

**SYDNEY  
DOGS  
& CATS  
HOME**



**Before their forever home,  
there's Sydney Dogs & Cats Home.  
But now we need help to build  
our new home.**







## Home is where hope begins.

Sadly, thousands of dogs and cats in Sydney have no home. No place to call their own. At Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, we're the home of hope.

Since 1946, we've offered shelter, care and love to hundreds of thousands of Sydney's lost, abandoned or neglected dogs and cats. We've helped them find new homes as well as bring people and pets together through our community programs.

But now it's Sydney Dogs & Cats Home who needs help. We have to leave our old home. A new home will help us meet the needs of Sydney's growing number of abandoned and neglected dogs and cats.

We've found the place and we're asking Sydneysiders to help make home happen.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Each year thousands of animals, mostly dogs and cats who have been lost, abandoned or neglected are brought to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home for help.**

Evidence clearly shows that every year in Sydney, thousands of dogs and cats are left on their own to face our city's streets. By the time these poor animals reach us, they need lots of veterinary care, a safe environment and of course, kindness. At Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, we provide all of this and so much more.

We also know how happy pets often make happy people. Sydney Dogs & Cats Home support vulnerable pets and people – through our delivery of successful mental health focused community programs. It's common to see one of our dogs at a school, aged care home or with defence personnel helping create a lifeline between them and people who benefit from animal companionship and interaction.

For almost 80 years we have been Sydney's pound; helping and rehoming thousands of animals. Despite many improvements in veterinary science and increased awareness of animal welfare and pet ownership, urgent help for Sydney's pound is needed.

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home has a plan to invest in our animal welfare team, veterinary services and community outreach programs. We also must move. Our previous leased site at Carlton was sold for redevelopment and we are currently in temporary facilities. Plans for our move to a new \$21.6 million home at Kurnell, with land already secured under a 50-year lease from the NSW Government, are well advanced.

Now we are asking Sydneysiders to help the city's oldest, biggest and only charity pound move to a new home.



*Joanne Bermingham*

**Joanne Bermingham**  
SDCH, President







SYDNEY  
**DOGS  
& CATS**  
HOME  
[www.sydneydogsandcatshome.org](http://www.sydneydogsandcatshome.org)  
(02) 9587 9611

We found the place to build a new home that will make a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Sydney's dogs and cats, their future adopted families and the animal welfare professionals who support them...

... and we're asking Sydneysiders to help make home happen.



# DOING MORE FOR THE ANIMALS AND PEOPLE WHO NEED US



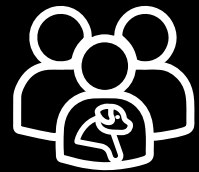
Meet the needs of more lost, neglected and abandoned dogs and cats in Sydney



