

# Best Mates

Summer/Autumn 2025



Babies galore!

The Home is seeing a surge in the number of puppies and kittens.

Page 5



THE  
LOST DOGS  
HOME.

# From One Friend to Another

One of the most rewarding, yet challenging, parts of my job is choosing which animal stories to share with kind people like you. So many beautiful dogs and cats come through our doors, and every story of loving care is made possible through your compassionate heart for animals. Thank you!



Over the past year, the Home welcomed over 18,200 lost and abandoned animals into our care. Each was given their second chance, thanks to you. Although I can't share every animal's story with you, we've selected some of the most heartwarming updates in this edition of *Best Mates* newsletter.

I see so much love towards animals through the people who kindly donate their time and energy to helping animals in need. It warmed my heart to see an incredible 38% increase in volunteers supporting the Home last year. Our animals have not only received the loving care of volunteers at our shelters, but around 4,000 of these animals were also able to heal, gain confidence, and await their forever families in the peaceful homes of volunteer foster carers.

It's now been 12 months since we launched *Home Together* program, in partnership with the Petstock Foundation, and I'm happy to share a progress update.

The high cost of living continues to put enormous strain on the community—and I hope you and your loved ones are coping okay. Sadly, our shelters have been stretched to our limits, especially as we experience a surge in the number of puppies and kittens arriving on our doorstep.

But we will do everything it takes to ensure we're here for every animal who needs us—and that is all thanks to you. I am so grateful you are part of these uplifting animal stories.

Please read on... and enjoy the happy moments you helped create!

**Grant Robb**  
CEO, The Lost Dogs' Home

## Issue 8

Summer/Autumn 2025



**Bailey's journey from hurting to happy**

Page 4



**Where are they now?**

Page 6-7

**Failure of the best kind**

Page 8



**Brendan's legacy of love**

Page 11

### Contact us:

#### The Lost Dogs' Home

2 Gracie Street  
North Melbourne  
Victoria 3051

[supporters@dogshome.com](mailto:supporters@dogshome.com)  
[dogshome.com](http://dogshome.com)

### Connect with us online:



### Front cover image:

Volunteer Fraser cuddles with his foster puppies, Mochi and Astro.

The Lost Dogs' Home is an open-intake shelter, meaning we will never turn away an animal based on their health, age, breed type, temperament, or situation. We are a leading animal welfare organisation based in Victoria caring for more than 18,000 lost and abandoned mostly dogs and cats every year. For more information visit [dogshome.com](http://dogshome.com)

# A love letter to Preston

**The unforgettable impact of our pets.**

**T**here are few experiences that are more heartwarming than welcoming a lost or abandoned pet into your life. And as the years pass, you might come to the realisation that your furry friend has impacted your life in more ways than you could ever imagine.

In our lowest moments, our pets offer us a sense of purpose and connection. They remind us that we're not alone, we have the



**Beautiful Preston had four wonderful Christmases with his loving family.**

capacity to love, and that we are loved in return.

Day after day, their loyal companionship motivates us to maintain healthy routines to be our best, knowing they depend on our care. Animals also bring a calm presence to our homes when the stresses of life start to feel

overwhelming. Sadly, they also leave a huge hole in our hearts when we have to say goodbye.

Here at the Home, some of our most treasured moments are when we receive beautiful notes like this one from Mike about his sweet dog Preston, who he adopted from the Home four years ago:



**Preston always loved snuggling up on his favourite bed, right under his very own portrait.**

I am writing to you with a heavy heart to share the news of the passing of my beloved dog, Preston, who was a part of my family for the past four wonderful years.

Preston was more than just a pet to me; he was a cherished companion whose presence brought immense joy and comfort into my life... Throughout his time with me, Preston exhibited unwavering loyalty, gentleness, and sweetness. He had a heart of gold, always eager to shower me with love and affection, even on the toughest of days...

Preston had an innate ability to make me feel loved and cherished. His presence filled my home with warmth and laughter, and his memory will forever hold a special place in my heart.

About 2 weeks ago when his health took a turn for the worst, I had to make the decision that was the hardest I have ever had to make and ensure he was not in any pain anymore, and on Saturday, I said goodbye to my best friend.

