

Paw Print



Leo's incredible journey home

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Continue reading **Leo's heartwarming story** on **page 3**.



In this issue

Suzi & Yabby's brave new beginnings
Page 2

Carmelita's Doggy Day Out
Page 4

A special farewell
Page 5

It all began with a single stray dog
Page 6



AWL
Animal Welfare League

SPRING 2026

Suzi and Yabby's brave new beginnings



Earlier this year, compassionate animal-lovers like you came together to give vulnerable animals like Suzi and Yabby the hope they desperately needed. Thanks to your kindness, their lives are no longer shrouded in uncertainty, but full of love and happiness.

Thanks to animal-lovers like you, Suzi and Yabby received the care they desperately needed and the life-changing chance to find their forever families.

When Suzi (who you may remember as Spring) arrived at AWL, she was severely underweight and roaming the streets alone. Her condition was life-threatening, because when a dog is starving, their body begins breaking down muscle and organs for energy. Suzi was also nervous, particularly around men and loud noises.



Love makes a difference:
Suzi when she first arrived and her today in her new home



But her luck had turned. Because of your kindness, Suzi received urgent veterinary treatment, regular meals, and the gentle care she needed to begin trusting again.

Today, far away from the noise and uncertainty Suzi once knew, she lives in a peaceful riverside town with her new mum and dad. Her days are no longer shaped by fear, but by comfort and routine. She's healthy, happy, and enjoys neighbourhood walks with her dad. With patience and understanding, she's also overcoming her fear of men.



Yabby is another beautiful reminder of what people like you help make possible.

Yabby came into our care with her fur and skin peeling from her body in clumps after suffering severe thermal burns. Thanks to caring people like you, Yabby received veterinary treatment, recovered in foster care, and found the loving home she deserved.

Life now looks very different for Yabby. Her new mum, Lisa, quickly discovered two of Yabby's favourite things are food and being outside. These days you'll often find Yabby hanging out with Lisa, sunbaking in the backyard, enjoying yummy treats, and even heading out on adventures on the lead!



Yabby and Lisa

Suzi and Yabby are just two of many animals whose lives have been changed because they could count on a community of caring people like you.

Every day, more cats and dogs arrive at AWL needing urgent care, safety, and a second chance.



Visit awl.org.au/donate to help another animal like Suzi or Yabby.

Leo's incredible journey home

When the phone rang, Leo's mum assumed it was just another ordinary call. Instead, it was a life-changing moment.

After almost five years apart, a family has been reunited with their much-loved missing cat, Leo, thanks to the power of microchipping and a caring community.

Leo, a black and grey tabby, disappeared from his family's home in 2021 after they moved to a new suburb. After searching and hoping for months, Nicole and her daughter Aleeyah began to think they would never see him again.

Out of the blue, almost five years later, Nicole received a call from AWL she hadn't expected.

Leo had been found around 50 kilometres from where he went missing. Someone had noticed him at a West Beach depot and took him to a vet clinic where a quick scan of his microchip put him back in touch with his family!

When Animal Welfare League called Nicole to tell her Leo had been found, she could hardly believe it. "It was extremely shocking," she said.



Aleeyah and Leo

For Aleeyah, who's now 12, the reunion was just as surprising, "I was very surprised, very shocked. I was not expecting it," she said, "It feels like home having him back," Nicole added.

It's believed Leo accidentally travelled to West Beach after climbing into construction equipment near his home. Thankfully, he was in good health and ready to return to his family.

Stories like Leo's are a powerful reminder of why microchipping matters. Now, Leo is cosied up at home, years after he went missing, all because of his microchip!



Reunited after almost 5 years: Nicole with Leo at AWL



To learn more about microchipping, visit awl.org.au/blog/microchip

Carmelita's Doggy Day Out

Lead on, backpack ready, and big smiles – the Schmitz family are taking Carmelita on a Doggy Day Out.

Carmelita's super excited, she loves spending time with people and knows a fun adventure beyond the shelter awaits her.

"Her tail was wagging and she jumped up to greet us all. It was straight into the car without any hesitation and then we headed off to Semaphore," said the Schmitz family.

From beach trips to couch cuddles, our Doggy Day Out program gives dogs the opportunity to experience the world outside the shelter.

For developing young pups like Carmelita, these outings provide valuable opportunities to build social skills, practice good manners, and gain extra exposure to potential adopters.

"We went past the kiosk, and Carmelita was a hit with everyone she met... She saw lots of other dogs, but simply ignored them," said the Schmitz family.