Increase the number of dogs and cats being adopted

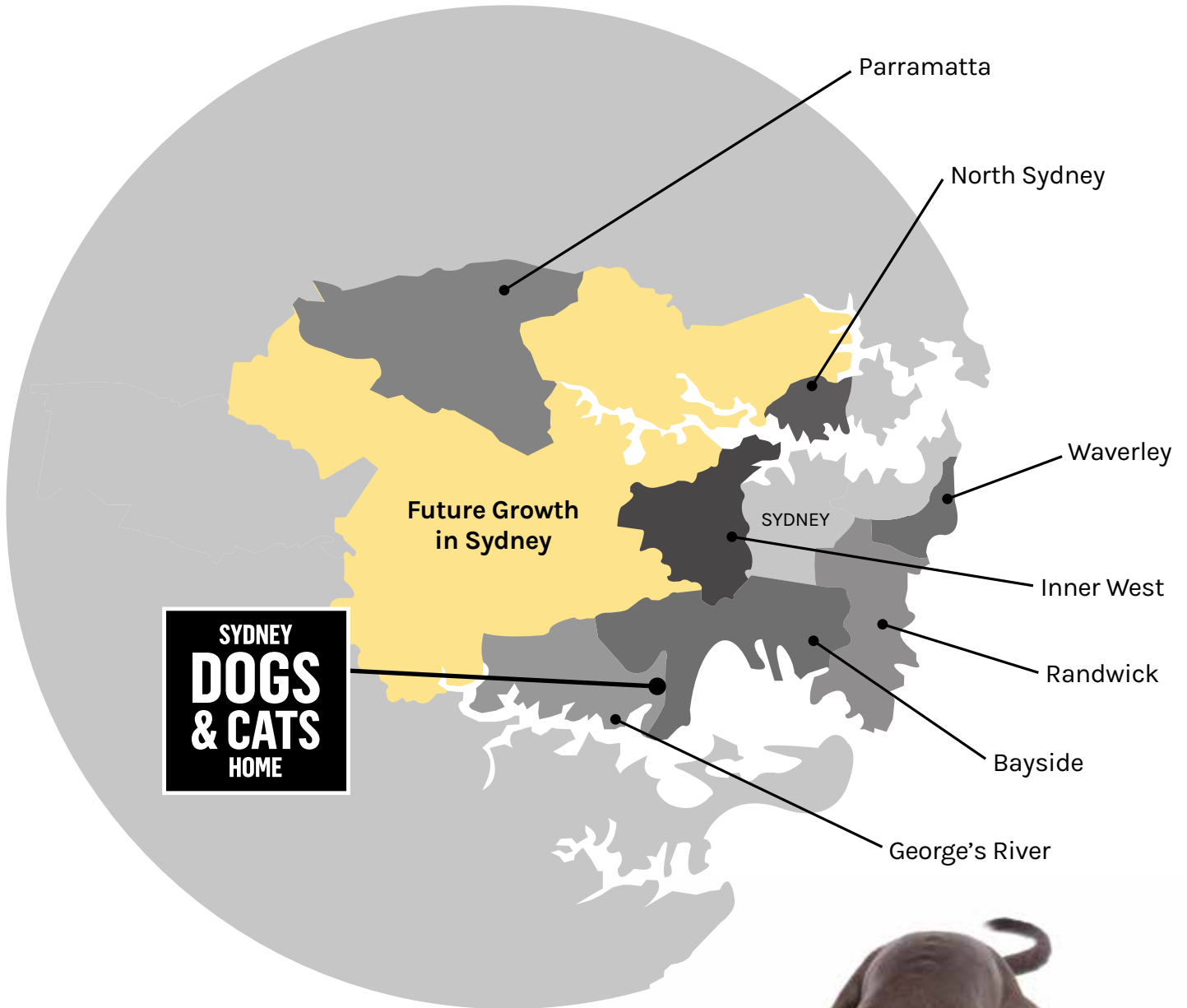


Secure our future



Expand our Community Outreach Programs to help more vulnerable people

# THE FUTURE OF SYDNEY'S CHARITY POUND





# OUR FOSTER CARERS

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home has one of the city's largest foster care programs. Every year hundreds of Sydneysiders generously provide animals in need the opportunity to enjoy having a safe and loving place while we find them a "forever home". While people get to experience the wonderful aspects of having a pet.



“

During this stressful time I've found it makes me more relaxed, take more breaks and exercise more... when working from home. I love "matchmaking" them into their perfect forever homes... it's been great to see them all go to such loving homes!

BEC MAXTED  
FOSTER CARER

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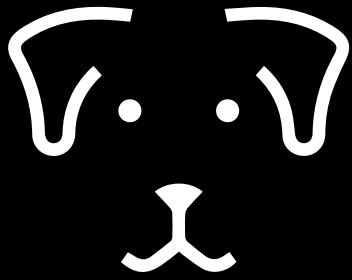
Fostering has definitely enriched our lives. It's so rewarding to watch a puppy blossom into a great dog, or to watch a dog that's had a tough time settle comfortably into your life (and your couch). We also love it when we receive updates from their forever home about how they have settled into their new lives, knowing that we played a small part to help get them there.

TOM AND SILVIA

”







“

Fostering for the past 2 years has been an amazing experience. We've watched tiny kittens grow and find their personality as well as shy adult cats slowly come out of their shell. We have learnt so much about caring for cats and kittens thanks to the foster coordinators, vets and shelter team at SDCH.

CAITLIN AND MATT

”

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a very important part in helping us do what we do. Before COVID-19, some 500 volunteers provided over 13,000 hours of support. In our new home, we will be able to grow our volunteer numbers again. From kennel activities like cleaning, feeding, grooming and playtime to dog walking and kitten cuddles, volunteers are a vital part of our animal care.



“

Being able to work with animals is a dream come true for me. The animals help me as much as I help them. It's a blessing to be a volunteer at the SDCH.

”

MELISSA MURDOCH AND TIGER

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“

Volunteering at SDCH has enabled me to grow as a person and I've also been blessed with the adoption of Toby and Dudley.

CAMPBELL FULTON AND TOBY

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I've enjoyed being able to share the amazing work done by our staff and volunteers in caring for the beautiful animals who pass through our home on their way to there forever families. I've been moved to tears many times by the compassion and love shown to our animals. It's an honour to be part of this special organisation.

KERRY GILBERT AND BELLA

”







# PABLO THE FRENCHIE: PERFECT POOCH COMPLETES YOUNG FAMILY



**A year and a half after Helle and her family adopted Ayla the Pug-x from Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, they decided it was time to add another rescue dog to the family. Helle immediately decided to go to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home since Ayla had been such a good match for her home and she had such a great experience during the first adoption.**

Meanwhile, Pablo the French Bulldog had been surrendered to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home due to no fault of his own. It was a rare occurrence to find an almost 2-year-old French Bulldog available for adoption from a shelter. When Helle saw Pablo on the Sydney Dogs & Cats Home website, she applied immediately, thinking her chances were slim since Pablo had become a very popular little man. She thought he was the perfect fit for her family as he was a similar size to Ayla, and she knew French Bulldogs are known for their placid temperament, which would suit her two young daughters.