Though Preston may no longer be with me physically, his spirit and my love for him will live on in my heart forever...

I'm proud to let you know that I've now included a gift to the Home in my Will, dedicated to the memory of my mate Preston. Thank you for everything that you do.

Mike, Preston's Dad

# Bailey's journey from hurting to happy

**Despite losing her leg, Bailey is living her best life in her loving, forever home.**

**W**hen we first met little Bailey, she could barely hold herself up. At just eight weeks old, she was found injured and alone. She couldn't even walk on her own because one of her back legs was badly broken and cut.

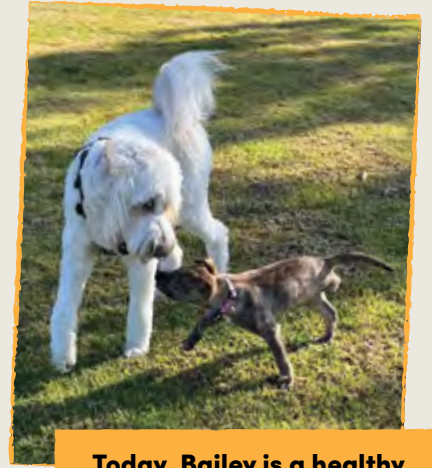
Our caring team of vets and vet nurses agreed the kindest way to help Bailey live a fulfilling life free from pain was to remove her injured leg. After her successful surgery, one of our lovely volunteer foster carers, Natasha, took Bailey into her home to give her all the love and care she needed while healing.

"Bailey is a smart and happy little girl," shared Natasha. "It's amazing

**“ You would never know she's missing one of her legs. She is courageous, and she has been a blessing in our lives. She gives the kind of love you don't even know you need, just when you need it most.”**

*— Jacqui, Bailey's mum*

what some love and care can do for an animal's resilience when recovering from surgery.”



**Today, Bailey is a healthy and happy puppy, and loves playing with her big sister Amy the Groodle.**

Then, one month later, Bailey was adopted into her forever home! She is loving life with her new mum Jacqui and big sister, Amy the Groodle.

Bailey's heartwarming story is a wonderful testament to the difference that kind supporters like you can make for an animal when they are hurting and have nowhere else to turn for help.

Because of you, Bailey was able to receive the emergency medical care she so desperately needed and find a loving forever home. Thank you for having such a compassionate heart for animals!



**Bailey was such a brave little girl after her surgery.**





So many mums and their babies are coming to the Home looking for love and care.

# Babies galore!

A surge in the number of puppies and kittens.

**T**here's no doubt kittens and puppies are irresistibly charming. Each adorable puppy yawn and squeaky kitten 'meow' makes you feel like you might burst with joy from an overload of cuteness.

But as we find ourselves in the midst of an increase in arrivals of young animals, an enormous amount of our resources are going into caring for these youngsters and getting them ready for adoption.

And over the past year, the Home experienced our highest number of kitten arrivals in a decade, averaging 13 kittens per day! We also saw our highest number of puppy arrivals in nine years at an average of 12 puppies every week.

## What's causing this increase?

- **For Kittens** – earlier and warmer spring days means mating season starts earlier and goes on for longer, which has led to the growing number of free-roaming undesexed cats in the community.
- **For Puppies** – financial barriers and a lack of education in the community means that not all dogs are being desexed, which leads to unwanted pregnancies.

## The increased cost of living across Australia has also had a two-fold effect:

- Owners are struggling to afford routine vet fees for one dog, much less for a mum and her pups.
- Potential owners are less likely to be able to afford a new dog, so some breeders are bringing unwanted puppies to shelters.



Some babies arrive on our doorstep without their mother—all alone and in desperate need of special, loving care.

So, now—more than ever—the Home is relying on our amazing volunteer foster carers, like Fraser, to help prepare each little darling for their forever home.

Fraser kindly opened his home to a pair of 12-week-old puppies, sharing...



**“Having animals around makes you realise that while you are putting the time into caring for them, they are also caring for you through love and cuddles...”**

“It's also not a huge financial consideration as everything is provided for the animals by the Home, including vet care.

I've found that being a foster carer is also a good way to discover whether you are ready for committing to a

dog full time. Ultimately, it's just incredibly rewarding.”

