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## 60 Years of Animal Welfare League

Join us as we look back on significant events and milestones in our history and celebrate 60 years of connecting pets, people and community through a lifetime of love and memories!

See a [timeline celebrating our history](#) on page 3.

# Celebrating 60 Years of Animal Welfare League



**4 September 1964**

Joy Richardson OAM, passionate animal advocate and founder of Animal Welfare League, officially establishes AWL.



**5 November 1966**

AWL adds a cattery to its headquarters in Norwood to aid in its mission to rehome cats with loving families.



**4 June 1976**

Premier Don Dunstan opens AWL's new Wingfield shelter to help assist with the increasing number of animals in need. Featuring the organisations pet boarding facility, head office and shelter vet clinic, it is still AWL's main shelter and in recent years up to 700 animals could be onsite at any given time.

**1964**

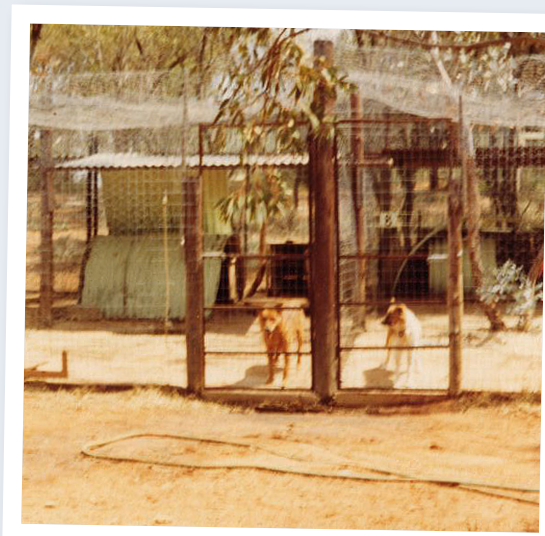
**2 August 1965**

First AWL office and Op Shop opens at 48 Magill Road, Norwood.



**1966**

AWL merges with Lost and Abandoned Dogs Society and relocates to a 12-acre property in Horsnell Gully. With no running water, volunteers had to carry buckets of water in for the animals.



**March 1982**

AWL Pet Cremations officially opens to help pet owners say a proper goodbye and remember their beloved pets. AWL Pet Cremations still offers this service at its Edinburgh North location to this day, and with 100% of profits going straight back to animals in the shelter, every pet farewelled at AWL leaves a legacy of love to other animals in need.

To view the whole timeline and history of AWL, visit [awl.org.au](http://awl.org.au)



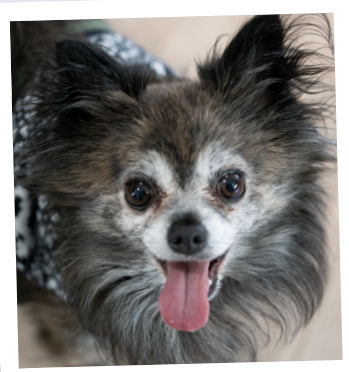
**23 December 1982**

Joy Richardson, AWL founder, passes away leaving an awe-inspiring legacy of empathy and love. Hundreds of thousands of animals knew and will know love thanks to Joy's hard work and passion, and no single person in South Australia has had a larger impact on animal welfare.



**March 2002**

With its Wingfield shelter overflowing with animals in need, AWL establishes a foster care program to enable volunteers to care for animals in their homes for a short period of time while they wait to be adopted. The foster care program still operates, with around 30% of AWL's animal population in foster care at any given time.



**2017**

In response to the growing number of pet owners who see their pets as part of the family, AWL opens a state-of-the-art pet cremation facility next to the shelter in Edinburgh North.

**2024**

**30 October 1988**

AWL's Pet Boarding facility opens to help ensure furbabies have somewhere safe to leave their furbabies for short periods of time while they couldn't care for them. The boarding facility still operates to this day, run by a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who treat all their guests as their own.



**17 April 2005**

Affectionally called 'Ed' by staff and volunteers, AWL's Edinburgh North facility opened after the organisation began caring for even more dogs after the closure of Sandy Creek Dog Sanctuary.



**4 September 2020**

AWL opens its brand new, state-of-the-art Animal Care Centre at its Wingfield location. Offering a fear-free experience for animals, the new centre allows potential adopters to meet pets in the most stress-free environment possible. In its first three years, the new facility has enabled AWL to find homes for 8,259 animals and perform 54,247 vet consults and surgeries.

**The Animal Care Centre was funded entirely by the compassion and generosity of people just like you – people who just wanted better outcomes for vulnerable animals. Without you, none of this would be possible!**



# Our vision for the future



**We're so inspired by Joy Richardson and her vision and legacy that we want to share with you our vision for the future of animal welfare in South Australia.**

Thanks to our wonderful team of supporters, we're in a position where we get to be at the forefront of creating a better world for animals all over the state.

