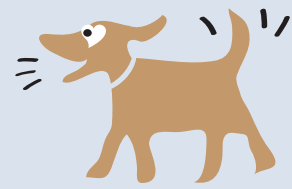


## About ARF

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

Sept 2009

## The ARF Newsletter — September

Welcome to the September issue to *Chin Wag* — the newsletter for ACT Rescue and Foster. This month some of the things you can read about include how to keep your dog safe from snakes as the hot weather approaches; learn just how many tennis balls a dog can put in its mouth at one time; find out how to 'keep your ear to the ground' when it comes to dog treats; and see who was victorious at the annual ARF Trivia Night.

Enjoy!



ACT Rescue and  
Foster Inc.

### Dogs re-homed

Total number of dogs rescued by ARF this year (January–September 2009) is 88!!!



## Microchipping\* is now the law in ACT and NSW

Are your dog's details up-to-date?

If any of your contact details have changed or you have moved house recently, you need to update the microchip register so if your best friend gets lost, he or she can find their way back home. Some of the microchip registers used in the ACT/ NSW region are:

- Australasian Animal Registry
- Central Animal Records
- NSW Companion Animal Register and
- Petregister

Of course you shouldn't rely on just the microchip to make sure your pets gets home. Make sure he or she wears a collar and tag at all times with your contact details on it.

If you sell or pass on a dog (even if free), it is the current owner's responsibility to ensure that the microchip is changed and submitted to the relevant microchip registry. Not changing details of a dog in your name may result in a fine from your local council.

Microchipping your pet has resulted in many dogs finding their way home. Equally, there are a lot of dogs remaining in the pound due to the details on the microchip being out of date.

\* This is different to general registration with your local council.



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# Out of the in-box



Misty (aka The Puppy Princess) was rescued from the pound in August 2008. I fell in love with this little girl the moment I saw her on the ARF web site and when she came to my house to meet me I was very pleased that she chose me to adopt her.

She came to live with me in September 2008. On her first night she was feeling a bit insecure and helped herself to a stuffed toy on a shelf, this has become her favourite toy and is still in one piece. Although very timid at first, Misty has come a long way in the last 12 months, and she has made lots of new friends. She still has a fear of men, she wants to be friends but something just holds her back. We have been going to dog training and this is helping her to overcome her fears and she is trying very hard. She is such a delight and has a very cheeky personality; she is a fast learner and now rules the house although she is very mindful of house rules.

Thank you ARF for rescuing this precious little girl.

Thank you Teena Cooper for this email



## For the calendar...

### What?

2010 Best Friends calendar launch

### Where?

National Library forecourt

### When?

Saturday 24 October, 12 noon

### What?

The Tuggeranong Charity Card Stall

### Where?

The Tuggeranong Hyperdome

### When?

19 October–18 December

We'll be selling copies of the calendar and ARF cards so come along and stock up for Christmas.

### What?

Oxfam Christmas Fair

### Where?

Albert Hall

### When?

29 November

### What?

The Hall Markets

### Where?

Hall

### When?

6 December

## Caption competition

What's on Dusty's mind as he sits at Parliament House? (He's our cover boy for the 2010 calendar!)

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



Last month's winner is...Lyn Boyer



# Be 'Ssssnake Ssssafef'

Thank you to Heike Hahner from Canine Communications for this story

Every year, for many of us, spring is marred by the return of snakes to our home and general environment.

Can we keep our dogs safe from snakes? Well, within reason and with some commonsense, we can certainly reduce some of the risk factors involved in dogs getting bitten by snakes.

## Let's look at what we can do

Keep your dog away or under control near potential snake shelters and hang-outs. These can be rocks, logs, hollow trees, long grass, rabbit and wombat hollows, culverts, rubbish piles, etc. Be extra cautious anywhere near waterways. If you take your dog for a swim seek out areas with flat and open ground that does not offer any hiding spots for snakes.

Walk your dog in the morning, rather than in the afternoon. Snakes will need to warm up in the morning after the cooler night, so they are more sluggish. However, stepping on them or confronting them even at this time is still not advisable and once we get the hotter nights, care must be taken at all times.

Walk your dog on pathways or roads for this time of the year or in mowed or grazed paddocks where you have a good view of the ground ahead. An added bonus to this is that you will also prevent getting grass seeds in your dogs ears and coat.

Protect your garden and house from snakes by covering the lower part of your garden fence with a fine mesh, such as bird netting. Make sure it is securely fixed to the ground as snakes will try and push under obstacles. You can do the same thing for your dog run.

Avoid providing shelter and food for snakes. Keep the area surrounding your house clean and clutter free to discourage snakes from taking up residence. Snakes love chicken runs and out-buildings on farms. Chicken food and scraps attract rats and mice, providing snakes with some tempting meals. Feed your chooks just as much as they will eat in about 10 minutes and avoid having scraps lying around to keep your mouse and rat population under strict control.

Encourage less aggressive snakes to stay in your environment, which may help to keep the more aggressive snakes away. Black snake and the red-belly black snake are calm and reluctant to bite. They are also cannibals and will eat other snakes.

Dogs frequently get bitten because they harass or attack a snake. Do not allow dogs to chase and kill lizards, skinks and turtles. If your dog is allowed to kill lizards and skinks, he may also try to kill a snake.