Helle was eager to adopt Pablo, calling the Home frequently and asking questions to staff. She was elated to be invited for a meet and greet at the shelter. After the meet, Helle and her family were thrilled to be able to take Pablo home. But it wasn't quite smooth sailing from there. For the first few days, Ayla didn't welcome Pablo with open arms, as was hoped. Ayla came to the shelter as a street dog and had a habit of resource guarding. Dogs sometimes guard their resources in order to convince other dogs and humans to stay away from toys, food or a particular place they've deemed as their own. Even humans can be resource guarded. Ayla's past meant she had to constantly resource guard when she lived on the streets, and though she was thought to have left this behaviour behind, Pablo seemed to be a trigger.

Helle made the important decision to reach back out to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home and ask for assistance and a trainer was recommended. Helle really wanted Pablo to be part of the family, so they engaged a trainer, which helped the family recognise and respond to stressful scenarios for Ayla. After five days, both dogs started getting along and playing together. The family even noted that Ayla was the one initiating play by bringing toys to Pablo. Helle told us, "Training has been a godsend. I wish everyone had to be forced through that type of thing; it's been extremely helpful."

Helle's two young daughters love having Pablo in the family. He has taught them important lessons about responsibility and boundaries. Pablo gets along with kids extremely well. He is happy and friendly, plays with them constantly and even gets a sneaky bite of dog-safe food from them now and then. Pablo is very easy-going around Helle's young girls, which she said is a teaching point for her daughters to learn that dogs aren't toys and deserve respect and boundaries. But it appears Pablo enjoys playing so much he keeps coming back for more. "He's a glutton for punishment and comes back and gets dressed up," Helle said.

Helle said that adopting from the Home has allowed her family to give dogs in need a fresh start and a new home. She believes the choice to adopt instils in her daughter's responsibility and a compassion for animals in needs. The girls help me with making sure that they have water, and they help feed them in the morning," she said." And I think it's one of those things that's really, really good for kids to learn at a young age... It's brought a lot more activity into our lives. If I wanted a third dog, I'd go back to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home in a heartbeat."









# SENIOR CAT BRINGS JOY TO ELDERLY ADOPTER DURING LOCKDOWN

**At Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, not only do we bear witness to the transformative effects of adoption on lost and abandoned pets, but also the ability of pets enrich the lives of people who adopt.**

In the midst of the July 2021 Sydney Covid-19 lockdown, while people were isolated in their homes unable to visit friends and family, many sought comfort and companionship in their pets.

This had normally been the case for Stefania, a Sydney-based woman in her 90s who lived independently with her rescue cat. She loved her cat dearly and enjoyed the sense of responsibility and companionship her cat provided. Sadly, just weeks before a stage 3 Greater Sydney lockdown, Stefania's cat unexpectedly passed away from health complications, leaving Stefania heartbroken and more alone than ever.

After taking some time to grieve, Stefania decided it was time to welcome another rescue into her home. She wanted to give a senior cat a second chance. While many shelters had paused adoptions due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Sydney Dogs & Cats Home adoption process had moved online, so Stefania's granddaughter put in an application on her behalf for a nine-year-old tabby named Abbi. Abbi was looking for a low-energy household with no other pets where she could be the centre of attention, so Stefania's application was a perfect match.

Stefania's family helped her conduct a virtual meet and greet with Abbi and her foster carer, and the decision was made to adopt. Abbi was returned from foster care and one of our Animal Attendants dropped her off at Stefania's home where she was welcomed with open arms. Stefania's son David told the Home, "my mum was delighted to meet [Abbi] and felt she looked more beautiful in real life than in the photos. She had a huge smile on her face."

Abbi settled into her new home within days and has developed a comfortable routine sleeping, exploring, playing and spending time with Stefania. Abbi has a special cat tower next to Stefania's favourite chair where she goes for company and a pat. They've formed a very special bond. As David notes, "she seems to only have eyes for Mum, [but] she is making an effort to like me!"

Abbi has brought a great deal of happiness to Stefania's life and helped her cope with the Covid-19 lockdown. Stefania calls her family regularly to update them on Abbi's escapades. David said, "Usually, Mum says she can't find her anywhere in the house, then suddenly finds her squashed between pillows or in the cupboard sleeping soundly. Mum laughs a lot about what Abbi gets up to... Before Abbi arrived Mum hated lockdown because she had no company. Mum is dealing with lockdown much better now... She doesn't feel so alone."