Many animals already know what it's like to be loved, but their owners might be experiencing financial difficulties which prevent them from giving their pets basic veterinary care such as annual health checks and desexing.

We're so excited to announce that we're setting up programs to help vulnerable pet owners not only keep their beloved pets, but ensure they live their best lives.

We're working closely with Community Centres South Australia (CCSA) to provide **free nose-to-tail health checks and basic veterinary advice** for any pets whose owners have concession cards. Working alongside CCSA, we'll hopefully

in time be able to roll this across a large number of community centres in SA

We're also planning to set up a mobile **desexing and microchipping unit** to help vulnerable pet owners ensure their pets can undergo two of the most important medical procedures of their lives.

These two initiatives will bring long-overdue peace of mind to responsible pet owners who, through no fault of their own, haven't been able to keep up with their pets' veterinary needs.

## **But that's not all...**

We're also partnering with the Department of Education to help educate students about the importance of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership!

AWL will be delivering a learning program for young adults including Transition and Flexible Learning Pathways for students who are interested in a **career in animal care**.

The program will involve a tour of our Animal Care Centre, in-depth training from experienced AWL staff members in our animal care, vet and behaviour

teams, and the observation and recording of animal behaviour.

All of these initiatives are in the early stages of development, but to say we're excited about them is an understatement. Not only will these programs go a long way towards helping to address South Australia's stray animal population, but they'll also give the next generation of passionate animal-lovers the knowledge and skills to keep creating change, decades into the future.

None of this would have been possible without your support. Your generosity and love for animals is invaluable in fulfilling the vision of AWL founder and animal advocate Joy Richardson 60 years after she began her pioneering work to improve the welfare of animals across the state.

**We'll keep you updated on the progress of all three of these programs as they develop. We are so grateful to you for giving us the means to set these initiatives up and create real change for South Australian animals and their families – we genuinely couldn't do it without you!**

## Poppy's heartwarming happy tale

Many of you would be familiar with Poppy, the sweet little Tibetan Spaniel who was found by AWL staff roaming the streets during a torrential thunderstorm. She was a sorry sight – scared, injured and soaking wet.

Thankfully, the kindness of animal lovers like you saved her life and kept her safe, ensuring she could recover from her injuries and get over her fears in the comfort of a foster home.

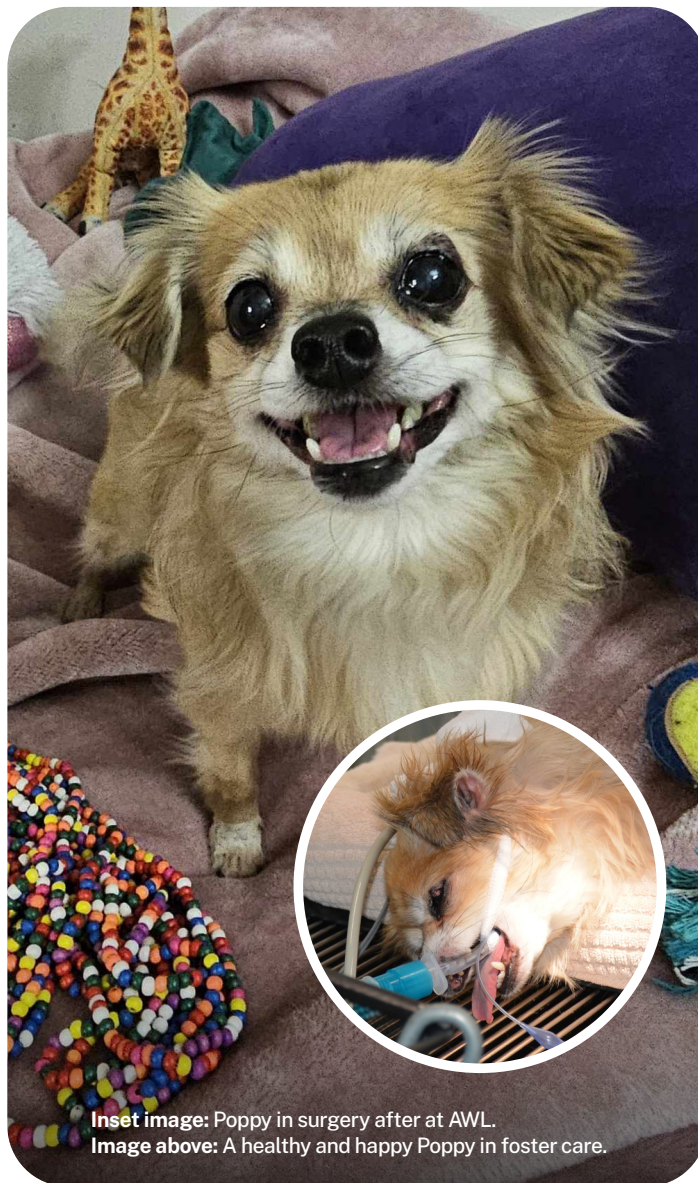
Her foster carer, Emma, said she couldn't believe the dog she was caring for was the same dog who came to the shelter during that horrible storm.

