

2026

Newsletter

Swan Animal Haven



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Dear Haven Supporters,

It's ironic that the happiest endings are too often the result of the saddest beginnings. When we received a surrender request for a 'half blind' senior staffy and her son, we knew they needed to be prioritised. Princess and Rufus were left outside in the backyard together, both unsterilised. We were told they had previously had pups together but their owners don't worry about that anymore because she's too old now.

Due to their owner's financial situation, neither dog had received adequate veterinary care and Princess needed to have an eye removed.

These sweet staffies have now both found amazing new families who adore them.



Finding homes for large breeds is always challenging. Big Bill was in our care for over a year, not through lack of trying! He had multiple adoption viewings but was always too strong or too big. We promoted him on social media incessantly, until finally we found his perfect family! Bill is a very loved member of a wonderful family and even has a doggie sister, Meeka. After Meeka had a small veterinary procedure, Bill provided a supporting paw – he slept nose to nose with her and if she whimpered, he put his paw on her and she settled.

Through our social media campaign to find Bill a home, we received an application from another wonderful family looking for a large dog who

weren't suitable to adopt Bill due to his dislike of cats. There is no shortage of large dogs needing new homes, so we scheduled an adoption viewing with Chico instead, another large breed male that had received no adoption enquiries of his own.

On same amazing day that Big Bill finally found his forever family, the other largest dog in our care, Chico, also found his happily ever after!



Diesel and Billa almost didn't make it to the Haven. We received a call from a veterinary clinic asking if we could help their client who was requesting to euthanize his dogs before he moved overseas. The owner then emailed us and we agreed to take them in before his departure date which was a couple weeks away. A few days later, we were contacted again about the same two dogs as he had approached another veterinary clinic to euthanize them! We bumped them to the top of our wait-list and scheduled a surrender appointment for that weekend.

After two failed home trials as a pair, Billa has decided that she would prefer to have a whole family all to herself! Being a strong-willed, 11 year old staffy mix, there's really no point in arguing with her. This sweet, stubborn girl knows what she wants and how to get it. Feeling a little chill? Billa will climb into bed, under her blankets and wrap herself up into an adorable little burrito. The lucky family who open their hearts to this dear old girl will be rewarded with devotion, love and just a little bit of attitude!



Her 8 year old bull arab mix brother, Diesel, is currently lapping up the attention in foster care while he recovers from knee surgery, before he moves to his forever home in the hills.

Accepting a privately surrendered dog is never easy. In fact, it is one of the worst jobs that we ask our volunteers to do. Even though we know the dogs will be surrounded by love, and thanks to the generous donations from our amazing supporters, they will be well fed and receive veterinary care, it still breaks our hearts watching a loving family say goodbye to a dog they can no longer look after. It's just as heart-breaking holding a dog that desperately wants to follow an owner who didn't really care. One of our volunteers recently did one of each of these surrenders and it's honestly hard to say which was worse.

Dear little Charlie was reluctantly surrendered by a family that loved him dearly but, due to Perth's rental crisis, could no longer keep him. He was incredibly loved and well looked after. It's easy to judge people from a distance but when you are faced with a family who are genuinely deciding between risking the roof over their children's heads or giving up the dog they adore, you realise that it's not a simple decision.

Four days later, another private surrender came in. This time, it was three dogs, bred for a farmer who didn't want them. At nearly 3 years old, these boys had received no veterinary care, no contact with humans except for the breeder and they did not even have names. When offered treats, they didn't take them as they had never eaten anything except dry biscuits. All three tried to follow the breeder when he left, with our volunteer holding them back and trying to comfort them when they became distressed at being left in a strange new place. Collectively nicknamed the 'Chipmunks', Simon, Alvin and Theodore adapted quickly and were seeking affection from our volunteers within hours of

being surrendered. Vet checked, sterilised, microchipped and vaccinated, these clever kelpie/border collie crosses are now ready for new lives with new families.

These surrenders came in only two weeks after the same volunteer coordinated the surrender of a dog from a boarding kennel, whose owner was terminally ill. Fortunately, this dear little soul was in a new home within days and his previous owner was relieved to receive photos of him safe and warm, sleeping on his new couch.

The resilience of the dogs and our team is incredible and we often reflect on how lucky we are to be surrounded by such kind, empathetic people and such forgiving animals.

We would like to offer a huge thank you to the wonderful Elendt family. Not only have they given a loving home to several dogs, they also regularly contribute gift cards and donations to help look after the dogs still in our care. Their most recent and very generous gift was funding our new hydrobath, and adding some extra \$ to purchase training collars so volunteers can safely walk the dogs.

Veterinary care is one of our biggest expenses, with thousands of dollars spent each year ensuring the dogs in our care receive the treatment they need. We are so grateful to our supporters and volunteers that make it possible for us to help these dogs. Your donations keep our shelter running and provide life-saving medical care, so any support you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made directly into our bank account or in person at the Haven. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. You can also support us through Containers for Change by using our scheme ID C10344689 when recycling your 10c containers or you can drop off your containers in the bins on our verandah any day between 8am and 6pm.

**ANZ - BSB: 016-494
ACCOUNT: 2610-19447**

Please include your name as the reference or description and email Gail (evansg@iinet.net.au) so we can send you a receipt. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email rather than post, please email Gail.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to see more lovely photos of dogs in their new homes. Remember to please look out for each other. Be kind and be safe.