

COMPANION

SPRING 2024 | lortsmith.com

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**Game, set, match
for Kenzo**

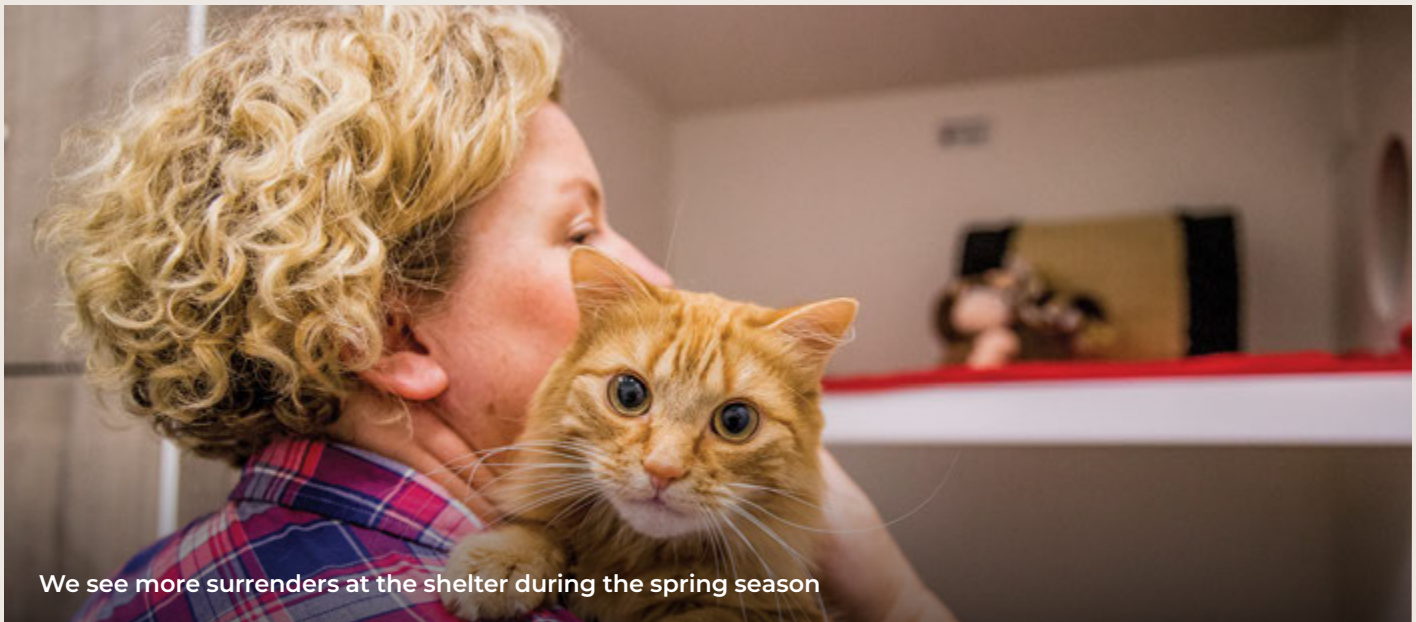
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We see more surrenders at the shelter during the spring season

A message from the CEO:

As the world around us comes to life this spring, our team is hard at work responding to the heightened needs of our community. This season brings many joys but also unique challenges for pets and their owners.

Spring often means more outdoor adventures for pets, which can, unfortunately, lead to increased accidents and health issues, such as the spread of parasites. Additionally, kitten season arrives with spring, bringing more litters and, with them, an increased demand for our veterinary services.

More pets are surrendered to our shelter, particularly from owners who are already facing financial difficulties and cannot care for pregnant cats or new litters throughout the breeding season. Seeing so many pets needing new homes is heartbreaking because their owners struggle to afford their care.

