woman's German Shepherd dog and the *Daily Planet* editor Perry White's cat in the Superman comics.

Max is closely followed by Jessie, Molly, Sam and Jack as the most popular names! To find out where your pooch ranks, check out [www.bowwow.com.au](http://www.bowwow.com.au)

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## Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office

Did you know that 'Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office' was an official title given to the cat that lives in 10 Downing Street? Wonder if Kevin Rudd has a 'Principle Pooch to the PM'??

Most recent Feline to hold the position: Sybil

Residence: 10 Downing St, London, UK

First Chief Mouser Treasury Bill

Formation 1924

The Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office is the unofficial title of the official resident cat of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom at 10 Downing Street. Only one cat was officially given the title. The other cats are given this title affectionately, usually by the British press. There has been a resident Treasury or Downing Street cat 'employed' as a mouser and pet since the reign of Henry VIII, although official records only date back to 3 June 1929, when A E Banham at the Treasury authorised the Office Keeper 'to spend 1d a day from petty cash towards the maintenance of an efficient cat'. In April 1932, his weekly allowance was upped to 1s 6d. By the 21st century, the mouser was costing £100 per annum.

As the cats are 'employed' as civil servants, they do not belong to the Prime Minister in residence and it is rare for the Chief Mouser's 'term of office' to coincide with that of the Prime Minister. The cat with the longest tenure at Downing Street is Wilberforce, who served under Edward Heath, Harold Wilson, Jim Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher. The post is currently vacant following the departure of the last incumbent, Sybil, in January 2009. Sybil, who began her tenure on 11 September 2007, was the first mouser for ten years following the retirement of her predecessor Humphrey in 1997. Sybil was owned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling, who lives in 10 Downing Street while the incumbent Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, lives in the larger 11 Downing Street. It was reported that she did not settle in London, and returned to Scotland to live with a friend of the Darlings. Sybil died 27 July 2009.

Source [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief\\_Mouser\\_to\\_the\\_Cabinet\\_Office](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Mouser_to_the_Cabinet_Office)

**The next issue of ChinWag will be in July. Please send any contributions through to [info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org) by the end of June.**

## ARF Membership Form

Please complete this form and send it with \$15 annual membership to ARF, PO Box 1308, Woden ACT 2606

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

I would like to find out more about  becoming a sponsor  becoming a foster carer