If you are in a position to become a loving foster carer for abandoned puppies or kittens, just like Fraser, find out more—[www.dogshome.com/foster-care](http://www.dogshome.com/foster-care)



Fraser cuddles with his foster puppies, Mochi and Astro.

# Where are they now?

What a joy to share an  
happy and loved in a fo  
about Coco, Nugget, Tre

## COCO NOW



## Coco

(who was named Moon Cake when she arrived at the Home)

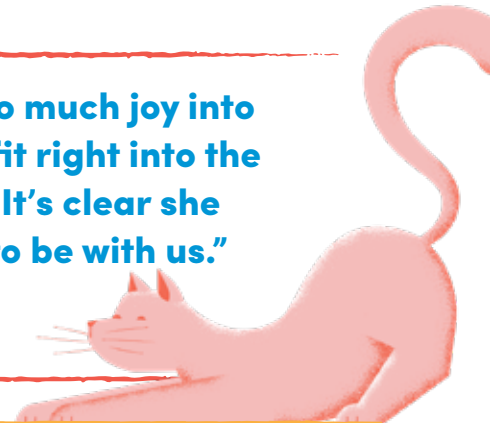
Little Coco was found, alone and injured, on a main road in Melbourne. She was only five weeks old and weighed barely more than an apple when she arrived at the Home. Her left eye was so severely diseased and ruptured that our vet team had to remove it for her best chance of a comfortable life.

One month after her surgery, Coco found her forever home when she and Michele fell in love at first sight. Coco now has also become good friends with her new "fur siblings", another cat and two dogs. Coco has become a confident young cat living life to the fullest!

“

Coco has brought so much joy into the home. She has fit right into the family so perfectly. It's clear she was always meant to be with us.”

— Michele, Coco's mum



## COCO THEN



Despite her missing eye, Coco was so full of life and energy while she waited for someone to love her forever.

## Trevor

You might remember Trevor, who came to the Home after he was attacked by another dog. Little Trevor was only twelve



## TREVOR NOW

weeks old. But thanks to animal-loving supporters like you, he received immediate surgery, followed by many months of extensive loving care to get Trevor back on his feet again. With your support, we never gave up on him!

**Fast forward to today...** We are delighted to tell you that after spending time recovering in foster care, Trevor found his forever home and is now happy and loved by his new family. Trevor is getting all the love he deserves, thanks to you!

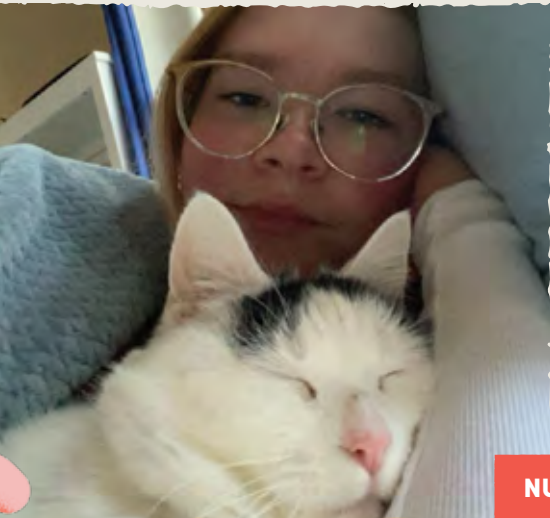
## TREVOR THEN

Frightened and hurting, when he arrived at the Home... then feeling much better after his big brave recovery.

What a big, happy boy! Here he is with Vet Nurse, Jess, who helped him recover during his time at the Home.



animal's journey from lost and abandoned to forever home. Here are heartwarming updates for Trevor, and Mr Tinky Winky!



## Nugget

Last year, 12-year-old Nugget came to the Home because her family was no longer able to care for her. She not only needed a new forever home, but she also needed some help getting to a healthy weight. So, our veterinary team prescribed a food plan, and

### NUGGET NOW

**She is a healthier weight and can look forward to a happy future cuddling with her new best friend, Jodi.**

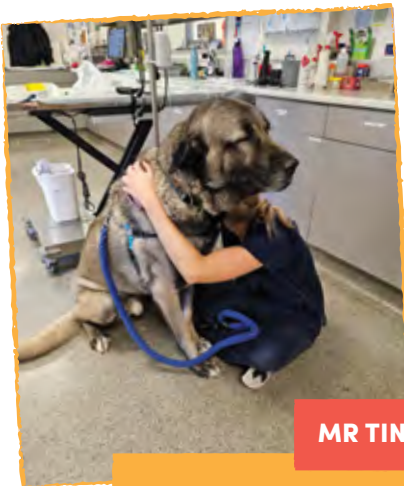


### NUGGET THEN

**Nugget weighed twice the healthy weight of a cat.**

Nugget spent the next 89 days in loving foster care adjusting to her new diet and lifestyle.

