

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 the loving, permanent homes. The dogs are desexed, C5 vaccinated, wormed and microchipped before going to their new homes.

Chin wag




ACT Rescue and
Foster Inc.

Dogs re-homed

Thanks to ARF (and you) 43 lucky dogs have been re-homed so far this year.

The ARF Newsletter for April–May 2009

Welcome to the newly named ARF newsletter! Congratulations to Wendy Parsons for coming up with this name. Wendy has offered to donate her 'Prize Pack' to a lucky foster carer—thanks Wendy.

For the calendar...

On 23 May ARF will have a stall and Sausage Sizzle at the DAS Open Day.

In **June** ARF will be featured in the floral display on City Hill.

On **4 August** ARF will be collecting at two performances of *Music at Midday* at the Canberra Theatre.

Please put these in your diary and come along!



We need you!!

Due to a spike in dogs in need at the moment, ARF is appealing to members who might be able to help. There are a number of different ways you can do this including:

- 1 Temporary care**—minding a dog in your home temporarily until another one moves into its new home, or until it can be transported to an interstate rescue group
- 2 Associate care**—where you mind a dog on behalf of a foster carer whilst a new home is found
- 3 Becoming a fully-fledged carer** where you foster and re-home needy dogs

We really need people who can help with larger breed dogs, as well as those who are able to help with small dogs.

If you are keen to become a foster carer, simply fill in the application form in this newsletter and return it to ARF. If you can assist with temporary care or associate care, please let us know asap via info@fosterdogs.org

Food for foster dogs

We are in need of good quality dry food for our foster dogs, to whom we supply a 3–5kg food allowance, depending on the size and age of the dog. We would welcome donations of puppy, adult and mature food and any information of reduced price food available around Canberra and the region. Contact Wendy Parsons parsnips@cyberone.com.au or phone 6231 6342.



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Foster carer of the year— Congratulations to one of our own!

Top Dog-Rescuer Award

And the winner is...Raelene Stewart, Foster Carer extraordinaire!

For those of you who don't know, Raelene is the ARF Co-ordinator and she has been awarded Canine Rescuer of the Year in the Master Dog Breeders & Associates 2009 Awards.

Raelene has been fostering for ARF since it began in 2001, and has personally rescued and re-homed around 200 dogs which would otherwise have lost their lives.

She is a regular at the pounds in the Canberra region where she is a temperament tester and a mentor to many other foster carers, helping them to develop the skills they need to be successful.

She is widely respected in the dog rescue community and has inspired many people to join ARF. She was made a life member of ARF in 2006.

The Master Dog Breeders & Associates announced the winners of their 2nd Annual Dog Owners Choice Awards at a Gala evening in Canberra.

MDBA CEO Julie Nelson says the Awards are designed to give dog owners the opportunity to nominate, recognise and honour excellence in all areas associated with dog ownership.

"They provide an opportunity for those involved in any activity or service with dogs to be acknowledged for their achievements and commitment to canine well-being," she says.

Congratulations Rae!



PARMESAN HERB TREATS

Ingredients

1 package dry yeast
¼ cup lukewarm water
2 cups chicken stock
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ cup parmesan cheese
½ cup non-fat dry milk
2 tablespoons dried parsley
1 teaspoon oregano
2 teaspoons dried minced garlic
1 cup whole wheat flour
½ cup rye flour
½ cup rice flour
1 cup cracked wheat
For the glaze
1 egg, 1 tablespoon milk

Directions

Preheat oven to 325°F (165°C).
In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Add stock, oil, cheese, dry milk, and herbs. Gradually blend in the flours and cracked wheat. Add enough wheat flour to form a stiff dough.
Transfer to a floured surface and knead until smooth (about 3–5 minutes). Shape the dough into a ball and roll to 12 mm thick. Using round or crescent-shaped cookie cutters, cut out treats. Place on ungreased baking sheets, spacing them about 6 mm apart. Gather up the scraps, roll out again, and cut additional biscuits.
Bake for 45 minutes. Remove from oven. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and milk for the glaze. Brush the biscuits with glaze, turn and brush other side. Bake for an additional 30 minutes. Let cool overnight.
Makes about 4 dozen treats.