# OBI'S STORY: FROM AGONY TO ADVENTURE

Obi was brought into Sydney Dogs & Cats Home requiring immediate vet attention for a wound in his neck. The young Staffy cross' collar was embedded deeply into his flesh, suggesting his collar had been fitted when he was a young puppy and hadn't been loosened as he grew.

After an exam, the Sydney Dogs & Cats Home vet team determined Obi needed urgent surgery under anaesthesia to remove his collar. He was rushed to the operating room, the collar was cut off and his wounds were cleaned, alleviating what could have been months of pain.

Over the next five weeks, Obi's wounds were managed with regular cleaning and bandage changes under anaesthesia. Slowly, his wounds began to heal and contract, leaving him with the beautiful battle scars that today give Obi so much character.

As he settled into the Home, Obi began to show us his sweet, confident personality. While he proved very trainable, he also had behavioural traits including hyperactivity and mouthing, which often make it too difficult for dogs to find a home. Obi underwent daily training with the Animal Care Team desensitise him to other dogs and learn basic manners.

After just two months in our care, Obi found a home with James who was looking for a dog who deserved a second chance in life. Building on Obi's initial training at the Home, James has helped transform him into a well-mannered companion who goes on lots of adventures.

During the early stages of adoption, James was with Obi almost 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We're told Obi was house trained in two days, and within the first week, had mastered stop, sit, lie down, shake hands and to stop pulling on his leash. To this day, Obi practices his cues every night. James tells us, "it has not been easy, but worth every minute. We are both better off."

Since being adopted, Obi has overcome his separation anxiety and been exposed to lots of new people, dogs and places, including bush trails and the beach. He's now comfortable with other dogs, noises, people and traffic. As James puts it, "he is an amazing dog!"



“

**Obi found a home with James who was looking for a dog who deserved a second chance in life.**

**SDCH TEAM**

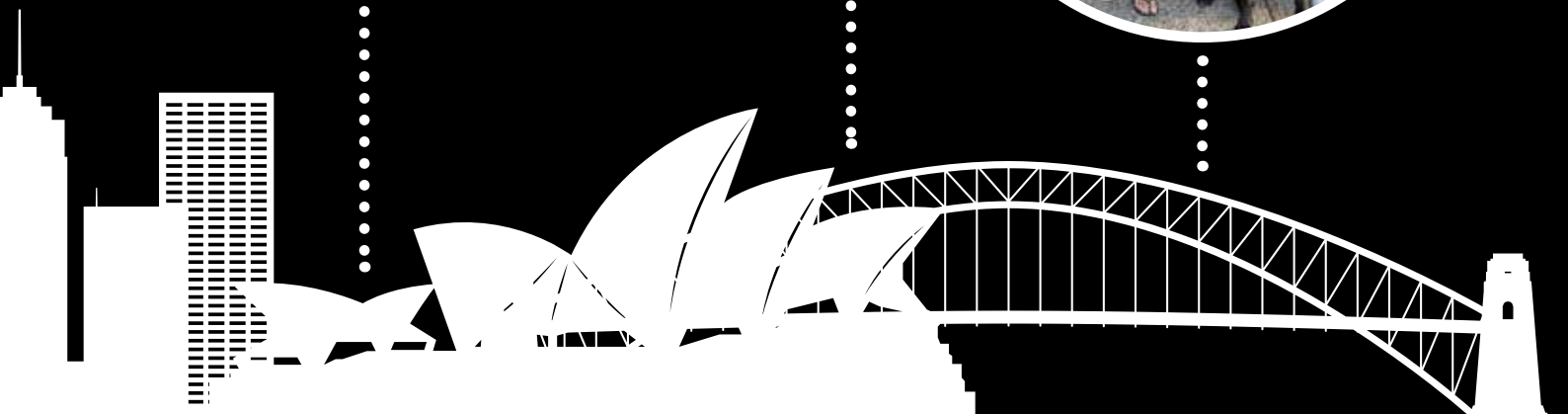
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# HAPPY PETS MAKE HAPPY PEOPLE



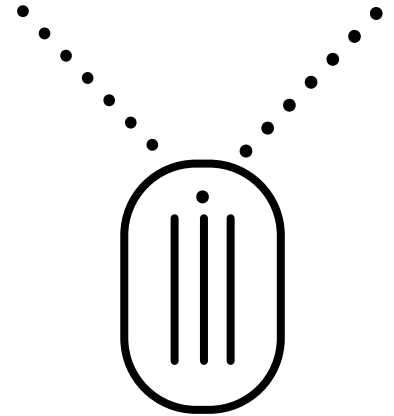
Everyday across Sydney, we deliver a range of successful community outreach programs and services. It's common to see one of our dogs at a local school, aged care home, community centre or even visiting defence personnel. Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is creating a lifeline for people who benefit from pet companionship and animal interaction.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## ARMY PROGRAM

An initiative established in 2016, the Army Program provides support to trainee soldiers who have sustained an injury and are currently going through rehabilitation. Each week a group of 11 personnel spend several hours at the shelter, working and caring for the animals. After each session surveys are conducted to measure the impact on individuals' wellbeing. These results indicate that the interaction with the animals at the shelter as well as the Trainee Rehabilitation Wing are having a positive effect on the soldiers' recuperation.



