

RSPCA Tasmania

A gift of more than just dollars...

An innovative and ongoing fundraising campaign specifically designed for the care of older animals has been launched by RSPCA Tasmania.

The Jack's Gift perpetual program stems from the generosity of Alison Ball who wanted to do something special to remember Jack, a 16 year-old dog she adopted from the Devonport Animal Care Centre.

When Jack came to RSPCA he was quite unwell, suffering from a flea allergy, heart murmur and bad teeth, and he was nearly blind and deaf. But after intensive veterinary care and lots of love from RSPCA staff, Jack was healthy enough to live a very happy life for two years until he quietly passed away.

Alison generously decided to donate \$10,000 to create Jack's Gift, a perpetual fund that will assist older animals in RSPCA care.

RSPCA General Manager Peter West says RSPCA Tasmania are aiming to raise \$10,000 annually specifically for the Jack's Gift campaign.

"So we are again turning to the Tasmanian community - who already so wonderfully support us - to help RSPCA give a more second chances to older animals in our care," Mr West said.

"Older animals make wonderful, loyal companions, however, it's harder to find homes for them, and they generally need a greater level of veterinary care."

RSPCA Tasmania consultant vet Adele Hewitt says just like many senior humans, older animals generally need extra medical care and treatments to help them get back on their feet and to manage medical issues.

"Older animals frequently need extensive dental treatments and need management of heart murmurs, arthritis and skin problems to get them to a level of health that can be maintained and managed by a new owner.

"These treatments can be expensive so we will really appreciate the extra financial assistance to fix their health issues so that they can live a comfortable and happy life in their golden years," said Adele.

Alison Ball said Jack was a very jaunty and happy boy - "his tail never stopped wagging."

"When I brought home a Chihuahua mum and three pups to care for, Jack took up the role of 'man of the house' and lay for hours beside the pups each day, as if he was guarding them. He was very patient and loving to the pups as they grew."

People wanting to donate to this particular cause - Jack's Gift - can do so at any RSPCA Animal Care Centre or by visiting the Jack's Gift page on the official website: rspcatas.org.au

Recent case study...

Jack (different Jack), mixed breed, 10 years old arrived to the Hobart Animal Care Centre as a stray in need of medical attention.

After Staff noticed Jack had poor mobility in his hind legs, an x-ray was recommended to find out what was wrong.

Expenses for the x-rays are around \$500, something which was achievable thanks to the "Jacks Gift fund".

After a vet examination and multiple x-rays, it was discovered that (this) Jack had a fractured femur bone from a bullet wound which had fused incorrectly and was causing Jack pain and discomfort when walking.

Thanks to "Jacks Gift" (this) Jack was able to receive the medical attention he needed and extra costs such as x-rays could be funded.

Jack has recently been adopted from the RSPCA Hobart Animal Care Centre to a loving family where he can live out his twilight years.

Ends

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