When meeting snakes with your dog take your dog away as quickly as possible. You want him to learn that snakes are something that should be avoided at all costs.

## What can you do if you have a snake near the house or garden?

Killing snakes, apart from being illegal, is not a good option. Should your dog see you kill a snake, you will increase the chances that he will take on snakes by himself, as dogs can learn through observation.

Your better and safer option to remove snakes is to contact in the Braidwood area, the Native Animal Group (NARG) on 4846 1900 and, in the Bungendore area, Wildcare on 6299 1966.

Both groups have experienced snake handlers. Bill Waterhouse from NARG said that both groups are very happy to help you with the safe relocation of snakes. They are also happy to give you additional information

continued on the next page...



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on how to keep yourself, your family and your animals safe from snakes and any further help or advice you may need to help native wildlife.

In the Canberra region you can contact the Wildlife Rangers at the Canberra Nature Park via Canberra Connect on 132 281.

Heike Hahner is a local dog trainer and a dog behaviour consultant. If you have any inquiries about how to teach your dog to avoid snakes call 4842 7143.

#### CANINE COMMUNICATIONS

Heike Hahner, hhahner@bigpond.com Phone: 02 4842 714



Caplin and Nicola find a snake (this is a plastic snake)



Nicola shows a lot of fear



Nicola reassures Caplin

## Ear! Ear!

Does your dog like making a pig of itself? Are your dog's eating habits eating you out of house and home? Are you tired of paying 'through the nose' for your ears?

If you said 'ear, ear' to any of these questions then you need ARF's pigs ears!

We now sell 100 per cent Australian dried pigs ears for a bargain price and yes, all the profits go to helping more dogs! So do ya dog a favour and pork up ya pooch!

The more you buy the better the deal. Individual ears are \$2 each or you can bulk buy for even bigger savings.

### Super Saver doggy gift bags of 20 ears

- buy one bag and pay only \$36 (that is \$1.80 per ear)
- buy two bags for \$64 (\$1.60 per ear) or
- buy three or more bags and pay only \$90 (\$1.50 per ear).

*My dog's not spoiled... I'm just well trained!*

### Pay and pickup points

Wanniassa — contact Wendy Ph 62316342 or [parsnips@cyberone.com.au](mailto:parsnips@cyberone.com.au)

Dickson — contact Liz Oliver Ph 6139 1358 or [elizabeth.oliver@virginbroadband.com.au](mailto:elizabeth.oliver@virginbroadband.com.au)



[www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org)



# "My dog is cuter than your dog!"

'OOOOOOOHHHHHHHHH' said the crowd. 'Them's fightin words' when you are in a room of dog lovers. But we reckon it must be true if you are willing to pay \$1050 for a spot in the 2011 ARF Calendar, which is what Toni Wood did in the Calendar Auction at the Annual ARF Trivia night.

Thank you Toni! Your generous donation will go a long way to saving the lives of our local poochies who might otherwise have not found loving homes.

Thank you also to everyone who attended the Trivia Night at the Belconnen Labor Club in September. It was a great night and we raised over \$3,000! A fantastic result.

We would also like to thank all the many volunteers who helped out on the night:

Quiz master Sam Howley; Judges: Rachael Holmes, Phil Howley and Lucy Stackpool; and Quiz host Wendy Parsons. Thank you also to those people who donated prizes and even baked biscuits for each table — Bev Margosis of Kenzy Frenzy Dog Toys, Dallas Burkevics, Joyce and Karl Webb, Laurie Beaver of Angel Paws and Marija Blazevic-Parer, biscuit maker *par excellence*.

Special thanks goes to the Belconnen Labor Club for donating the room for the night and Barry Keohane from Mix 106.3 for donating his time and being a great Master of Ceremonies.

And now for an important announcement.....(drum roll please).....

The winners were:

- 1st — George's Gang
- 2nd — Wet Noses
- 3rd — Team Rocky
- Wooden Spooners — Sixy Ladies

Congratulations!



Chasing your tail gets you nowhere... 'cept back to where you started.

# Good news! Fireworks ban in the ACT

The ACT Government has decided to ban the sale of consumer fireworks—good news for local dog owners and rescue groups.

There is more information here:

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8351>

and here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/24/2664761.htm>

The ARF committee has sent a letter of thanks to Minister John Hargreaves (and copied to Chief Minister John Stanhope) for his tireless efforts with regard to this issue.

## Loyalty

You can't buy loyalty they say,  
I bought it though, the other day  
You can't buy friendships, tried and true  
Well just the same, I bought that too.  
I made my bid and on the spot  
Bought love and faith and a whole job lot  
Of happiness, so all in all  
The purchase price was pretty small.  
I bought a single trusting heart,  
that gave devotion from the start.  
If you think these things are  
**NOT FOR SALE**  
Adopt a brown-eyed puppy with a wagging tail.

## How many tennis balls are too many?

According to the Guinness World Records, five tennis balls is the limit. Augie the golden retriever from Dallas, Texas holds the world record for the most tennis balls in his mouth at one time. Augie gathered all five regulation sized tennis balls in his mouth on 6 July 2003.

Nice one Augie!



**Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and the railroads.**

Harry S Truman

**Ho Ho Ho! The next issue of Chin Wag will be in December—just in time for Christmas! If you have any contributions for that issue, please send them through to [info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org) by 20 November.**

## 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