We celebrated when Jodi came along to adopt Nugget! 'Queen Nugget', as Jodi affectionally calls her, is now living a healthy and happy life full of love.



### MR TINKY WINKY THEN

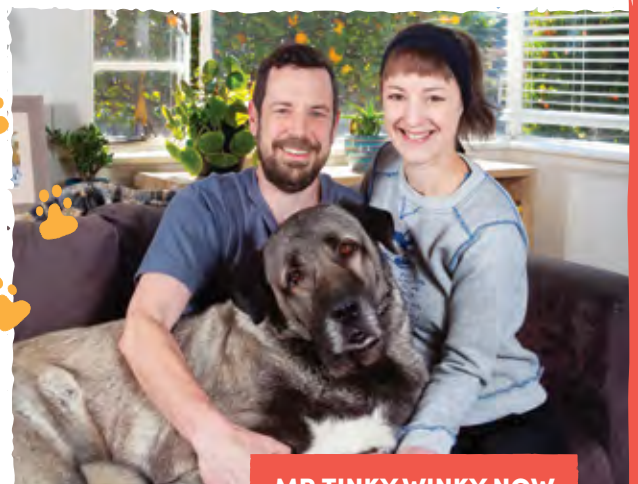
**After wandering busy streets all alone, he was safe at last with the Home, thanks to you!**

## Mr Tinky Winky

Remember big, beautiful Mr Tinky Winky? Late one evening, the Home received an urgent call from a Council Ranger. Someone had found Mr Tinky Winky wandering the streets, lost and alone. One of our Animal Ambulance Drivers rescued Mr Tinky Winky and brought him to the safety

of our shelter. As well as nourishing food, fresh water, and a cosy bed, Mr Tinky Winky needed leg surgery for a ruptured ligament in his knee.

After healing in foster care, Mr Tinky Winky was finally ready to find his forever home. Chris and Jess came along to adopt our gentle giant, re-naming him Luka. He's getting all the loving cuddles he needs in his new home!



### MR TINKY WINKY NOW



**He's such a chilled dog and has taken everything in his stride. His favourite thing at the moment is sleeping! We couldn't imagine our home without him."**

*— Chris and Jess, Luka's (a.k.a. Mr Tinky Winky's) forever family*





Candee and Glenn are inseparable and can't imagine life without each other.



When Glenn first brought Candee home for foster care, she was feeling a little unsure—but Glenn responded with patience and love.

## Failure of the best kind

### Candee decided she no longer wanted a foster carer...

One of our loving foster carers, Glenn, recently shared a lovely update about Candee, who was named Chime when she first came to the Home in 2022.

Two years ago, the Home received a call from a concerned member of the public about a stray dog. This terrified dog was Candee. She was being tormented by teenagers who were chasing her and throwing stones at her. It's heartbreaking to think how traumatic and terrifying that must have been for her.

Our Animal Ambulance Driver hit the road right away to rescue Candee and brought her to the safety of the Home.

Tucked tail, ears back, trembling—Candee had lost her trust in humans and was too scared to let anyone come near her. So, for the next five months, our behaviour and veterinary teams put in countless

hours of loving care to help Candee build her confidence. But she still had a long way to go.

Glenn put up his hand to open his home and heart to help Candee prepare for finding her forever home. But several weeks in, Glenn said he realised he could no longer be Candee's foster carer...

“

**“It became obvious her fear of people and the world around her was an insurmountable hurdle on the path to adoption, so the decision was made for me... she officially became a ‘foster fail.’ Today, Candee is brilliant with other dogs, and she is going to become a mentor for a foster dog who can learn from what she has overcome.”**

— Glenn, Candee's dad

It turns out Candee didn't want Glenn as her foster carer... she wanted him to be her forever family!

