

# SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

 PO BOX 4105, KOGARAH BAY NSW 2217  
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 SYDNEYDOGSANDCATSHOME.ORG  
 INFO@SYDNEYDOGSANDCATSHOME.ORG

 ABN: 16 943 464 587  
 CFN: 16738

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Senior Pets Retiring Early During Pandemic

It's a sad fact that senior pets often spend long periods in shelters and pounds waiting to find new homes, but during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sydney-based animal shelter Sydney Dogs & Cats Home (SDCH) is finding they're being adopted faster than young dogs and cats.

With many households in Sydney working from Home, people are turning to the companionship of a new pet, but with young dogs and cats posing a long commitment, families are considering a senior.

SDCH General Manager Mark Hearnden said adopters are looking at senior pets in a new light during lockdown restrictions.

"When you adopt a dog or cat, you're committing to caring for that animal for its lifetime, which can be 20+ years", he said.

"People are realising that with senior pets, it is a different type of commitment. As long as you can commit to the duration of their retirement, seniors are the perfect pandemic companion. They can be just as playful and affectionate as younger pet."

All pets who enter the care of SDCH receive thorough health checks before adoption. For seniors, this is often followed by extensive vet treatment to prepare them for retirement.

SDCH Animal Care Manager, Dr Renae Jackson said most senior pets need special attention before they're ready for new homes.

"Seniors often arrive with health concerns caused by age, or in some cases, neglect," she said.

"These pets require extra veterinary attention from our team, including blood tests, x-rays, surgeries and medication. It can be difficult to enjoy your golden years with untreated arthritis or dental disease, so we do everything we can to make our seniors comfortable."

Every year, dozens of senior pets that had arrived lost, surrendered or abandoned are adopted from SDCH.

Carmel and Steve who adopted a 12-year-old Maltese x Shih Tzu named Poppy in June say she has brightened their home after the loss of their previous dogs.

## WOOF. MEOW.



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“Adopting Poppy and giving her a home for her twilight years is a really fulfilling and entertaining experience,” they said.

“She has brought back the energy that our empty house was missing... On the day she arrived home, our house genuinely felt happier again.”

SDCH is Sydney’s only charity pound, so they are only able to rehabilitate and rehome senior pets thanks to the supporters who fund their Senior Pet Project.

Currently in its fourth year, the Senior Pet Project raises funds and awareness to give senior pets the retirement they deserve.

To learn more and donate to the Senior Pet Project, visit [sydneydogsandcatshome.giveeasy.org/senior-pet-project-2021](https://sydneydogsandcatshome.giveeasy.org/senior-pet-project-2021)

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## QUOTES

“When you adopt a dog or cat, you’re committing to caring for that animal for its lifetime, which can be 20+ years. People are realising that with seniors, you don’t have to worry about whether you can care for them in 10 or so years. As long as you can commit to the duration of their retirement, seniors are the perfect pandemic companion. They can be just as playful and affectionate as younger pets.”

### **Mark Hearnden**

General Manager  
SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

“Seniors often arrive with health concerns caused by age, or in some cases, neglect. These pets require extra veterinary attention from our team, including blood tests, x-rays, surgeries and medication. It can be difficult to enjoy your golden years with untreated arthritis or diseased teeth, so we do everything we can to make our seniors comfortable.”

### **Dr Renae Jackson**

BAppSc BVSc MANZCVS (Veterinary Behaviour) GradCertMgmt  
Animal Care Manager and Veterinarian  
SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

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Image Caption: Carmel holding 12-year-old Poppy on her adoption day.

Image Credit: Sydney Dogs & Cats Home



Image Caption: SDCH Vet Laura Taylor checking on Lillie the 17-year-old cat after dental surgery.

Image Credit: Sydney Dogs & Cats Home

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ABOUT US

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is Sydney's only charity pound and community facility and is owned and operated by The Sydney Dogs & Cats Home Incorporated.

The Home has been taking care of Sydney's lost, abandoned and neglected pets since 1946. We open our doors to up to thousands of pets each year, servicing multiple council areas across Sydney including:

- [Bayside](#)
- [Fairfield](#)
- [Georges River](#)
- [Inner West](#)
- [North Sydney](#)
- [Randwick](#)
- [Waverley](#)
- [Woollahra](#)

We aim to provide shelter, food and veterinary care to lost, homeless and abandoned animals, primarily dogs and cats, in association with the local councils of Sydney. We act under the [NSW Companion Animals Act 1998](#) and the associated [Companion Animals Regulations and Codes of Practice](#) and care for pets until a time when such animals can either be reunited with their owners or found a new, suitable home.

We support the [Getting to Zero](#) movement, which means we strive to rehome every healthy and treatable animal that comes through our doors, and we never place a time limit on any animal awaiting adoption.

We also deliver a range of successful mental health-focused [community programs](#), creating a lifeline to both the animals we care for and those in the community who need it most.

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