

COMPANION



Lort Smith
caring for animals

**EMERGENCY
WELFARE
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

**A DAY IN THE
LIFE**

**Lort Smith Pet
Therapy dog Baz
and his mission at
Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre**

**DERMATOLOGY
FOR PETS**

Meet Dr Rob Hilton

**SHERMAN GETS
A NEW LEASE
ON LIFE**

AUTUMN EDITION 2020

lortsmith.com





LOUIE. HE WAS ADOPTED FROM
LORT SMITH

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It is my pleasure to introduce our 2020 autumn newsletter, because it is full of wonderful stories made possible through the generous support of people like you.

Every day at Lort Smith I am reminded of what you have helped us to achieve. From observing our dedicated team of vets and nurses deliver complex, life-saving surgeries to animals in need; to witnessing a bonded pair of senior cats leave with their new family from the Adoption Hub; and meeting the Lort Smith Pet Therapy volunteer teams who provide joy and comfort to those in hospitals, aged-care facilities and other centres across Melbourne.

Thank you for helping countless animals and people, particularly those who are marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged.

I am so grateful for people like you, who make all of this possible.

Fiona Webster
CEO



EMERGENCY WELFARE ASSISTANCE THE CRITICAL MISSING LINK.

Lort Smith's Emergency Welfare Assistance (EWA) program provides emergency pet accommodation and care for the companion animals of people experiencing crisis in their lives.

Domestic violence, mental health, homelessness and hospitalisation are common reasons case workers from welfare agencies seek our help.

Many people willingly put the welfare of their animal first, even if it puts their own welfare, health and wellbeing at risk. They won't access support, seek medical care, or attempt to leave unsafe situations if they can't ensure their pet is safe.

The EWA program – accessible through an individual's case worker - provides a critical missing link in the social support network which provides care for the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the community.

We believe 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.

A foster home, medical care, exercise, a healthy diet, lots of cuddles, and emotional support was provided to all of the 160 EWA animals in our care last year.

However, not matter how much love we provide more often than not, this can be a terribly upsetting experience for the beloved pets too. This is why as soon as owner's situation has stabilised, we reunite them.

While issues that lead to people seeking help are far from simple, Lort Smith is here to lighten the burden for vulnerable people and their pets.

Like you, we believe that having animals in our lives is a blessing – and with your help, we would love to be able to help everyone continue to share this experience.

SHERMAN AND
DR CRAWFORD

SHERMAN GETS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE



When Sherman's carers first brought him to Lort Smith, he was not in a good way. The three-year-old Dalmatian was coughing, struggling to breathe and running a high temperature.

A CT scan and blood tests soon revealed that one of Sherman's lungs had collapsed. Dr Crawford, one of our highly skilled veterinarians, said he needed an urgent, life-saving operation.

"He would have died if he didn't have lung surgery within days."

Operating on a dog of Sherman's size, in the condition he was in, is extremely expensive. His carers simply couldn't afford the cost of it and, with heavy hearts, they decided to surrender him into Lort Smith's care.

The complex, four-hour procedure to remove part of Sherman's lungs was the first of its kind performed by Dr Crawford. Lort Smith was fortunate to have the facilities and resources available to undertake this procedure.

Sherman's surgery was a complete success. With lots of love, attention and gentle exercise, he has made a full recovery and is well and truly back to his cheeky, playful self.

Like all good stories, Sherman's has a happy ending. After spending so much time together, Dr Crawford says he fell in love with this gentle and friendly pup and decided to foster him with the view to adopt.

"I took him home for an afternoon because I felt sorry for him and that was that. I suppose I had a soft spot for him because we'd been through so much together already. I can't imagine life without him now."

Sherman now accompanies Dr Crawford to work each day and has become a much-loved member of the Lort Smith family.



Thank YOU

Because of your support in 2019, we were able to continue improving the health and happiness of animals and people in our community.

