



ACT Rescue and Foster Inc.  
 PO Box 1308  
 Woden ACT 2606  
[www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org)  
[info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org)

**President's message**

People often ask me, 'How do you cope with bonding to each dog and then giving it to someone else?' All I can say is, 'It's easy'.

The full range of experiences are encountered as a foster carer. In the normal course of our work we experience heartbreak, elation, stress and frustration as well as deep satisfaction.

It's heartbreaking to see all the little faces with the pleading eyes, and know that many of them will be destroyed because no-one wants them. It's thrilling to walk out of a pound with a new dog that was about to be euthanased but is now safe — its tail wagging madly, pulling on the lead in its haste to get away from the pound, and then sitting up in the car with a big grin on its face (this is my favourite part). It's sometimes stressful and frustrating trying to teach a dog, with an unknown and sometimes unhappy past, how to fit in to a household: toilet training, getting on with your dogs, learning to walk nicely on a lead, not barking at night. These things can put great strain on our personal relationships and sometimes make us want to throw in the towel. It's satisfying when we find a good home for the dog, knowing that the new family will cherish the dog, and the dog will have somewhere safe and loving to live out its days.

Each of us sheds the occasional tear for the ones we can't save; and also for happy things, like the very ill person who is smiling more now that they have a furry companion to keep their lap warm, for the child who was scared of dogs until the big gentle ARF dog came into their life, or for the young couple who now have a loyal and devoted companion to share their lives.

Moving one foster dog on to its 'forever' home gives me space in my home to rescue another one. This is why 'it's easy' for me to see my foster dogs going to new families. There will always be another dog in need of rescue, and there will always be a desperate need for more foster carers.

If you'd like to join the thrilling roller-coaster ride as a foster carer or associate foster carer, contact ARF. Then you, too, can help each dog and its family live 'happily ever after'.

Kate Dixon  
 President

**Reminder: ARF membership renewals are due on 1 July**

Many thanks to West Queanbeyan Vet Hospital for renewing their sponsorship of the ARF newsletter for another year.

West Queanbeyan Vet Hospital –  
 158 Uriarra Road,  
 6297 5542.



**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, 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 Kate Dixon at the address on the front of this newsletter.

Photograph by All Creatures Photography



**ARF's featured dog Misty**

Sex: Female  
 Age (approx): 6 years old  
 Breed: Fox Terrier X  
 Size: Small (7 kg)  
 Contact: Lyn  
 Phone: 02 6248 0906

If you're looking for a dog who is sweet, loving and obedient, has all the advantages of a responsible adult but also all the joy of life of a teenager, then this cutie is the one for you!

Misty is bright, alert and learns commands quickly. She's also affectionate and responsive. She has 'sit', 'drop' and 'stay' down pat, and always tries hard to please you.

Misty doesn't dig, chew or climb. As a homebody, she really couldn't see the point in running off even if the gate was left open! Most dogs are very happy going for walks and Misty is no exception. She gets very excited when there's the slightest hint she might be going for a W.A.L.K!

This pretty Miss just loves human contact. Being patted and having a cuddle on the couch is simply the best.

Misty isn't always comfortable around other dogs so would be happiest as an only dog in a home where her owner wasn't away for long periods.

Misty is microchipped, desexed, C5 vaccinated, wormed, free of heartworm and available for \$230.

# Dogs looking for new homes



Alfie, M, 3-4 yrs, crossbreed  
Call Pauline: 02 6226 5174

Brocky, M, 14 mths,  
fox terrier x  
Call Maree: 02 6297 4308

Charlie, M, 5 mths,  
border collie x  
Call May: 02 4845 1716

Kiara, F, 2 yrs, maltese x  
Call Pauline: 02 6226 5174

Missy, F, 14 mths,  
border collie x cattle dog  
Call Raelene: 02 6299 5272

Poppy, F, 5 mths, crossbreed  
Call Karen: 0410 456 263

Roxy, F, 5-6 yrs,  
mini fox terrier  
Call Pauline: 02 6226 5174

Scamp, M, 8 yrs,  
foxie x jack russell terrier  
Call Maree: 02 6297 4308

Sophie, F, 4-5 yrs, kelpie  
Call Fiona: 0427 807 269

Zara, F, 6 mths,  
mastiff x great dane  
Call Fiona: 0427 807 269

Kelsey, F, 12 mths,  
lab x rottweiler  
Call Fiona: 0427 807 269



Devoted wigglebun: Pablo  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Fox Terrier  
Size: Small  
Contact: Kirstin  
Phone: 02 6254 1528 or  
0402 593 847