After a big day of exploring, Carmelita's adventure continued with a sleepover – giving her the chance to truly relax and enjoy the comforts of home life.

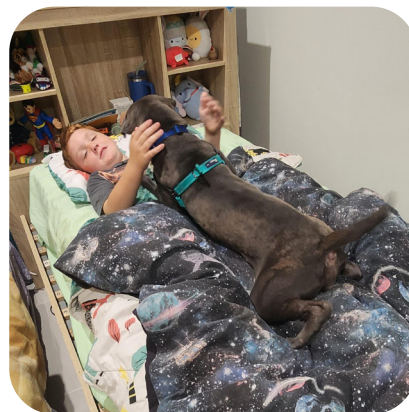
After dinner we drove to Wynn Vale dam for a walk. Once again, so many people fell in love with her and she didn't react to any dogs we passed or to the resident birdlife," said the Schmitz's.

By bedtime, Carmelita made herself completely at home, "Maria had Carmelita's bed [in] her bedroom and Carmelita jumped up to say goodnight, quickly discovering that Maria's bed is really comfy and deciding that she's going to sleep on the bed with Maria."

For the Schmitz family, opening their home to Carmelita, was a special experience they won't forget, "We thank you for giving us the wonderful opportunity to be able to welcome Carmelita into our family, even if it was just for the weekend."

Would you like to go on a Doggy Day Out?

Visit awl.org.au/doggydayout to learn more!



'Maria had Carmelita's bed [in] her bedroom and Carmelita jumped up to say goodnight, quickly discovering that Maria's bed is really comfy and deciding that she's going to sleep on the bed with Maria.'





'Thank you to all at AWL for making a difficult situation that much easier. Very grateful for all the understanding and empathy that has been given to me. Thank you for looking after Flex and returning him to me with the dignity he deserves.'

- Jane

A special farewell

We had the honour of supporting Jane as she said goodbye to her beloved horse, Flex. Flex's final journey was dignified, personal and full of love.

Jane brought Flex to our team in his horse float, in his usual spot, giving him one last ride back to the farm; a quiet, powerful moment.

Jane has trusted AWL Aftercare with many of her pets over the years, including Flex's stable mate Maverick in 2022, and it was a privilege to support her again.

As part of his farewell, Jane chose to include a meaningful tradition, placing a silver coin with Flex as a symbolic gesture for his journey – sometimes known as “payment to the ferryman”. We were honoured to respect this wish and return the coin to Jane after his cremation.

We know these moments matter. The rituals, the memories, the meaning behind them.

As the only organisation in South Australia with a dedicated equine cremation chamber, we're able to support horses like Flex with the same level of care, dignity and respect we give every animal entrusted to us.

By choosing AWL to help farewell Flex, Jane has helped provide food, shelter and love for vulnerable animals in our care.

We know these moments stay with families forever, and we're grateful to have helped Jane farewell Flex in a way that honoured their lifelong bond.

To find out more about our aftercare services, head to awl.org.au/farewell

It all began with a single stray dog

When 91-year-old Jan looks back on her connection with Animal Welfare League, it's hard to believe it started with one act of compassion.

In 1964, shortly after AWL was founded, Jan found a stray dog and was asked to bring them to our shelter. Inspired by what she saw, Jan asked herself, how can I help?

At the time, AWL relied almost entirely on volunteers. Jan began helping in the office, answering phones and even taking after-hours calls to help reunite lost pets with their families. "We all did a bit of everything," Jan recalls. "It was hard work, but everyone cared so deeply."

Over the years, Jan saw firsthand the difference compassion can make. One memory stands out above all others; a tiny kitten found after five days without food or water. "Everyone said it wouldn't survive, but I thought if it had lasted five days, it deserved a chance."



Jan nursed the kitten, who she named Jodie, back to health. Jodie went on to enjoy 21 years as a much-loved member of Jan's family!

Today, more than 60 years after her first visit to AWL, Jan and her family continue to support animals in need and welcome them into their home. Jan's story is a powerful reminder that there are many ways to help animals in need.



Make a difference for people and animals by volunteering at AWL. Visit awl.org.au/volunteer for more information.

Sue's gift to grieving pet owners

For years, Sue Jones has been quietly creating something truly special.

After losing her beloved dog, Pippa, Sue was looking for a way to stay connected to animals and give back. When her heart led her to volunteer with AWL, Sue quickly saw an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way – hand-knitting teddies for people saying goodbye to their pet at our Aftercare facility.



Vanessa (Volunteer coordinator), Sue & Jemma (Aftercare)

For Sue, making these teddies is more than knitting. "It gives me a warm feeling," she says. Knowing that each teddy might help someone through a difficult time is something Sue holds close to her heart. In moments where words fall short, they offer comfort, connection, and something to hold onto.

What Sue says is a small gesture of kindness, creates a lasting impact on people's lives.

When Tara had to say goodbye to three pet rabbits, one of Sue's teddies was offered to her. "I treasure the teddy and keep it on display as a reminder of my much-loved bunnies", Tara shared, "it gave me so much comfort when I needed it most and still does".

Tara now works with our Aftercare team, who see the comfort these teddies bring all the time. "It's marvellous that our volunteers would spend this time, it really does put a smile on people's faces before they leave, after saying goodbye to their pets", our Aftercare team shared.

A big thank you to our AWL volunteers, whose kindness provides a lot of comfort to people grieving their beloved furry family members.

A promise that lasted a lifetime



Barbara's family: Annette, Beryl and Mel

When Barbara's family visited Animal Welfare League, it was a chance to reflect, remember, and celebrate a remarkable legacy of love for animals.

Gathered for a morning tea in her honour, three generations shared stories, laughter, and a deep connection to the cause Barbara cared about so passionately. From Beryl to Annette to Melanie, each generation has adopted animals and stayed in touch with AWL, continuing a tradition of compassion that spans decades.

It was during the morning that Beryl shared something truly special – Barbara had decided at just eight years old that she would leave her estate to help animals.

It was a promise she carried with her throughout her life – and one she ultimately fulfilled. Today, that commitment lives on. Not only through her generous gift, but through the passion and dedication of her family, who continue to advocate, adopt, and support animals in need.

Barbara's story is a powerful reminder that a love for animals can shape a lifetime – and beyond. For those who share this compassion, leaving a gift in your Will is a meaningful way to ensure that care continues, helping give vulnerable animals the second chances they deserve for generations to come.



Memorial to Barbara at 'Giving Day' 2026

To find out more about leaving your own legacy, head to awl.org.au/leave-a-gift-in-your-will

Pet Food Pantry

The gut-wrenching choice between feeding themselves or their pet is a reality for too many people, but when a community comes together, incredible things can happen.

Every week, Gale fills our van with bags of pet food before setting off across Adelaide.

Every delivery means one less family is forced to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their beloved pet.

Through AWL's Pet Food Pantry, caring people like you are making sure pets experiencing hardship don't have to go without; donating tonnes of pet food to AWL in support.

Our dedicated volunteer, Gale, packages the food into portions and hits the road to make vital deliveries across Adelaide to people and their pets.

By removing barriers to pet healthcare, we're not just preventing illness and suffering - we're helping to keep pets and their people together, safe and healthy.

Helping people care for their pets during difficult times, but each meal is more than just food in a bowl – it's also peace of mind for a pet's family, reassurance that they can stay together.

Pet Food Pantry is more than a service; it's a lifeline for both people and their pets. And it's only possible because of compassionate people like you!



So far this year, Pet Food Pantry has provided 8,294 meals for pets in need.

That's more than 8,000 times a worried pet owner didn't have to worry about how to keep themselves and their pet fed.



More ways to support AWL



Could your new best friend be waiting at AWL?

Visit awl.org.au to see all of the pets who are currently looking for their forever homes.

AWL adoption sites

AWL Wingfield ACC
1-19 Cormack Road,
Wingfield, SA 5013

AWL Edinburgh North Shelter
4 Hewittson Road,
Edinburgh North, SA 5113

Have you got your ticket for the AWL lottery?

Every AWL lottery ticket helps animals in need. For just \$5, you can go in the draw to win a \$36K car of your choice or take it in cash! All while helping provide food, shelter, warmth and love for all the animals in our care.

Visit awl-lotteries.com.au to get your tickets



Treasure hunting that gives back

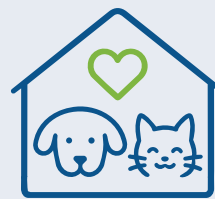
Every purchase at an AWL Op Shop helps provide food, shelter and care for vulnerable animals, with all proceeds going straight back to the animals in our shelters.

Visit our Op Shops:

Unley - 150 Unley Road

Tranmere - 66 Reid Avenue

Gawler - 137 Murray Street.



Going somewhere? Let your pet stay at our place!

Visit awl.org.au/boarding for more info

To stay up to date with all things AWL, visit our website and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

Visit awl.org.au