Caption competition



Do you know what Felix is thinking?

If you do, send us an email at info@fosterdogs.org to win a package of doggy and human treats!



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A chat with Bev Margosis, owner of Kenzie Frenzy dog toys

What are your dog's names and what are their most endearing habits?

My dogs names are Kenzie and Murdock, I also have Stewey my little foster pup here at the moment. Kenzie's most endearing quality is that she is a complete sook and would receive pats 24/7 if allowed. Murdock's most endearing quality is that he isn't the sharpest tool in the shed so he makes me laugh A LOT.

What is the strangest food that your dogs will eat?

I tend to not give them too much strange stuff as Kenzie has a very sensitive gut so hers would be raw carrot. Murdock has a gut of iron and eats anything from rocks to bullants!!!

What inspired you to start your business?

Kenzie inspired me to start my business as I couldn't find a soft toy that she didn't rip to shreds in two minutes. I thought that if I was having this problem then other dog owners would be too. The name came from me wanting to honour my lovely big girl Kenz and the fact that I suppose on some level she would rip her toys in a frenzy, so sitting with some friends the name was born.

You have a business philosophy which involves not selling your products to pet shops, can you tell us how you came to this decision?

I am a foster carer for ARF and I am also down at the pound nearly every week temperament testing dogs that are due to be euthanased. A lot of these dogs are the products of unscrupulous backyard breeders and supposed designer dogs from the pet shops. I realise that if I sold my toys to the pet shops I would be simply fuelling their income. I didn't want to be hypocritical, I would never buy a pet from there so I would not sell my toys there.

What prompted you to become involved in ARF?

I became involved in ARF when I had decided that it was time to get a new dog after the loss of my gorgeous Blue Heeler. I fell head over heels in love with Max, a Great Dane x Mastiff and we were able to adopt him. Unfortunately for us, Max had two very serious illnesses and we had to have him put to sleep, but in the short while we had him, he was VERY loved. Then our home felt empty and my husband then had a love at first sight moment with Kenzie. I realised what a worthwhile organisation ARF was and wanted to do more so I asked my husband if we could foster just one little pup, just this one time! Well I believe I have now rehomed over 30 dogs, my husband realised he was fighting a losing battle.

Any highlights / lowlights of running your own business (or your involvement in ARF)?

The highlight of running my business has been that it has allowed me to donate toys to what I believe are very worthy causes. Just recently I very proudly donated some toys to Animals Asia, these toys will be going to China to enrich the lives of 80 dogs that were saved from a meat truck. I have also been privileged to donate toys to the Australian Orangutan Project and Free the Bears, so baby Orangutans and Moon Bears get some enrichment also. The lowlight I suppose would be that I am not able to do more.

What dog story (factual or fictional) has really touched/resonated with you recently?

My most favourite dog story has to be the story of an old white Staffy that was at Canberra Pound, this girl was well over 8 years old, she had skin cancers on her and was quite neglected but she loved playing ball and she loved a snuggle. When I was temp testing her something struck a chord with me and I was smitten with her.

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I tried everything in my power to save her as I was unable to take her into my home as she wouldn't have fitted into my pack. I had exhausted all avenues and was pretty much in a heap as I thought she was going to be put to sleep that day. The phone rang and Stella, the ranger at DAS at the time, told me that a lady had come in to collect her male Staffy that had got out with the fireworks. She said that whilst she and the lady were talking, my white old girl who couldn't see them was going crazy in the cage. The lady turned to Stella and said 'do you know that sounds like my girl that was stolen over a year ago', when they went and looked it was her...the lady went home with her two dogs. I still have the pictures of the gorgeous girl as she captured a bit of my heart.

Where can people find out more information or order your products for their pets?