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Established in 2014, the Youth Mental Health School Program sees small groups of students who suffer from a range of mental health conditions visit the shelter to meet and interact with the shelter's cats, dogs, rabbits and birds. The program has previously expanded to include reading sessions for youths, including those living with Autism. A student will sit outside the kennel of a timid or frightened dog and read the animal a story. What we've witnessed in a short space of time is the amazing transformation and bonds that are forming, between both the animal and the youth. Slowly the dog will move forward to sit closer to the human reading the story, and the youth's confidence and reading ability grows stronger.

## AGED CARE PROGRAMS

Our trained volunteers regularly take one of our resident shelter dogs to visit a local nursing home. This is one of the highlights of the residents' week, when they get to pat and interact with our dogs and get lots of licks and tail wags in return. It also provides a welcome break from the shelter for our dogs and the chance to interact and socialise with humans outside of shelter staff and volunteers.







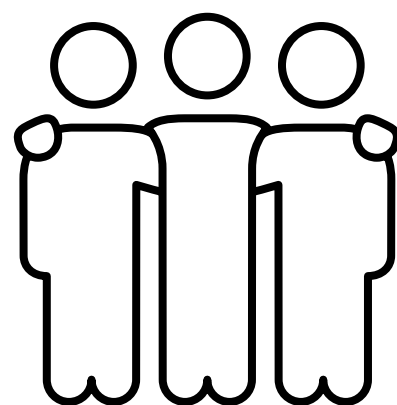

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

As an organisation we pride ourselves on inclusion and focus on ability, not disability. With over 500 registered volunteers who help us 365 days a year, we use our volunteering program to support those with a range of mental and physical abilities.

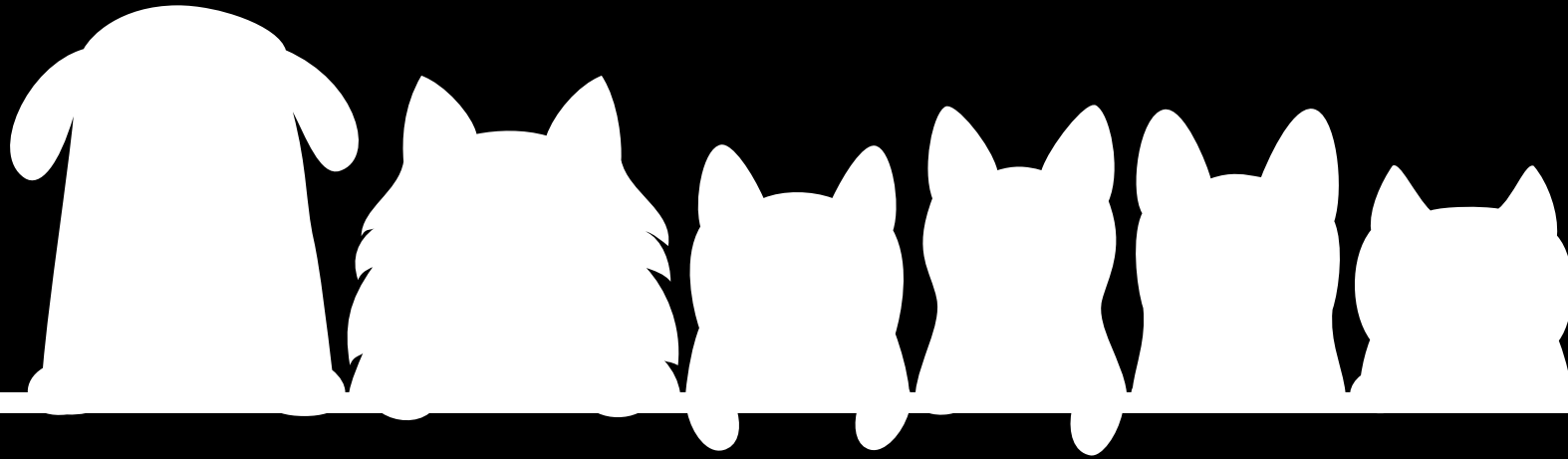
## COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home provides opportunities for people to complete their hours of service to the community. We typically have 10 individuals in this Program in any given week helping out at the shelter. One of these individuals, who has done 200 hours of community service at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, had this to say:

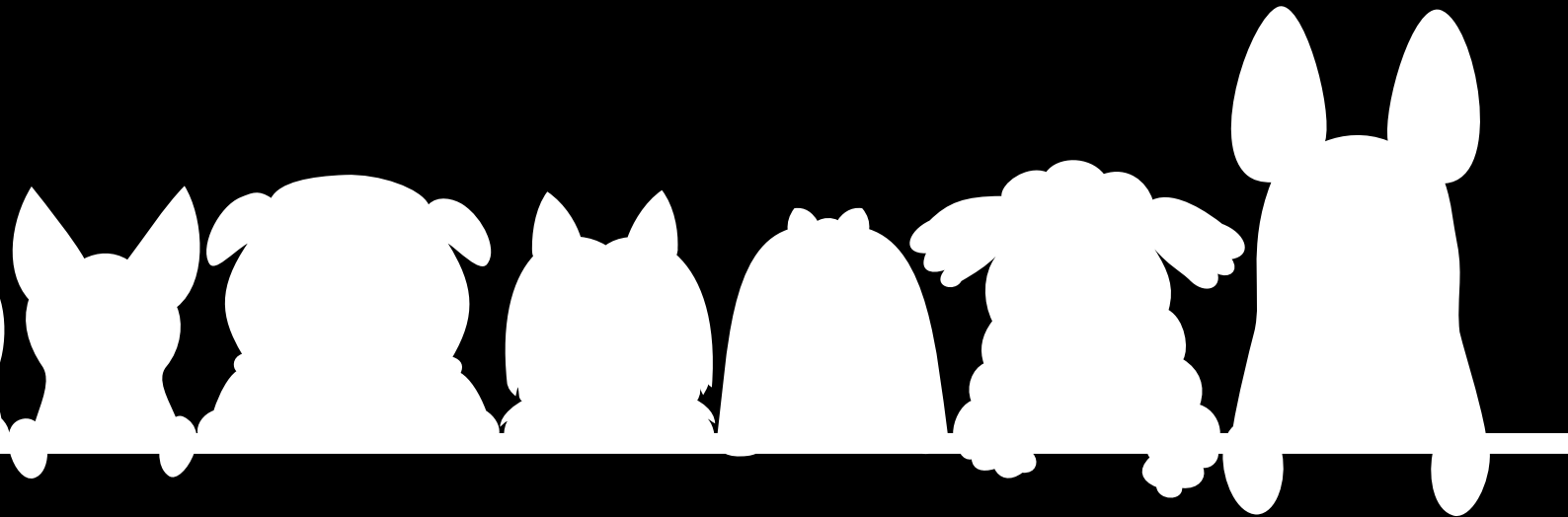
"In doing Community Service at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home I quickly realised that it was actually a positive for me and that I don't do enough in my life to help others. If you do something positive, that positive things can happen to you in return. I took my time at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home seriously and was always treated fairly and respectfully by the staff and other volunteers. Beyond my Community Service order, it is my choice to continue volunteering at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home which reflects how my time there has positively affected me."

**Our new home at Kurnell will enable our outreach programs to grow deeper into the community than ever before.**



# GETTING TO 0

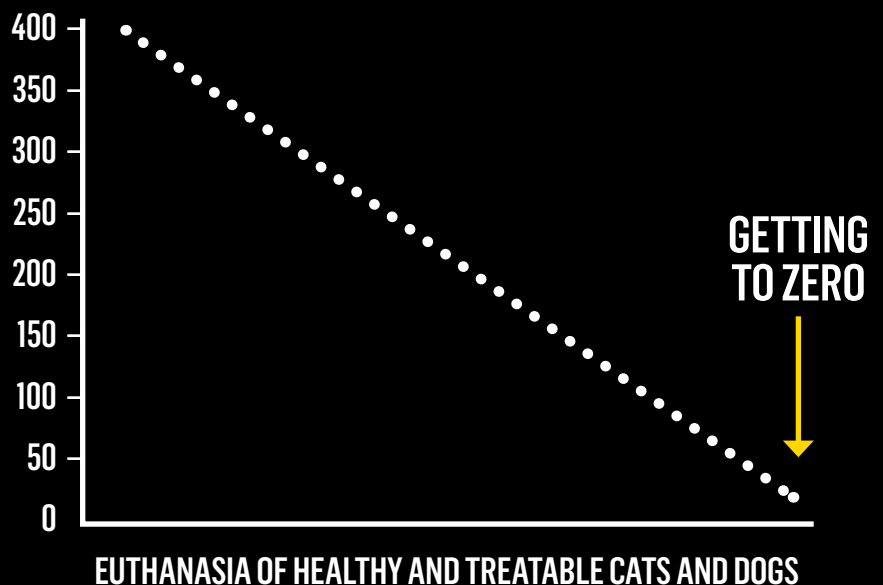


Sydney Dogs & Cats Home strives to rehome every healthy and treatable animal that comes through our door, and unlike other pounds, we never place a time limit on any animal awaiting adoption. It's why we are committing to the Getting to Zero initiative.