Delightful girl: Cara Mia (Cara for short)  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 10 months  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Eva  
Phone: 02 6161 3430



Friendly & active: Jack-Jack  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Jack Russell Terrier X  
Size: Small  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Smart & friendly: Leah  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 2 years  
Breed: Retriever x German Shepherd  
Size: Large  
Contact: Tom  
Phone: 02 6247 1342



Handsome lad: Butch  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 12-18 months  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Size: Medium/Large  
Contact: Karen  
Phone: 0410 456 263



Tonnes of character: Angelina  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 5 years  
Breed: Staffordshire Terrier  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345



Happy chappy: Tully  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 3-4 years  
Breed: Maltese X  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308 (after hours)



Great little bloke: Riley  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 10-12 months  
Breed: Terrier X  
Size: Small (5.5 kgs)  
Contact: Rita  
Phone: 02 6231 6011 (after hours)



Introducing: Benji  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 4-5 years  
Breed: Silky Terrier X  
Size: Small  
Contact: Maree  
Phone: 02 6297 4308 (after hours)



Cartoon dog: Butchy  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 7 years  
Breed: Chihuahua x Mini Dachshund x Foxie  
Size: Small (5 kgs)  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Happy litte fellow: Giuseppe  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 5 years  
Breed: Pomeranian  
Size: Small  
Contact: Angela  
Phone: 02 6296 7167



Sweet & soft: Penny  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 2-3 years  
Breed: Kelpie X whippet  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345



Gentle and lovable: Ollie  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 3-4 years  
Breed: Kelpie  
Size: Medium  
Contact: May  
Phone: 02 4845 1716



Handsome & loving: Indiana  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 14 months  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Kate  
Phone: 02 6284 2345

# Desex your dog

Ethical rescue organisations like ARF desex their foster dogs before rehoming them. We do this for several reasons.

In the ACT, dogs over six months of age must be desexed, unless the owner pays for a permit to keep a sexually entire animal for showing or as a registered breeder.

Desexing is the responsible thing to do. In Australia, tens of thousands of dogs are euthanased in pounds each year, not because there is anything wrong with them, but simply because there are many times more dogs born each year, than homes for them to go to. On average, a fertile dog can produce two litters of 6–10 puppies per year. In just five years, one bitch and her puppies can produce almost 20,000 dogs! Don't contribute to the problem of pet over-population. Desex your dog.

There are several compelling health-related reasons to desex any companion animal. The dogs that ARF rescues from local pounds often come with no details beyond gender and colour, let alone information on hereditary problems they may carry. Registered breeders carefully

study the genetics of their planned sire and dam, selecting new bloodlines to improve their breed. Leave the breeding to the professionals. Desex your dog.

Desexing of females prevents unwanted puppies and the unwelcome attention of male dogs when bitches come into season twice a year. Spaying at a young age can prevent mammary tumours (breast cancer) and infection of the uterus, which is often a surgical emergency. Desex your dog.

Male dogs desexed before puberty will tend not to roam, have less aggression, don't mark their territory through urination as often, and won't hump your visitor's leg as often as an entire male. Castrated dogs cannot develop testicular cancer, and neutering reduces the risk of prostate problems in the older dog. Desex your dog.

Some vets recommend early desexing at 12–16 weeks of age, while others prefer to perform the operation at 5–6 months of age. We recommend that you talk to your vet and be guided by their professional advice.

The National People and Pets Survey, conducted by the Urban Animal Management Coalition in January 1995, found that only 61 per cent of dogs in Australia are desexed. In the intervening 11 years, that number hasn't changed markedly.

At the time, there were 3.8 million dogs in Australian households so 39 per cent, or 1.5 million, of those dogs were sexually entire.

This means that the message is still not getting through to dog-lovers. Please, desex your dog.



Current foster dog Kelsey was recently rescued from the pound heavily pregnant.

## ARF member profile Elizabeth Webb

Hello. I am a 23-year-old university student who became an ARF foster carer in September 2005. I first heard about ACT Rescue and Foster (ARF) by word-of-mouth and learnt more about the organisation through the website, [www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org).

There was space in our household for another animal after my family's elderly cat passed away, and reading about all the wonderful homes that dogs on death row had found through ARF made me want to get involved in some way.



One of Elizabeth's recent foster dogs, Paddy, went to his new home just before this newsletter went to print!