I have a website www.dogtoys.com.au — people can have a look at the website and find out a little more about the toys, me and the charities I support.

Bev has been an active member of ARF since 2005 and is currently a member of the ARF Committee. Since 2005 Bev has been a foster carer, a temperament tester and all round dog lover! She is also the owner of the dog toy business Kenzie Frenzy which sells super tough dog toys for those dogs who like to 'love' their toys to death. She lives in South Canberra with her husband, two dogs, one foster, four kids and two lizards.

If you have an update you would like to share, send it to our in-box at info@fosterdogs.org
Any photographs would be good too!

Temp Testers

If you want to be like Rae and help out with temperament testing, we need you too!!

Every Saturday, ARF members go to Domestic Animal Services (DAS) to temperament test dogs due for euthanasia to see if any of them are suitable for re-homing. We have a four week roster to help spread the load.

We are looking for some willing people that would be keen to join our temp testing teams and assist temperament testing for one Saturday morning per month. We need people to do a range of tasks including handling the dogs, to taking photos, to writing down notes.

Underdog Dog Training have designed the temperament test that we are using. If you're interested in joining the temperament testing teams, ARF will pay for your attendance at the Underdog Dog Training seminar. In return, we ask for your commitment in being on the roster to attend the ARF Temperament Testing at DAS once a month.

Please let Raelene know if you are interested to join the ARF Temp Testing Teams and lend a hand.

Raelene's email address is malcolm_stewart@optusnet.com.au

Talk to the animals—ear interpretations

They can be soft, fluffy, droopy or stick straight up in the air and whatever they are doing they are like signal flags to our best friend's feelings.

Raised slightly	Translation—I'm a happy boy!
Raised high	Translation—What's happening?
Sweeping back and forth	Translation—I'm not sure how I feel
Relaxed slightly down and back	Translation—I fell good!
Flat and back	Translation—help! I'm afraid

Did you know that a wagging tail isn't always a sign of a friendly dog? In fact, if the wagging tail is held upright, it can be a sign of dominance.

This gives a whole new meaning to those first doggy encounters at the dog park!

Taking out the bite!

Thank you Laurie Beaver from Angel Paws dog training and consulting, for this article

If you have a new puppy, then the chances are you have been the victim of puppy play-biting. This is something that most people accept as being a natural part of puppy behaviour. And it is natural — however you must teach your puppy that it is not acceptable!

Why isn't play-biting acceptable?

Puppies have very sharp teeth and weak jaw. This means that the bite may be a little uncomfortable but normally can't do any real damage. As an adult dog however, they have larger teeth and a relatively powerful jaw. Other dogs may tolerate the play-bites because dog's skin is generally tougher than human skin, so dogs aren't injured as easily. However if the dog bites human skin he can do a lot of damage — even if it is "only playing".

Why do dog's play-bite?

When the dog comes home to you as a new puppy he/she may well want to play-bite and mouth you. This is a natural extension of his/her play with his litter-mates. However they must learn that you will not accept this behaviour and that it must modify its behaviour to suit you.

Everyone has a different perception of what is acceptable. Some people are happy for dogs to mouth them when they are playing, as long as it doesn't bear down with its teeth. However we suggest that most people should not accept mouthing, as the dog may become confused about whom it is, and isn't, allowed to mouth.

What can we do to stop biting?

There are a few different methods:

- "Ouch" — that hurt!
- No attention
- "Leave"
- Settle or calm

We have found that a combination of these methods works best and that they must be used every time or you will be sending the message that it's okay to bite sometimes. Consistency is the key to bite inhibition. Set your house rules and stick to them!

Used consistently, these methods should help to improve bite inhibition. Reinforce your requirements at every opportunity, so that your dog remembers the rules. Remember that everyone in the household should commit to this program, as the dog will be confused if some people allow it to bite and some don't.

The principles outlined in this article are intended as a general guide only.

Reminder — send your contributions for the June edition of the ARF newsletter to info@fosterdogs.org by Sunday 31 May 2009

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