Getting to Zero seeks to achieve zero euthanasia of all healthy and treatable cats and dogs. A new centre at Kurnell will help support our ability to achieve this goal.



**2,312**  
**PETS REHOMED**  
 IN FY20/21



I am in favour of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN





# SUPPORTING FUTURE VETS

Right now accross Australia and in Sydney, there is a shortage of veterinarians. A new and larger facility at Kurnell will enable Sydney Dogs & Cats Home to support more veterinary science students with pre-clinical and clinical study placements; this will give students a greater chance to gain invaluable experience during their studies to become a vet.



“

A new facility will enable Sydney Dogs & Cats Home to connect industry professionals from the veterinary field to TAFE and university students both onsite and online.

”

DR LAURA TAYLOR  
Head of Animal Care

“

Doing my placement at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home was a perfect opportunity to put my studies into practice as well as strengthen my desire to help animals as a career path.

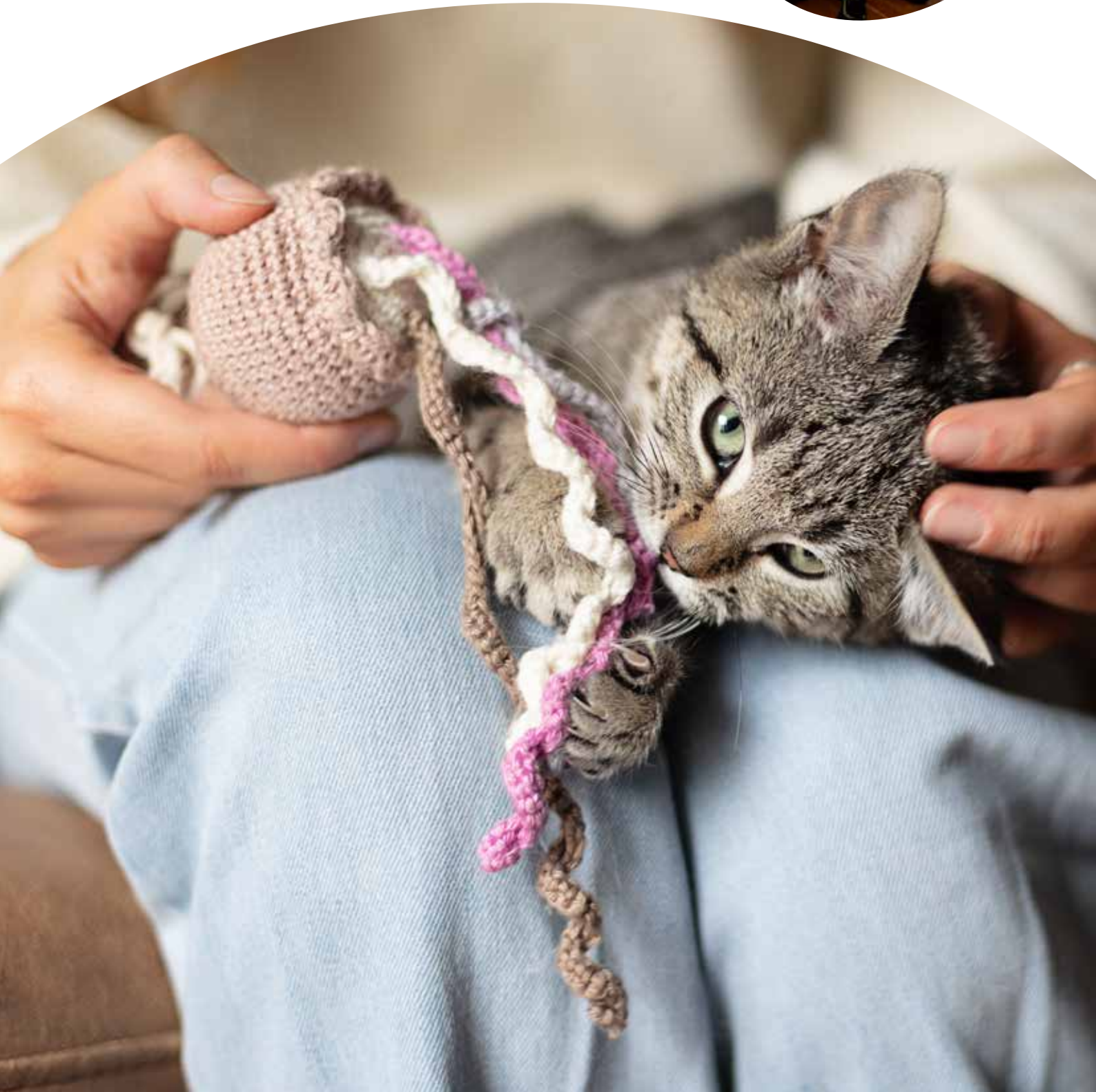
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IVA NIKOLAEV  
3RD YEAR VETERINARY STUDENT  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY





# OUR CHALLENGE IS NOW





The rising number of abandoned pets post-COVID and due to cost-of-living pressures, is having a devastating impact on Sydney's pets and people.

Even though at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home we have the expertise to make a real difference, we have outgrown our current site.

We receive requests to help hundreds more lost, abandoned and neglected animals each week, but we've outgrown our current home. Plus many of our community programs are paused, due to lack of space.

**Help us build our new home in Kurnell, so we can be there for more dogs, cats, puppies and kittens, who urgently need our help.**





Dixie  
Victory

WILEY  
BOATMAN

Once our new home is built, we will provide Sydney with more animal welfare services desperately needed to help this city's lost, abandoned and neglected dogs and cats.



We will also be able to provide expanded community outreach programs that see animals support some of Sydney's most vulnerable people.





# HOME SWEET (NEW) HOME

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is one of the city's oldest, biggest and busiest charity community pounds. Our mission is to responsibly reunite, rehome and rehabilitate companion animals in our care, whilst providing the highest level of service to our city.

A new home at Kurnell is a big change, but our mission has not. When completed, a new home will include:

- 11,043 square metres (about 3x bigger than our current home)
- Capacity for over 3,000 animals, mostly dogs and cats, every year
- Capacity for pocket pets – smaller animals such as rabbits
- More comprehensive veterinary health clinic with space for supporting professional development and education for industry and veterinary science students
- Expanded exercise yards
- Dedicated spaces for Community Outreach (including dedicated spaces for pet and people therapy).





**A new home will benefit dogs and cats that have been abandoned, neglected or lost by:**

- increasing the number of animals in care
- reducing the number of days in care
- expanding Veterinary Clinic and services
- purpose built kennels / flexible spaces for animal housing
- extra space to expand Community Outreach programs
- enabling more industry professional development and training opportunities including University and TAFE veterinary student placements
- growing our Foster Care Program and Volunteer space to support over 500 volunteers
- best practice design with spaces that are connected to better meet animal needs
- dedicated space to support therapy for cats and dogs with behavioural issues
- larger spaces to allow more than one member of the animal care team to be in a room at the same time assessing animals needs
- more efficient layout with minimised distances between spaces for movement of animals reducing risk of animal and staff injury
- more points to connect with teleconferencing or video conferencing systems.

And the list goes on and on...



# OUR AMBASSADORS

## ADAM, NATALIE & CHANCE GOODES

Adam and Natalie Goodes entered Sydney Dogs & Cats Home specifically looking to adopt an older dog, providing a second chance. They left with Arlo, now known as Chance, who quickly became a cherished member of the family. The Goodes understand the many benefits of adopting a senior pet and are the perfect ambassadors for our Senior Pet Project. Established in 2018, the Senior Pet Project was created as a means not only to put a spotlight on the golden oldies entering the shelter to help with their rehoming, but also to raise the funds required for their much needed veterinary care and often prolonged stay at the Home.



## MIA FREEDMAN

Having adopted two dogs from Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, Mia is a complete convert to providing a shelter pet with a loving home. "Rescuing a pet is just the best, most soulful and deeply rewarding thing you can do. The joy it has brought to our lives is immeasurable". As an ambassador, Mia often promotes the work of Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, helping to raise funds and awareness for the care of Sydney's lost and abandoned pets via her media company, Mamamia.

## SAM MAC

Sam Mac is known best as the TV Weatherman on Channel 7's Sunrise. But his true passion is raising awareness and funds for animals in need of a second chance. Sam has been a Sydney Dogs & Cats Home #Sambassador since 2015. He's the host with the most for our annual Gala Dinners and even adopted a former SDCH resident "Cleocatra", a beautiful blind feline and his beloved Coco.







# HOW YOU CAN HELP?



We urgently need to raise \$8 million dollars to help build a purpose-built facility in Kurnell in Sydney's south and invest in animal welfare, veterinary services and community outreach programs.

The build, which is \$21.6 million, has already raised \$1.6 million from supporters and has received \$12 million cornerstone funding from NSW Government, who understand the urgent need to invest in these services.

So we're confident that our community will help make home happen.









**SYDNEY  
DOGS  
& CATS  
HOME**

To discuss how you can help support the establishment of the Sydney Dogs & Cats Home at Kurnell please contact:

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**WOOF. MEOW.**