"Poppy was very shut down at the shelter, she wouldn't really let anyone near her and would a little warning bark if you got too close," Emma said.

*"That all changed once I took her home though, and after 30 minutes she had pretty much made herself at home and decided that my lap was hers!"*

Poppy is still recovering and will be ready to find her loving new home soon!

Your donation can save a life! To show your kind support for dogs like Poppy please visit [awl.org.au/donate](http://awl.org.au/donate).



**Inset image:** Poppy in surgery after at AWL.  
**Image above:** A healthy and happy Poppy in foster care.



## Happy homes corner

Moon is a sweet gift who spent a whopping 463 days at AWL before we found the right home for this gorgeous and energetic dog. But the wait was absolutely worth it - her new owners are the perfect match for this gorgeous girl!

"Moon has been the greatest addition to our lives. She has settled in so well with us and we love her more every day. She is spoilt with love, toys and treats. She loves sunbaking, going to the beach, and walking in nature. She is the biggest cuddle bug and follows us everywhere we go." Although it took a long time, finding the perfect match for Moon was so important - she now has a loving family that can provide the love and support she needs!

**We have lots of pets, just like Moon, who are looking for their forever home. If you are interested in opening your heart and adopting a pet, check out our website [awl.org.au/adopt](http://awl.org.au/adopt)**



## Decades of devotion to AWL

Lyn Bastet, long-time AWL supporter, was just a young girl when she first met AWL founder Joy Richardson. “I was living at Campbelltown and Joy was at Felixstow, the adjacent suburb,” Lyn said. “She was running a pet shelter from her home and back then - it was a tight knit community, everyone knew everyone.”

In 1964, at the age of 8, Lyn donated some of her pocket money to help Joy with her expenses and then she started volunteering. “The cat shelter moved to Magill Road and the dogs were at Horsnell Gully,” Lyn said.

*“I helped at the cat shelter, washing dishes and just helping out. If I was at the supermarket I would ask people to buy some pet food for the shelter.”*

Lyn remembers Joy as a very nice, caring person. “If there was an animal in need or trouble Joy would deal with it. She never said no,” Lyn says. “She was also a very good judge of people, but the animals were always the priority.”

After the Wingfield shelter opened in 1976, Lyn continued to volunteer until her marriage in 1977. “I lost contact with Joy but I never stopped supporting AWL,” she said.

Lyn’s connection with AWL was more than just volunteering - she also adopted a cat who was a part of her family until they passed away at 21. Lyn knew she couldn’t live without an animal in her life, so just last year she adopted Jovi, a 5-year-old black cat. She said she was blown away by how far AWL had come and the care they provide the animals.

*“I visited the Animal Care Centre, just the cat section. I thought to myself ‘wouldn’t Joy be proud?’”*, Lyn said.



## Introverted cats living their best lives

Have you heard about the AWL Cat Socialisation Program for introverted cats? A lot of cats struggle to adapt to life in the shelter, and due to a phenomenon known as ‘shelter stress’, they communicate their fears through behaviours such as hissing, growling, scratching and spitting. When an animal exhibits these behaviours, all they’re trying to tell us is “I don’t feel safe, please give me space”. The AWL team decided to create a program to help these kitties overcome their fears, and the Cat Socialisation Program was born!

The program involved introverted cats being placed with big-hearted foster carers, and we saw fantastic results!

Within the first two weeks, many of these introverts stopped showing fearful behaviours and started interacting with their foster carers! This showed us that all these cats needed was some time in a quiet environment where they felt safe for their little personalities to blossom. Since this program began in November last year, over 400 introverts have found their forever homes!

This program is a purrfect showcase of the progressive approach to animal welfare that AWL is known for, and one of the many reasons animal lovers like yourself have faith in the AWL to do the right thing by every animal who comes through our doors.

**To see the sweet introverted cats who have blossomed in this program and are now available for adoption, visit our website [awl.org.au/adopt](http://awl.org.au/adopt) and look for the ‘introvert’ icon on their profile.**



# Carole's lifetime of love for animals in need

**From the earliest recollections of her first family dogs to nearly 40 years of love and support for the animals in care at Animal Welfare League, Carole fondly looks back on a lifetime spent making a difference to the lives of animals in need.**

"I first became a member of Animal Welfare League in the 80s," Carole said. "They were very good with the animals, I could tell their hearts were in the right place."