This is just a snapshot of what you made possible:

648
ADOPTIONS

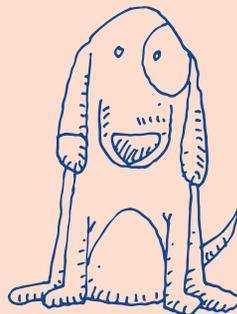
454 CATS

22 RABBITS 152 DOGS

20 GUINEA PIGS

155 FOSTER CARERS
CARED FOR
941 ANIMALS

131,505
MEDICATIONS
DISPENSED



106

PET THERAPY
VOLUNTEERS SPENT
OVER 2,400 HOURS
VISITING HOSPITALS
AND OTHER CENTRES
ACROSS MELBOURNE.

PET Therapy

Wednesdays with Baz

I'm onto Cath, I've noticed a pattern. Every week I'm either having a 'special fragrant bath' or I'm at the local doggy parlour. Don't get me wrong, I do love the treats beforehand, but I come home smelling funny. And it's always just before I have to go to my job at Peter Mac.

I don't think they appreciate the smell, it's a bit whiffy. I get the feeling Cath's trying to make me smell less appealing than her. That's why as soon as possible I find something to roll in that's more dog appropriate.

Cath also goes to the parlour every six weeks. She tells me no one notices, but I do. I love visiting Peter Mac, I go with Cath every Wednesday after our bath from lunch time to tea time. I get to lie on lots

of beds and treatment chairs, sometimes with old friends, other times new friends. I especially love the children – they're my favourite.

Sometimes I get a feeling, like an invisible tug on my lead. It leads me to a human I know I have to meet, sometimes their face is wet and their eyes are heavy – but that's where I shine.

All they need is my head on their lap. I feel the room instantly change the moment they touch my curly hair and rub my soft ears. I see a change in their eyes, like someone has turned a light on, the longer I look into their eyes, the more they glow. I like it when they glow.

I know my job is done when I hear, *"You've made my day Baz"*. It makes me feel strong and proud. Us dogs like to feel proud – it's better than the treats.

I love my special Wednesdays with Cath at Peter Mac. I know we will continue going there for a long time – I mean, how else am I going to keep up my treat intake?

Lort Smith Pet Therapy team Baz and Cath volunteer every week at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Parkville, providing the healing benefits of the human-animal bond to staff, patients, and their families and friends.

BAZ AND
CATH AT PETER
MACCALLUM
CANCER CENTRE



MUFFIN PULLS THROUGH AFTER HORRIFIC accident



MUFFIN POST SURGERY

Muffin came to Lort Smith in an awful state. His body was thin, and severely battered and bruised.

Muffin had gone missing from his home, and when he returned he was in a frightful state. He had been hit by a car receiving a terrible head trauma and severely damaged left eye that had become infected so horribly, it was too graphic to even look at.

Unable to care for him, but also unable to put him to sleep, Muffin's carer brought him in to Lort Smith for help. He needed emergency vet care, rehabilitation and a new home where he could live out his days indoors.

On arrival Muffin was immediately given pain relief and antibiotics. Dr Danae who was the first to see him still remembers the moment she met Muffin.

"He was in an awful state and in so much pain – it was heart breaking," she remembers.

Muffin's injuries were so catastrophic, no one believed he could possibly pull through overnight. The trauma to his head was so severe Muffin couldn't close his mouth, worse still it had caused his eye to come out of its socket.

Muffin went straight into surgery to remove his left eye the next morning. During his operation, vets placed an 'o' tube in Muffin to ensure his body could receive nourishment until he was able to self-feed again. The medical team fed Muffin every four hours to help him gain weight and recover more quickly.

As soon as Muffin was stable, he was given a CT scan to get an accurate picture on the state of his head injuries. The scan confirmed his jaw fracture had forced his teeth out of alignment.

