



**ARF** ACT  
Rescue  
& Foster

Newsletter 22 - August 2005

ACT Rescue and Foster Inc.  
PO Box 1308  
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www.fosterdogs.org  
info@fosterdogs.org



### President's message

In August we are urging pet owners to take 'pawitive' action for their pets and have them desexed. August is National Desexing Month, and ARF is getting behind the cause in a number of ways, as outlined later in this newsletter.

There are many very good reasons to desex your pets.

For a start, pounds and shelters are overflowing with the results of pet overpopulation. The market for dogs is already oversaturated and the result is a large number of 'excess' dogs being destroyed each year in pounds.

Closer to home, there are benefits to desexing your own pet. These include health benefits such as a reduced risk of diseases of the reproductive organs—testicular cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian tumours, cysts, breast cancer and uterine infections. The bleeding which accompanies the fertile period in a female dog can lead to physical and nutritional exhaustion. On average, desexed pets live longer healthier lives.

When pets are desexed and lose the drives associated with reproduction, they are less prone to wandering, fighting, marking territory or 'spraying' indoors, and they are less likely to be lost or injured. Or to end up in the pound. Desexed dogs are less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviors—in females the 'heat' cycle can change a personality markedly.

Entire male dogs are more likely to mount people's legs and be aggressive towards other male dogs. Desexed animals are often more affectionate and become better companions to their owners.

Breeding animals is a costly business. Veterinary care of the mother and young is expensive if it's done properly and humanely. Anyone who isn't prepared to pay for appropriate veterinary care for mother and young has no business breeding dogs. Dog breeding should only be done by registered, professional breed experts.

As a rescuer who frequents council pounds and shelters, the results of dog-owners leaving their animals entire are very clear. Entire animals out-number desexed animals many times over in the pound. All year we see scores of undesexed males who have been found wandering the streets, often in search of mates. With the onset of spring, undesexed females are coming into heat, and the number of female dogs in the pounds will sky-rocket. In a few months the puppies will start to be dumped in large numbers, and by the end of the year the older pups who have passed the 'cute' stage will start to arrive.

It's just not good enough. It's cruel. Desex your pet.

Kate Dixon  
President



### ARF's featured dog

Mr Charming: Bushie  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 8 months  
Breed: Corgi X Jack Russell  
Size: Small  
Contact: Pauline  
Phone: 02 6226 5174

Bushie is such a character and worms his way into your affections very quickly.

He is house trained and has basic obedience training, obeying the commands 'sit' and 'down', and he comes when called. Bushie enjoys a walk and is very good on lead; he also loves to play with all sorts of toys and is a bright and cheerful little dog. He gets on well with other dogs and has struck up a lovely friendship with my 11-year-old daughter. He enjoys having hugs and pats, sitting on your lap or by your side, and just being with you.

Bushie takes his job of protector of the house and his people seriously. He is a little wary of strangers, taking his time getting to know new people. He is just looking for the right home and owner to come along and he will reward them with total devotion for the rest of his life.

Bushie would do better in a family with older children and would suit being an only dog, as long as someone were home with him most of the time. If there are long periods without human company he would need another dog for companionship.

Bushie is microchipped, desexed, CS vaccinated, wormed, free of heartworm and available for \$230.

### Upcoming events

Saturday, 27 August from 11am to 2pm  
ARF Dogs' Birthday Party  
(in conjunction with ODAM Illustrators 'Dogs' Birthday' exhibition)

Oaks Brasserie  
Weston Park Rd Yarralumla  
Friendly vaccinated, on-lead dogs welcome!

RSVP to info@fosterdogs.org



5 Sept

ARF Annual General Meeting

This newsletter is proudly sponsored by the West.  
Qasabeyan Vet Hospital -  
158 Uriarra Road,  
6297 5542.



Printed by Lasercolour

# Dogs looking for new homes



Brenna  
F, border collie X, 1.5 yrs,  
call Raelene: 02 6299 5272

Elvis  
M, scally x kelpie, 1 yr,  
call Lisa: 02 6236 8327

Jessie  
F, staffordshire bull terrier, 1.5 yrs,  
call Andrea: 02 6232 8330

Jessie  
F, Rhodesian ridgeback x, 7 yrs, call  
Sue: 02 6291 5343

Bella  
F, kelpie x, 2 yrs,  
call Sonja: 02 6291 4931

Bill  
F, cross breed, 4 yrs,  
call Kate: 02 6284 2345

Roxanne  
F, pomeranian, 5 yrs,  
call Sonja: 02 6291 4931

Scout  
F, German shepherd x kelpie,  
6 mths, call Kate: 02 6284 2345

Tilly  
F, kelpie x German shepherd,  
2 yrs, call Sue: 02 6291 5343

Indiana  
M, cross breed, 12 wks,  
call Kate: 02 6284 2345



Smart cookie: Audrey  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 1 year  
Breed: Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Tom  
Phone: 02 6247 1342