After joining as an ARF member, I applied to become a foster carer. This involved some phone conversations, paperwork, and friendly informal house visit to ensure that where I was living was suitable for foster care of dogs. I was also assigned an experienced ARF foster carer as a mentor who was available to answer any questions or problems I that may arise. It was great to have a willing, friendly person to help me, and made my introduction to being an ARF foster carer much easier. I am also eternally grateful to my long-suffering family who have welcomed each foster dog into their home and been prepared to live in a multiple-dog household.

We have fostered four dogs so far, all of whom have a special place in my heart. They have shown me the immense resilience, capacity to learn and undying affection that characterise most rescue dogs.

One of the greatest pleasures of foster caring is seeing the gradual unfolding of each dog's character as they grow in confidence, develop relationships and explore their environment.



Caring Family Homes  
for your Dog's Holiday

My most recent foster dog, Paddy, has just gone to his new home. In the time he was with us, he developed from a subdued dog that was very well-behaved but unsure of himself to an affectionate, loyal and swaggering character whose antics are a constant source of amusement!

The process of finding the right home for each dog is another valuable aspect of foster caring. I have has developed my telephone and paperwork skills, as well as building up new relationships and connections with some wonderful people.

It is always hard to say goodbye to a foster dog, but this is more than outweighed by the pleasure of placing them in a loving, responsible home. I would recommend becoming an ARF foster carer to anyone who wishes to include dogs in their lives, has a little spare time and suitable housing arrangements. It can be a great way for tertiary students to spend time with dogs without the long-term commitment that comes from being owned by a dog. I continue to find caring for ARF foster dogs an immensely enriching and rewarding experience!

Elizabeth will receive a free lifetime membership to Dog-e-data ([www.dog-e-data.com.au](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).

# GOOD NEWS STORY

## PEDRO

Pedro has settled in very well to our household. We only adopted him six months ago, in December 2005, but it seems as if he has always belonged here!

Pedro really is a wonderful dog. He puts up very well with being carried around and being treated like a baby by the girls. As you can see in the picture here, everyone loves Pedro!

He has his moments of wanting a bit of rough play, and he has a sock which he loves us to play tug-of-war with. It amuses us that he is just as excited to see his Daddy come home from work as the kids are!

We took him on his first camping trip with us over the Australia Day holiday. He was so good in the car going down to the coast, and settled into camp life really well. Considering he had to be on a leash nearly all the time, he was very patient. He enjoyed the beach, although keeping his distance from the scary waves. He barked at the other dogs, but was quite friendly once they approached.

We love Pedro dearly, and are so lucky that he is such a great dog. He suits our family perfectly, and we are grateful to ARF every day for saving him.

For more Good News Stories, check out our website:  
[www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org).



## More dogs looking for new homes



Good-natured boofhead: Chase  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 12 months  
Breed: Kelpie X  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Kim  
Phone: 0407 952 056



Simply stunning: Rick  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 15-18 months  
Breed: Kelpie X  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Karen  
Phone: 02 6238 2812



Responsive & charming: Meg  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 10-12 months  
Breed: German Shepherd X  
Kelpie  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Fiona  
Phone: 02 4822 8624 or  
0427 807 269



Simply red: Kira  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 12 months  
Breed: Staffy X  
Size: Medium  
Contact: Fiona  
Phone: 02 4822 8624 or  
0427 807 269



Teddy bear: Bandit  
Sex: Male  
Age: Born in ARF care 24.3.06  
Breed: Staffy X (mother is  
Ebony)  
Size: Medium when grown  
Contact: Raelene  
Phone: 02 6299 5272



Perfect companion: Zeke  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 6 months  
Breed: Pointer X?  
Size: Medium/Large when  
grown  
Contact: Karen  
Phone: 0410 456 263

## Upcoming events

Saturday May 20,  
10am-3pm

ARF Fundraising and information stall  
Trinity Christian School Fair  
Wanniassa

Sunday May 21,  
9am onwards

ARF information and marketing stall  
RSPCA Million Paws Walk,  
Stage 88  
Commonwealth Park

Please email [info@fosterdogs.org](mailto:info@fosterdogs.org) for more information.



Introducing: Boris  
Sex: Male  
Age (approx): 14 months  
Breed: Dalmatian X  
Size: Large  
Contact: Eva  
Phone: 02 6161 3430



Devoted new mum: Bindi  
Sex: Female  
Age (approx): 4 years  
Breed: Crossbreed  
Size: Large  
Contact: Anja  
Phone: 02 6235 5843 or  
0401 978 064