Over the following days, Muffin's swollen face returned to normal and he was able to eat again independently. However, his misaligned jaw became obvious - Muffin needed specialised dental work to be able to eat properly again.

Even through this incredibly tough time Muffin's beautiful spirit shone through. He loved the care and attention he received and would purr away happily in hospital. Muffin's overnight vet Dr Selma, commented how happy he was during his hospital recovery.

"Muffin is divine! He loves to be groomed and brushed."

In total, Muffin spent six weeks at Lort Smith, two in hospital and a further four in foster care for rehabilitation. Once he was made available for adoption it wasn't long before Michael, who has been looking for a furry companion, adopted Muffin.

These days Muffin can now be found playing with his toys, or curling up with Michael to watch TV.

"He's not at all stressed or anxious. He's a very calm and loving cat," says a thankful Michael.

"[Lort Smith] did an amazing job. . . he's been through some serious trauma, but he's come through it with one of the best personalities," he adds.





SAVING TIGER

Tiger had been vomiting for a few days when Jan brought her to a local vet. Initial x-rays showed a blockage in her bowel, but the team needed more detailed images to confirm exactly what they were dealing with.

“They told me they didn’t have the facilities there, and that I should go to Lort Smith for further tests,” says Jan.

When Tiger arrived the accident and emergency team could tell she was in trouble. Tiger hadn’t been to the toilet in as many days and had become weary.

Further detailed imaging including an ultrasound revealed part of Tiger’s intestine had telescoped inside itself. She needed urgent life-saving surgery.

“We see this condition every now and again in young animals,” says Dr Andrew, who performed Tiger’s surgery. *“It’s not caused by any wrongdoing on the carers’s part – simply the luck of the draw.”*

At the time Jan had been injured and lost her job. She wasn’t sure how to cope financially with the unexpected cost of life-saving surgery for her cat. However she was reassured when the team talked her through available payment options.

After surgery, Tiger remained in hospital for six days where she received 24 hour care from staff – a service we are able to provide thanks to generous people like you.

“The staff were absolutely fantastic,” says Jan, referring to the care and attention Tiger received. *“At the time I asked all of my friends and family to go onto the Lort Smith website to donate – they were so good.”*

Like you, we don’t want any pet carer to be forced into giving up a pet or consider making any heartbreaking decision simply because they can’t afford the upfront cost of surgery.

Pets should be able to remain with their loving carers – and because of your kind donations we can offer choice, flexibility and excellent vet care options.

Tiger has since made a full recovery and Jan is back on her feet with a new job. Inspired by the generosity that keeps Lort Smith open, Jan has committed to giving back, helping others who come to Lort Smith in need, just like you.



JOY-FULLY FINDING HER FOREVER family

Joy was just seven months old when she found herself at Lort Smith. The once sprightly Jack Russell terrier cross had become desperately lethargic. Joy's elderly carer, who was also not well, could no longer look after her.

To solve Joy's mysterious weariness, vets carried out a number of tests including blood examinations and a CT scan. It wasn't long before they discovered Joy had a congenital abnormality that prevented blood going through her liver – a process vital to keeping her body healthy. Joy needed liver shunt surgery to save her life.

The team wasted no time, and Joy seemed to pick up quickly after her life-saving surgery – made possible thanks to dedicated Lort Smith supporters like you. However soon she began to deteriorate again, this time showing neurological symptoms.

Joy was immediately transferred back to the intensive care unit (ICU) where she was given special medication and closely monitored around the clock.

After 33 days in hospital Joy was strong enough to leave the ICU and finish her post-surgery recovery in a cosy home environment with one of Lort Smith's dedicated adoption team members, and specialist foster carer, Jacqui.

Over the next five weeks in foster care Joy played with other pups, lazed with cats in the afternoon sun and

learned basic manners. After three months in Lort Smith's care Joy was now mentally ready to find her forever family – but physically she needed more liver tests before she could be given the all clear.