Carole, along with her late husband, played a pivotal role in building additional dog kennels at AWL's Wingfield shelter in the 2000s. They wanted to make sure the dogs had a comfortable place to stay while they waited to be adopted, so they worked tirelessly with AWL staff, engineers and architects on the design and build.

In many ways, Carole has continued the legacy of AWL founder Joy Richardson, emulating Joy's progressive attitude towards pet ownership with her own beloved dogs - many of whom have stayed at AWL's Pet Boarding facility. In fact, she often put the needs of her dogs over her own, even years ago in a time when pets weren't generally considered part of the family.

"I was always very conscious of living my life around their needs - I remember we'd be invited to someone's house and the first thing I'd say to my husband was 'well, what about the dogs?'" Carole said.

"We'd have to go home and feed the dogs first, I would never let them go hungry. I think some of my husband's friends thought I was quite mad and a stupid dog woman," she laughed.

Carole continued to put her dogs before anything else, even when she pursued an interest in flying and became the oldest woman in Australia to ever gain a pilot's license. She and her husband bought a plane to celebrate her achievement, making sure to choose a model that had extra room in the back so her dogs could accompany her on her flights.

"I couldn't leave them behind - they were happy as long as they were with me," she said.

Fast forward to today, and Carole's compassion and love for animals lives on through her work with Animal Welfare League. 60 years on from the first time AWL opened its doors to animals in need, Carole is continuing the dream that she and her husband shared of being philanthropists, creating a legacy and leaving a lasting impact in the lives of the vulnerable animals they both loved so much.

Without the support of Carole and other kind animal lovers like her, thousands of pets would never know what it's like to have a loving home. Likewise, thousands of families would never get to experience the love and joy of a family pet.

*"I think once you've had a pet in your life, I don't think you're ever the same again. I'm just a lady who loves animals, and all I want is for every animal to be loved and cared for in the same way my dogs were: as part of the family."* -Carole

If Carole's passion has inspired you and you want to know more about supporting AWL, visit [awl.org.au/support-awl](http://awl.org.au/support-awl)



## Foster Tails: Eeyore's story

Everyone, meet Eeyore! He's a perfect example of how it takes a village to help animals in need. This big, beautiful boy wasn't coping in his pen - the shelter environment was all too much for him. He found respite in his visits to the office area, where he could catch up on z's, but the time to go back to his pen always came. The team knew the best place for Eeyore was in foster care.

Being a big boy, it wasn't easy finding a carer who could take him. Thankfully, foster carer Craig put his hand up and Eeyore settled in straight away at Craig's house. Eeyore's story is common - many animals find the shelter to be a stressful place due to all of the strange sounds, sights and smells. In Eeyore's case, he was particularly spooked by other dogs barking.

As soon as Eeyore went into our foster program, he started eating and wagging his tail more. Then came the day we had all been waiting for... Eeyore was adopted! He's now living it up with his forever family and has forgotten his fears.

It wasn't just the efforts of the team at AWL or his amazing foster carer who helped save Eeyore's life. Your endless love and support meant he could come to AWL, find a foster carer and eventually find a new home where he'll be spoilt for the rest of his days. It takes teamwork to save each and every animal at AWL, and you are a crucial member of that team.

For more information on becoming a foster carer, visit [awl.org.au/become-a-foster-carer](http://awl.org.au/become-a-foster-carer)

## What's on at AWL



### Looking for a furry friend to join your family?

Visit [awl.org.au](http://awl.org.au) to see all of the pets who are currently looking for their forever homes.

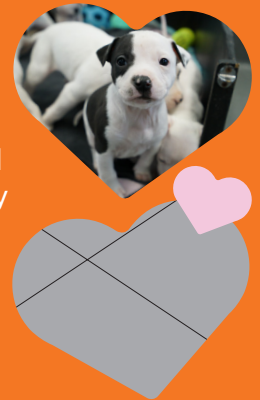
#### AWL adoption sites

- AWL Wingfield  
1-19 Cormack Road, Wingfield
- AWL Edinburgh North  
4 Hewittson Road, Edinburgh North SA 5113

### AWL's spring lottery is now on!

Tickets are just **\$5 each**, and the funds raised in the lottery help provide food, shelter, warmth and love for all of the animals in our care.

Visit [awl-lotteries.com.au](http://awl-lotteries.com.au) to get your tickets.



To stay up to date with all things  
AWL, visit our website and sign up  
for our monthly e-newsletter.  
Visit [awl.org.au](http://awl.org.au)