When someone recently said to Glenn, “She's such a lucky lady to have found you and your patience for her,” Glenn simply replied, “Trust me, I'm the lucky one.”

Candee's journey with Glenn is a lovely reminder that every animal deserves a second chance. Just like us humans, they need patience and unconditional love, no matter the challenges of their past.

# One year of our Home Together program

## See how vulnerable pets and their families are supported during challenging times.

**W**ith the continuing rise in the cost of living and rental crisis, many pet owners are facing the challenge of keeping their beloved pet. With the support of the Petstock Foundation, the *Home Together* program aims to help keep as many beloved pets in their loving homes as possible.

The *Home Together* program is the first of its kind for Australian shelters, led by our Pet and Family Advocate, Katie, who is a qualified Social Worker.

“

**My aim is to help people feel supported and cared for in their time of crisis...**

**The connection between people and their pets is so powerful, it can get people through and help them feel unconditional love.”**

**—Katie, the Home's Pet and Family Advocate**

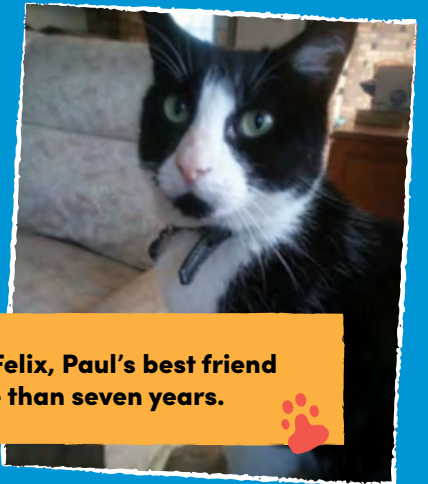
**Katie is the Home's Pet and Family Advocate, leading our *Home Together* program which is proudly supported by the Petstock Foundation.**

The program is all about keeping animals with their families by providing:

- Short-term intensive support to help people overcome challenges so that they can keep their pets.
- Information and referrals to local services that can offer further support.
- Help navigating these services to find the right solutions for their situation.

As we move into the second year of providing this vital support service, our goal is to expand the *Home Together* program to support even more families and pets, and we hope to see more roles like Katie's created in shelters across Australia.

We will continue to go to great lengths to keep pets in their loving forever homes. And, with your support, we can continue these vital services to prevent the surrender of more cherished pets.



**Here's Felix, Paul's best friend of more than seven years.**

**Paul and Felix find a home together**

“

**Without the *Home Together* program, I would have lost Felix forever. Felix looks after me as much as I look after Felix.”**

**—Paul, Felix's dad**

When Paul was going through a tough time, he needed ongoing hospital care. But who would look after his beloved cat, Felix? There was no one. So, sadly, Felix ended up at a local animal shelter. While trying to manage his health crisis, Paul was also devastated to be separated from Felix. Thankfully, Katie, the Home's Pet and Family Advocate, stepped in to arrange alternative boarding and care for Felix with help from a partner organisation. It meant that Paul could focus on recovering and, when he was feeling well enough, he was able to search for pet-friendly housing—with the peace of mind that Felix was in safe care. Paul finally found a place to live with Felix. Paul and Felix are a forever family once again!

# "I may have lost him forever"

## The relief of reuniting with a lost pet.

**M**arilyn loves her sweet dog Wolfgang. And she'll never forget the day her nightmare became a reality. It was the day she was taking Wolfgang for a walk in the park, when suddenly fireworks began. Wolfgang became so frightened of the noise that he bolted, running off out of sight.

Filled with absolute dread, Marilyn searched through the night, desperately looking for Wolfgang. Every hour of worry was torture, and she was unable to find him.

But thankfully, Wolfgang was microchipped with Marilyn's contact details. After running away from the park that evening, Wolfgang managed to find his way to the doorsteps of the Home. Because he had been microchipped, we knew exactly who to call. Marilyn was able to come to our shelter the very next day for a joyous reunion with her beloved missing boy!

Every year, thousands of animals like Wolfgang become separated from their families across Australia. But unlike Wolfgang, many of those animals haven't been microchipped. Even if the pet shows up at a shelter or someone's home, they can't be identified, making it extremely difficult to reunite them with their family.