Not wanting her to wait a minute longer, the Adoption Centre team put Joy in the foster to adopt program. This allows Lort Smith to continue providing optimal vet treatment, covered by the Animal Hospital, while transitioning pets into their permanent home. This ensures the best possible outcome for a pet's health and wellbeing.

It wasn't long before Hannah, Alex and their terrier Kyle discovered Joy on Lort Smith's website. After a fantastic meet and greet they set in motion the path to adoption.

“Joy and Kyle play so much – every morning, noon and night – they are wrestling constantly,” says foster-to-adopt carer Alex.

Things are tracking well for Joy and her new forever family – and things will hopefully be made official in the coming weeks.

It's because of you that Joy can see a future filled with possibilities.



JOY IN CARE WITH HER FOSTER SIBLINGS





“It was very apparent how much he cared, and Charlie responded well around him – by this stage Charlie was over vets,” says Maryanne.

After quickly ruling out all standard oral, and topical treatments, Dr Rob sent a skin sample to a specialised interstate lab. Results showed that the infection was not the usual strain of ringworm.

Dr Rob utilised a treatment that vets were using in the United Kingdom – one that showed amazing results, but not widely used in Australia at the time. Within a couple of weeks Charlie’s lesions began to disappear. After six weeks Charlie’s skin was completely clear!

“[Charlie] pulled through thanks to Dr Rob’s research and passion for these kinds of conditions in animals. He is very thorough, patient, nurturing and caring,” says Maryanne smiling.

Dr Rob has over 40 years’ experience in treating allergies, dermatitis and all other skin and ear diseases of dogs, cats and other animals.

His qualifications include the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (UK), Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Veterinary Dermatology, Membership of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology, and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne.

DEDICATED TO DERMATOLOGY

Maryanne had been searching for a family pet for some time when she found Charlie, a beautiful grey kitten, at a local animal shelter. She was instantly drawn to him.

However she soon discovered he had ringworm – a contagious fungal infection. She was advised to take a different kitten, but couldn’t bear the thought of leaving Charlie behind. So she adopted Charlie, taking on the full responsibility of his health.

After four months of various prescribed creams and shampoos, daily bathing, fortnightly shaving and strict quarantine, Charlie was no better.

“I was exhausted, and I felt guilty for keeping Charlie quarantined in a tiled bathroom for weeks on end – but I didn’t want to give up on him,” remembers Maryanne.

A friend advised her to visit Lort Smith. When Maryanne called and explained Charlie’s history, staff booked him in to see Dr Rob Hilton, whose professional interest is dermatology.



**DR ROB HILTON CURED CHARLIE'S
DIFFICULT CASE OF RINGWORM.**

SAVE LIVES.

Become a Pet Protector Today

Pet Protector's help animals in need by providing an ongoing, monthly donation that enables Lort Smith to provide care and support for thousands of sick, injured and vulnerable animals and their families each year.

Lort Smith receives no ongoing government funding, which is why regular giving is so critical. It gives us the financial stability to dedicate funds to help protect the health and wellbeing of every animal that comes into our care.

I would like to become a Pet Protector by making a monthly regular gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 Or my choice of \$

Personal Details

First Name	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Suburb/State	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>	Mobile	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	DOB	<input type="text"/>

Payment Details

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Card Number	<input type="text"/>	Name on Card	<input type="text"/>
Signature	<input type="text"/>	Expiry date	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>

Please complete this form and return to:

Fundraising Team at Lort Smith 24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

To view our Privacy Policy, please visit www.lortsmith.com/privacy. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

They can't do it
on their own



Lort Smith is Australia's largest not-for-profit animal hospital.

Our mission is to improve the health and happiness of animals and the people who care for them, regardless of personal circumstances. We rely on our generous supporters who offer their time and money to help us.

lortsmith.com/petprotector



Lort Smith
caring for animals

24 Villiers Street
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Bequests

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