Mr Nice Guy: Teaser  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 10 months  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Size: Medium/large  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345



Precious pup: Pinky  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 5 months  
Breed: Pit Bull Terrier  
Size: Medium/large  
Contact: Grace  
Phone: 02 6161 6638  
or 0404 086 123



Gorgeous girl: Gypsy  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 5 years  
Breed: Fox terrier X  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308



Gentle Companion: Rebel  
Breed: Terrier X  
Sex: Male  
Age: 2 years  
Size: Small/medium  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Confident little man: Corey  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 2-3 years  
Breed: Maltese  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308



Fast learner: Smokey  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 1 year  
Breed: Australian Cattle Dog X  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Fiona  
Phone: 0409 240 326



Confident & happy: Bill  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 1.5 years  
Breed: Cattle dog X  
Size: Large  
Contact: Grace  
Phone: 02 6161 6638  
or 0404 086 123



Woman of substance: Lainey  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 3 years  
Breed: Mastiff X  
Size: Large  
Contact: Fiona  
Phone: 0409 240 326



Loving & beautiful: Sunny  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 15 months  
Breed: Pomeranian  
Size: Small  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345



Good-time girl: Nyke  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 18 months  
Breed: American Staffordshire  
Terrier  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Mild-mannered: Max  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Dalmatian X  
Size: Large  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345



Beautiful lady: Molly  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 8 years  
Breed: Kelpie X  
Size: Medium/large  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Cute & cuddly: Rupert  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 1 year  
Breed: Shih Tzu X  
Size: Tiny  
Contact: Gail  
Phone: 02 6232 5654  
or 0438 325 654

## National Desexing Month

August is National Desexing Month, a national month of action, aimed at ending pet overpopulation.

According to the National Desexing Network (NDN), two undesexed cats and all of their undesexed descendants can number 420 000 in seven years. Two undesexed dogs and their offspring can number 67 000 in just six years. Clearly, desexing really is important!

### What is desexing?

Desexing is routine surgery that prevents animals from being able to reproduce. Females are spayed; males are neutered. When a female is spayed, her ovaries and uterus are removed. When a male is neutered, his testicles are removed.

### Does desexing hurt?

Veterinarians provide animals with a general anaesthetic, so the surgery itself is painless. Any discomfort an animal experiences afterwards is minimal and part of the normal healing process. Activity after surgery should be monitored to ensure that the animal does not aggravate the incision. Most animals return to normal activity within 24 to 72 hours of surgery.

### Does desexing provide any health benefits?

Yes. In both cats and dogs, spaying greatly reduces the risk of breast cancer and prevents various diseases of the reproductive organs. Neutering often resolves undesirable behaviours such as aggression, marking and roaming, and eliminates the risk of various testicular diseases.

### Doesn't desexing make animals less protective?

No. Any changes brought about by spaying or neutering are generally positive. Neutered dogs and cats tend to fight less and are less likely to become lost due to straying from home in search of a mate. Spayed animals do not go into 'heat' or need to be confined indoors to avoid pregnancy. Animals do not become less protective or loyal to their guardians as a result of being desexed.



### Is it really necessary to desex males?

Yes. Even if you are very careful to keep your male pet under control at all times, accidents do happen. In fact, he will likely dig up your yard, scratch up your door or chew off his restraint in the process of trying to escape! Males roaming in search of a mate are susceptible to being injured by traffic and in fights with other males. And while a female cat or dog can only have one litter at a time, male animals can impregnate many females each day.

### When should I desex my pet?

Animals have traditionally been desexed at six months, but many veterinarians are now practicing paediatric (also known as 'early-age' or 'juvenile') desex surgery, which can be performed on animals as young as six to eight weeks.

### Isn't desexing expensive?

Surgery is an absolute bargain compared with the cost of raising a litter of puppies or kittens. And desexing saves taxpayer dollars. Most important of all, when you consider the moral expense of euthanising healthy, innocent animals, the cost of desexing fades to insignificance.

### The bottom line

When you adopt an animal, you assume responsibility for that animal's well-being. Spaying or neutering is as vital to your pet's health and happiness as routine physical examinations, good nutrition, grooming, playtime and love.

Before you adopt an animal, you need to seriously consider whether you are ready to take on the financial responsibility of properly caring for one. If you have adopted an entire animal, it is your responsibility to have that animal desexed, regardless of cost. Dogs adopted from ARF are desexed prior to rehoming.

## ARF member profile— Imogen Scott

Hi, I'm Imogen, and I'm brand new to ARF. I heard about ARF through the website when my partner and I were looking for a companion for Bonnie, our three-year-old kelpie.

We found that companion, a spaniel cross named Monte, who we adopted in June. He very quickly became one of the family! He's such a delight to have around—a wonderfully gentle, affectionate and eager young dog. He and Bonnie have become the best of mates. They play all day and relax together at night, which is exactly what we were after.

Because Monte is an older puppy—around 18 months, we think—we don't have to go through the chewing or house-training stages; a great advantage of getting an older dog with a known temperament.

I feel so strongly about the work that ARF

does to save dogs' lives in the Canberra region that I've jumped in head-first to help out. I work in marketing communications and I'm now volunteering for the Information and Marketing sub-committee for the upcoming Dogs' Birthday Party. Monte, Bonnie and I hope to see you there!

Imogen will receive a free lifetime membership to Dog-e-data (<http://www.dog-e-data.com.au>) worth \$45!

The ARF member of the month is proudly sponsored by 'Don't Fret Pet' Canberra, 1300 30 70 21, [www.dontfretpet.com.au](http://www.dontfretpet.com.au).



Caring Family Homes  
for your Dog's Holiday



Imogen Scott with dog Monte.

## My new home

Hi, my name is Vera and I'd like to tell you about my gorgeous new dog, Sasha.

After losing my last dog, Beau, a 10-year-old basset hound, as always I said, 'never again'. However, after six months living on my own I started looking on the internet at the RSPCA and at ACT Rescue & Foster. I fell in love with a kelpie cross. Everyone told me that at my age she may need too much exercise, but living on a golf-course estate I felt it would be okay.

She is so intelligent and gentle. We walk around the outside of the golf course each morning ... well, I walk. She runs like the wind, but keeps coming back to make sure I'm still there. All I have to do is call Sasha and she comes and sits, letting me put her on-lead for the rest of the way home.

Within the three-week trial period, we both fell in love with each other. She has given me so much joy! It's lovely to come home and be greeted with such enthusiasm. Thank goodness for people like ARF foster-carer Raelene and her husband, Malcolm, who do this wonderful job of rescuing animals and looking after them until they find the right home. Sasha is very much part of my whole family, who will always be loved and cared for.



## 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, C3 vaccinated, heartworm tested, wormed and microchipped before going to their new homes. The dogs cost \$230 to the new owners, or \$100 for dogs over eight years old. This contribution goes toward vet costs, and the rest of the money is made up through donations and fundraising. For more info, please contact

## More dogs looking for new homes



Quiet & calm: Russell  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 5 years  
Breed: Jack Russell Terrier  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308



Smoochy poochy: Lana  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Greyhound X  
Size: Medium/large  
Contact: Kare  
Phone: 02 6284 2345

## Become a member

Please complete this form and send it with the \$15 annual membership fee to ACT Rescue & Foster Inc, PO Box 1306, Woden ACT 2606.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to (check all that apply):

- receive the ARF newsletter and notifications of meetings and events etc
- apply to be a foster carer (request a Foster Carer Application form and Information Kit)
- join the events & fundraising sub-committee
- volunteer to help dogs in other ways, e.g. administration services, marketing services, specialist grooming or training services
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: Annual membership to ARF is renewed on 1 July each year. Membership to ARF is approved by the ARF committee. In accordance with ARF's rules, if a member is found to have persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of ARF's rules, or to have persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of ARF, he or she may be expelled from ARF.



Sallywag: Minty  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Fox terrier X  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308



Delightful & devoted: Jessie  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 4.5 years  
Breed: Staffordshire Bull Terrier  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Amazing Sweetie: Tommy  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 18 mths  
Breed: Border Collie x  
Blue Heeler  
Size: Medium  
Contact: May  
Phone: 02 4945 1716



Playful and clever: George  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 1 year  
Breed: Kelpie X Staffy  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Carol Anderson  
Phone: 02 6231 9785