The good news is that the Home has seen a 31 percent increase in animals arriving with a microchip since last year. It's an encouraging statistic to see, but there are still so many lost pets coming through our doors without a microchip.

After spending that long, stressful night looking for her precious Wolfgang, Marilyn was eager for us to share her experience and her message for other pet owners who may have not yet had their pet microchipped.

“

**Making sure your pet's microchip details are up to date is super important, and I hope that sharing our story will help other people and their pets. It's a miracle Wolfgang wasn't hurt, we feel so lucky to have him back. If Wolfgang wasn't microchipped, I may have lost him forever.”**

— Marilyn, Wolfgang's mum

**Marilyn and Wolfgang never want to be separated again.**



Brendan and his beloved  
Greyhound, Molly

# Brendan's Legacy of Love

## Brendan had a big heart for the animals who needed extra special care.

**B**rendan devoted much of his free time to the cricket pitch, first as a player, then as a coach and club committee member. He loved every bit of it.

But back in 1995, Brendan discovered a new kind of love. He adopted his first ever dog, a rescued Greyhound named Buckles. His heart was instantly captured by his new companion.

The strong bond that formed with Buckles led Brendan to adopt several other rescued Greyhounds throughout his lifetime. He had a special place in his heart for dogs who needed extra special care, thinking that they might be overlooked for adoption by others.

As each of his beloved companions passed away, they were lovingly buried in Brendan's backyard. He placed brass plaques on each of their graves to commemorate their special time spent together.

"He spared no effort when it came to caring for his canine family. When Buckles had a stroke, Brendan made sure he underwent surgery, giving Buckles and Brendan extra years to be together," said Brendan's friend, Robyn.

Brendan's love for dogs expanded well beyond his own furry family members. Brendan became a long-term monthly donor to the Home. He also devoted much of his free time volunteering to care for dogs at his local animal hospital.

"The pleasure he got from volunteering with animals was palpable—he would email his good friends whenever a dog who had spent a long time waiting to be adopted finally found their forever home," Rosemary, Brendan's sister, explained.

Brendan took pride in remembering each dog that he had helped rehome. Even as his own health declined, his dedication to animal welfare never wavered.

“

**Brendan believed every dog should have the opportunity to be a beloved companion and member of a family... so it was important to him that at the end he supported the animal charities that were closest to his heart."**

— Rosemary, Brendan's sister



**Brendan also had a lifelong love of horses.**

Brendan sadly passed away at the young age of 71. Brendan's last rescue Greyhound, Molly, was faithfully by his side when he said his last goodbye.

But Brendan's love for dogs now lives on through the generous gift he left in his Will to The Lost Dogs' Home.

His kind final gift ensures that more pets will receive the compassionate care they need, even though he is no longer able to be here himself to share his love with them.





Download  
or request a  
copy of our  
Gifts in Wills  
Guide

# Let your love of animals live on

Just like us, you understand there's nothing quite so special as the wonder of loving your pet—and being loved unconditionally by them in return, even if they are being cheeky!

Including a thoughtful bequest gift to The Lost Dogs' Home in your Will is one of the easiest yet most powerful ways to help bring love and kindness into the lives of frightened and vulnerable pets.

A gift in your Will can care for lost and abandoned animals who are less fortunate than many beloved pets have been.

What a wonderful way to leave a kind, compassionate legacy that will continue to celebrate your love of animals for generations to come.

## Give lost animals the gift of being loved and loving in return.

If you would kindly like to create your own legacy of love for lost and abandoned pets to find a second chance of happiness in the future, you can use your smart phone to **scan this QR code to download your free copy of our Gifts in Wills guide.**

To find out just how easy it is to include a kind gift in your Will, you can call our friendly Gifts in Wills Team for a chat on **(03) 8379 4496** or visit our informative website **[www.dogshome.com/wills](http://www.dogshome.com/wills)** to find out more.



### Contact us:

The Lost Dogs' Home  
2 Gracie Street  
North Melbourne, Victoria 3051  
[supporters@dogshome.com](mailto:supporters@dogshome.com)  
[dogshome.com](http://dogshome.com)

Connect with us online:

