Lort Smith is a unique organisation that holds a treasured place in the hearts and minds of animal lovers across Victoria. Our veterinary hospital, adoption centre and outreach services have touched the lives of more than 1,000,000 animals and countless people, particularly those who are marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged.

With your help, each year our adoption centre finds new homes for approximately 1,000 animals, our hospital provides $1.4M in discounted veterinary care and our pet therapy team provide approximately 2,500 hours of visits to people in hospital, aged care and other facilities providing joy and comfort.

The positive social impact of this work has been estimated by Ernst & Young at more than $10M per annum. Still, there is more to be done.

Year on year the need for our services grows, but our current physical facilities have reached their limits.

Your gift will expand the facilities in North Melbourne and help us reach our aspirations to deliver world class animal care.

As Melbourne grows we need a new community site and your support of this second site will have a vast impact on the reach of these vital community services.

Healthcare is advancing at an extraordinary rate. People are living longer and healthier lives. Sadly, these advances are slow to benefit our animal companions who are so critical to our health and wellbeing. By expanding our reach and upgrading the level of care we can provide, we plan to change this.

Lort Smith has been a part of my life for more than 25 years. I have witnessed the powerful bond people have with animals, shared the joy of helping animals find new homes and watched in awe as skilled clinicians deliver lifesaving care to animals in need.

I first became involved with Lort Smith when I was looking for an animal to adopt. I grew up with six cats, four dogs, horses and cattle, so my world was never complete unless surrounded by animals. I not only left Lort Smith with a new pet on that day, but established a long-term relationship that would include 14 years as a Board Member.

Lort Smith offers a welcome embrace, shelter and a place to heal. In this world we all have difficult circumstances we have to deal with. Companion animals provide the love, support and a caring relationship that can be missing for many people.

I became involved in the Pet Therapy program where my beloved Jack Russell, Solo and I would visit children in hospital, offering a moments reprieve from their sometimes, horrendous medical treatments. These visits reinforced to me the incredible human animal bond, its healing effect and the need to nurture this bond.

I am proud to be the Patron of the Lort Smith Our Future Is In Your Hands Capital Campaign. The Campaign aims to provide much needed upgraded facilities for Lort Smith. It will pave the way for an exciting vision of providing world class animal healthcare and improving accessibility to services for a growing population.

I support this campaign as I believe in the bond between people and animals and wish to ensure that Louisa Lort Smith’s legacy will continue for another 80 years.

I ask you to join me on this journey and generously support this vital Capital Campaign.
Ayla presented to Lort Smith with massive facial trauma at just nine months old. She had multiple fractures to her right jaw and cheek, including damage to her eye socket. Her injuries were shocking. The prognosis for a good surgical outcome was very low. A further concern was the displacement of her teeth. There was a chance that a symmetrical functional jaw closure could not be recreated from an injury so serious.

Ayla had to endure multiple operations using pins and rods which sat on the outside of her jaw, known as external skeletal fixation, in order to rectify the fractures. This technique is usually only considered for the most severe of fractures. Luckily for Ayla the Lort Smith team were able to repair her injuries. And her good fortune continued when she found a loving home through the Adoption Centre.

AYLA’S STORY

“A

Without your loyal support, dogs like Ayla would not be given the second chance they deserve. Ayla was such a beautiful and loving puppy – she deserved to be cared for and live in a safe and loving home.”

Dr Warren Gatt
Head Veterinarian – Surgery

Lort Smith stands as an iconic institution that has been serving the animals and people of Melbourne and beyond for more than 80 years.

In 1936, driven by a passion for animals, two formidable women, Louisa Lort Smith and Lady Frances Lyle brought to life the vision of a hospital that cared for the animals of the poor and disadvantaged. Together they opened the Lort Smith-Lyle Hospital for Sick and Injured Animals.

Since then philanthropy has been fundamental to the organisation in delivering its mission. It was only through the generosity of Lady Lyle, who donated £5,000 to build the hospital, that Lort Smith became a reality. More than 80 years on from its humble beginnings, the organisation still stands proudly on the same site in North Melbourne. It is still supported each year from the Estate of Louisa Lort Smith and countless other donors and bequestors.

Together we can shape the next 80 years – ensuring that the communities we serve benefit from world class animal healthcare and wellbeing. We have aspirations to build on our foundations of philanthropy and hope. We need support from individuals, businesses and communities that wish to protect and invest in an enduring legacy of care and compassion for animals and people.
I love being a pet therapy volunteer with Lort Smith because I know that the love and support Bubu and I provide can make such a huge difference to a person’s life. I have never in my life seen faces light up like they do when a pet therapy dog enters a room… that really motivates me.

Dr Jui-shan Chang
Pet Therapy Volunteer

The Lort Smith Pet Therapy program involves volunteers taking their own specially assessed dogs to hospitals and residential care services across Melbourne, providing comfort and relief to people experiencing illness, adversity and loneliness.

Volunteer, Dr Jui-shan Chang, and her dog Bubu, have provided pet therapy to numerous people including hospital patients, their families and staff. One of Jui-shan’s more memorable moments occurred when she was about to commence a pet therapy shift and she heard people calling Bubu’s name. Beryl and Peter have a 40-year-old son, John, who is battling cancer and has received visits from Jui-shan and Bubu. Upon enquiring about John’s health, Jui-shan learned that he had become terminally ill and placed into palliative care. Despite their obvious sadness, Beryl and Peter were delighted to have the chance to thank Jui-shan and Bubu for everything they had done for John. They recalled what a joyful, calming presence Bubu brought them all, and how much they treasured happy memories of Bubu curled up in bed next to John’s foot. It was a beautiful reminder of what a big impact a little dog like Bubu can make, and the importance of Lort Smith’s Pet Therapy program.

Emergency Welfare Assistance (EWA) offers short term accommodation for pets of people who are in crisis, including those experiencing domestic violence, extended medical treatment or a period of homelessness. Lort Smith assists approximately 140 people each year through the EWA program.

Harry was nine years old when tragically both of his parents died. While the Child Protection Agency managed Harry’s case, it was not possible for him to stay with his beloved dog Betsy. Through its EWA program, Lort Smith was able to look after Betsy. They found her a foster home located close to where Harry was living. This meant Harry could regularly spend time with Betsy, gaining critical emotional support during a tragic and very difficult time in his life. As soon as Harry found a permanent home, he was reunited with Betsy and they are now living together again.

Our Stay and Grow Strategy

Over time the demand for our services has increased and accessibility of our site in North Melbourne is constrained. Community expectations are also shifting in regards to the level of care people want for their cherished pets. Our Stay and Grow Strategy incorporates two significant projects – the first seeks to upgrade our North Melbourne site to be a centre of excellence in veterinary care, whilst the second is to build a new community site in Melbourne’s north.

Great vision requires great investment. Lort Smith has committed significant funding to implementing its Stay and Grow strategy but now we need your support. We are embarking on a capital campaign to raise $20M over the next four years to make our vision a reality.

Dr Patrick Cheah
Head Veterinarian – Outpatients

I choose to work at Lort Smith because of the wide range of surgical cases I get to treat and the immense personal satisfaction I get from knowing my work assists shelter animals and people in genuine need.

Redevelopment of the current site to a “State of the Art” facility will elevate Lort Smith. The pets will receive a higher level of care with the latest equipment and techniques available. Both projects are very exciting. The changes will provide the space for more patients to receive treatment. In turn, improved equipment will allow our vets to provide a greater range of treatments.

Dr Warren Gatt
Head Veterinarian – Surgery

IT IS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION, THE PURITY OF PROVIDING THE VERY BEST VETERINARY CARE IN A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION.

EACH YEAR, ON AVERAGE, LORT SMITH:

- Conducts nearly 40,000 consultations
- Rehomes nearly 1,000 animals
- Provides $1.4M in vet care discounts
- Is supported by 400 volunteers
- Provides 2,500 hours of pet therapy

TOGETHER WE CAN WRITE AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER
As community expectations shift in relation to veterinary care, demand for the very best care continues to grow. For too long animal healthcare has fallen behind the advances made in human healthcare. For too long, the landscape of world class excellence in healthcare has been limited to human healthcare – but our bold vision is to change this.

With solid foundations and a more than 80 year history of caring for animals, this is something our current location in North Melbourne is well placed to address. The redevelopment of our North Melbourne site will see new and improved facilities, allowing us to expand our emergency and surgical services and provide even better and more complex veterinary care. This will also give us the opportunity to boldly contribute to advancing veterinary medicine in Australia.
The new site is located in Melbourne’s North. It will provide high quality community veterinary services, extending our philosophy of affordable care and discounts.

It will focus on community with potential for training veterinary nurses, placements for veterinary students, support for volunteers and a place for a community of local animal lovers to come together. The site will provide primary veterinary care, community based services and a purpose built animal friendly shelter. It will also improve accessibility to our core constituency as Melbourne continues to grow.

GROW BUILDING A NEW SITE IN MELBOURNE’S NORTH PHILANTHROPIC NEED: $8M

IMPROVE FACILITIES FOR ANIMALS IN OUR ADOPTION CENTRE
Our new site will become home to our Adoption Centre. The Adoption Centre will provide significantly improved amenities for animals while they are waiting to be rehomed. It will provide green space for outdoor dog runs and we will purpose build facilities for cats based on best practice models. This will ensure an environment which is less stressful on animals.

ENSURE WE MAINTAIN OUR ANTI EUTHANASIA STANCE
We remain steadfast to never euthanise an animal that is capable of being rehomed. This at times requires animals to have long stays, so it is critical we work to improve our capacity for animals to be cared for in a home environment rather than an institutional setting such as a kennel. This includes actively developing and growing our foster care network.

PROVIDE FUNDING TO INCREASE OUR SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN CRISIS
Our Emergency Welfare Assistance program recognises that everyone should be able to experience the amazing benefits of sharing their lives with a pet. This includes doing everything we can to protect the human animal bond when times are tough.

Our new site will expand our Emergency Welfare Assistance program to support people in crisis, whether related to domestic violence, mental health or homelessness.

PROVIDE INVESTMENT FOR OUTREACH SERVICES
Our vision is not merely about bricks and mortar. We unequivocally know the enormous value Pet Therapy brings to people in hospitals, aged care facilities and more recently, a youth justice centre. There is so much more we can achieve through the development of this program.

We plan to extend our outreach programs, such as Pet Therapy, to a broader community.

HELP REDUCE SURRENDERS
Too often, people surrender a much loved pet due to veterinary costs they cannot afford, a change in circumstances or behavioural issues they cannot manage.

We aim to keep more animals and their carers together through increased animal behavioural support, because we know well trained pets are less likely to be surrendered and more likely to be rehomed. Our model of affordable vet care is also pivotal in reducing the need for people to surrender their pets.
At only a few weeks old, Gizmo was put in a garbage bag with his mother and siblings and cruelly thrown from the balcony of an apartment building. Against all odds, this lucky kitten was the only survivor and was taken by a good Samaritan to Lort Smith.

Thanks to our amazing veterinary team and lots of TLC, Gizmo made a full recovery and is getting a second chance at life with a devoted new family. Gizmo is showered with love by his carers who are thankful for the opportunity to adopt an inspirational little fighter.

GIZMO’S STORY

Judy has been volunteering in our laundry for nearly 2 years. Following the loss of her “life saviour” Miss Cubby, Judy’s GP suggested volunteering as a way to help cope with her grief. Judy finds comfort volunteering in the laundry, providing clean bedding to all the animals across the hospital and adoption hub. Judy has also experienced some unexpected benefits from volunteering, including lowering her blood pressure and reducing her depression and anxiety. Judy’s own GP has been blown away by her results and commented that volunteering has been “the best medicine” possible.

Judy has been so inspired by the staff at Lort Smith, she is now pursuing her Certificate in Animal Studies at Box Hill Institute, something she had never dreamed she would have had the confidence to do.

I ENJOY VOLUNTEERING AT LORT SMITH AS I WANT TO GIVE BACK TO THE BEAUTIFUL AND CARING STAFF WHO LOOKED AFTER MY SPECIAL CUBBY GIRL. ONCE I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I WANT TO COMPLETE VET NURSING. THIS HAS CHANGED MY LIFE AND WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT GENEROUS DONORS AND THE LORT SMITH TEAM.

Judy Allan
Lort Smith Volunteer
We are committed to the advancement of veterinary medicine and ensuring the communities we serve benefit from world class animal healthcare and wellbeing.

As the busiest animal hospital in Australia and a history spanning more than 80 years, Lort Smith is uniquely placed to drive animal care forward. To achieve this, we need to equip ourselves to the highest standards.

With the addition of a new site and the redevelopment of our current North Melbourne site, we aspire to provide the very best care and support for animals. However, we cannot do this alone.

Just as Louisa Lort Smith needed Lady Lyle to help bring her vision to life, Lort Smith needs your support.

The Our Future is in Your Hands Lort Smith Capital Campaign aims to gain the support of philanthropists, businesses and the community looking to make a significant impact with their generosity. We aim to partner with community leaders that understand our vision and want to play an important role in bringing it to life. We need supporters like you who are motivated by the extraordinary human animal bond that exists, and the incredible healing effect it has on people and animals alike.

We are truly indebted to the passionate people who have established and maintained the foundations of Lort Smith for more than 80 years. As custodians of this proud legacy it is now time to look to the next 80 years and ensure a sustainable and purposeful future.

The Lort Smith Board has endorsed a vision whereby the communities we serve benefit from world class animal healthcare and wellbeing. The focus on world class is central to our future and the specific plans we have for the next stage of our journey.

And so, it is with great passion and purpose we enter the next phase in the history of Lort Smith. We ask for your support as we embark on this important journey.

THE BOARD HAS ENDORSED A VISION WHEREBY THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE BENEFIT FROM WORLD CLASS ANIMAL HEALTHCARE AND WELLBEING.

WE NEED YOUR HELP, JOIN US ON THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY.
Help Us Become World Class

OUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Lort Smith invites you to make a difference and support the Our Future is in Your Hands Campaign. Help Us Become World Class.

Your donation is vital and will enable Lort Smith to provide improved medical facilities and care, advance animal research and provide compassionate community services to a greater audience.

We are proud to offer naming opportunities to key medical specialty and shelter areas at both sites. The buildings will be located at Villiers Street, North Melbourne and a new site located in the north.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with you personally to discuss your interest in supporting our future vision.

Please contact:
Mr David Drysdale
Head of Fundraising & Communications
Lort Smith
P 03 9287 6415
E ddrysdale@lortsmith.com

Expression of Interest

Lort Smith invites you to make a difference and support the Our Future is in Your Hands Campaign. Help Us Become World Class.

Your donation is vital and will enable Lort Smith to provide improved medical facilities and care, advance animal research and provide compassionate community services to a greater audience.

We are proud to offer naming opportunities to key medical specialty and shelter areas at both sites. The buildings will be located at Villiers Street, North Melbourne and a new site located in the north.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with you personally to discuss your interest in supporting our future vision.

Please contact:
Mr David Drysdale
Head of Fundraising & Communications
Lort Smith
P 03 9287 6415
E ddrysdale@lortsmith.com

Or return this Expression of Interest form to 24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne, 3051

Name

Email

Phone  Mobile

Address

The first time I came to Lort Smith for a visit, I met my beautiful three-legged Jack Russell dog, Lester. Lester had been relinquished by his carers after an accident left one of his legs needing to be amputated. The first time he made eye contact with me I knew he belonged with me and I really needed him to fill a space in my heart.

Lort Smith is a place like no other. I am drawn to the ethics and values of the organisation, advocating that no animal should be denied a second chance at life. All people, no matter their financial circumstances should have access to affordable veterinary care.

Just as Louisa Lort Smith could not bring her vision to life without the generosity of Lady Lyle, Lort Smith cannot advance its future plans without the financial support from people that are also drawn its future vision.

I URGE YOU TO JOIN ME AND DONATE TO LORT SMITH’S FUTURE VISION. TOGETHER WE CAN HELP MORE ANIMALS AND THEIR CARERS.

GIAAN ROONEY OAM

Lort Smith Capital Campaign Ambassador
To uphold the environmental values of Lort Smith, this is printed on EcoStar Uncoated 100% Recycled paper. The paper is certified carbon neutral and 100% recycled. The pulp used is processed chlorine free and is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill.

March 2019