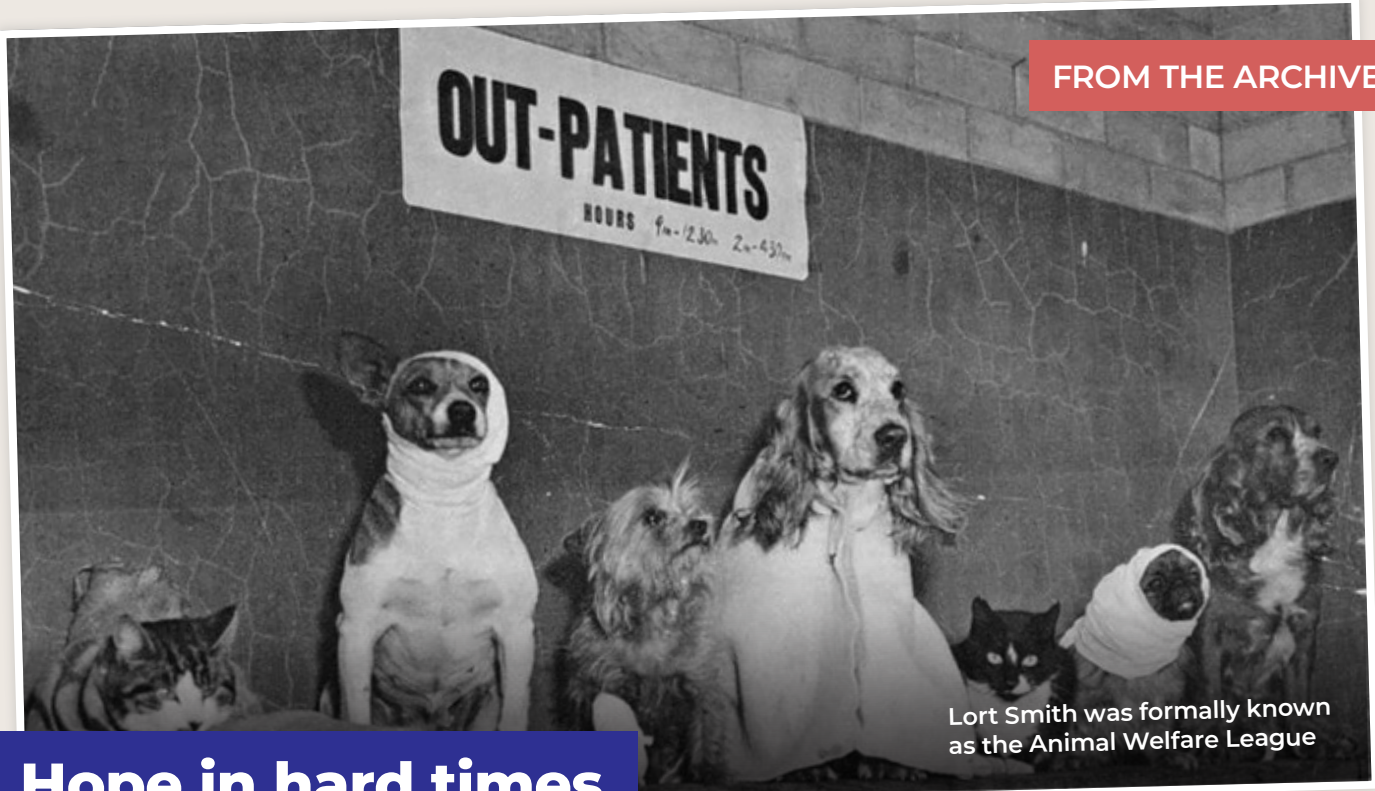
While some Melbournians are weathering the economic storm, many others feel the weight of rising costs. We see the effects of this every day, especially among our concessional customers who are doing it tough.

Your unwavering support enables us to extend a helping hand to those who need it most—providing a lifeline to pets and people in need of our crucial programs and services.

In these challenging times, your generosity ensures that we can continue to provide essential care to every animal that comes through our doors. Thank you for being a cornerstone of our mission—together, we're making a lasting difference in the lives of pets and their people.



Jennifer Fleming
Chief Executive Officer
Lort Smith Animal Hospital



Lort Smith was formally known as the Animal Welfare League

Hope in hard times

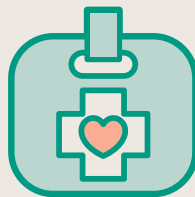
Amid food scarcity during the Second World War, many pets faced dire circumstances as their owners struggled to afford to care for them. Our founder, Louisa Lort Smith, wrote to *The Sun* newspaper to alert the community that the animal hospital could help:

Many cats and dogs are being cast adrift, no doubt because of food shortages. This means in most instances a lingering death from starvation and the destruction of bird life. I remind the public again that the Animal Welfare League Hospital receives these creatures and tries to find a suitable home for them, or a merciful end. Instead of turning them adrift, turn your thoughts to this institution and phone F4643. L. E. LORT SMITH, Toorak.

Did you know?

Victoria's first-ever Pet Census last year revealed a deep commitment to pet care.

Residents spent \$1.8 billion on veterinary services and medicines last year. Pet food topped the list of expenses at \$3.1 billion, showing that pets are truly part of the family in Victorian households.



\$1.8b
spent on on
veterinary services
and medicines



\$3.1b
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Caring for Melbourne's animals:

John's lasting gift

For John Burns, Melbourne has always been home. His deep connection to the city and his enduring love for animals inspired him to leave a generous gift in his will to Lort Smith, ensuring that his passion for animal welfare would continue to make a difference long after his lifetime.

From his early days in the south east suburbs to his peaceful retirement in Woodend, John's life has been woven with rich community connections and a commitment to helping others. For over 40 years, he dedicated his professional life to Melbourne, first as a letterpress machinist for a weekly newspaper and later as a taxi driver for the Transport Accident Commission.

John's connection with animals began in 1980 when he welcomed his first miniature poodle, Roxy, into his life. Over the years, he cared for five poodles, each one bringing him immeasurable joy and companionship.

When his most recent poodle, Fleur, passed away in 2020, it marked the closing of a deeply cherished chapter in his life.

Moved by the unconditional love his poodles gave him, John decided to leave a gift in his will to Lort Smith. His bequest is both a tribute to the joy his dogs brought into his life and a commitment to ensuring that other animals in need receive the same loving care.

John's legacy will live on through his bequest, supporting Lort Smith's mission and ensuring that animals across Melbourne receive the love and care they deserve for years to come.

**"I chose to give
to Lort Smith in
gratitude for the love
my dogs have given
me so that they can
continue providing
loving care to other
animals"**

— JOHN BURNS



Fleur on her last day with John

**For a caring conversation
about how you can
leave a lasting legacy
of kindness for
companion animals,
call Elaine McPartlin on
(03) 9287 6417 or email
bequests@lortsmith.com**

Game, set, match

for Kenzo

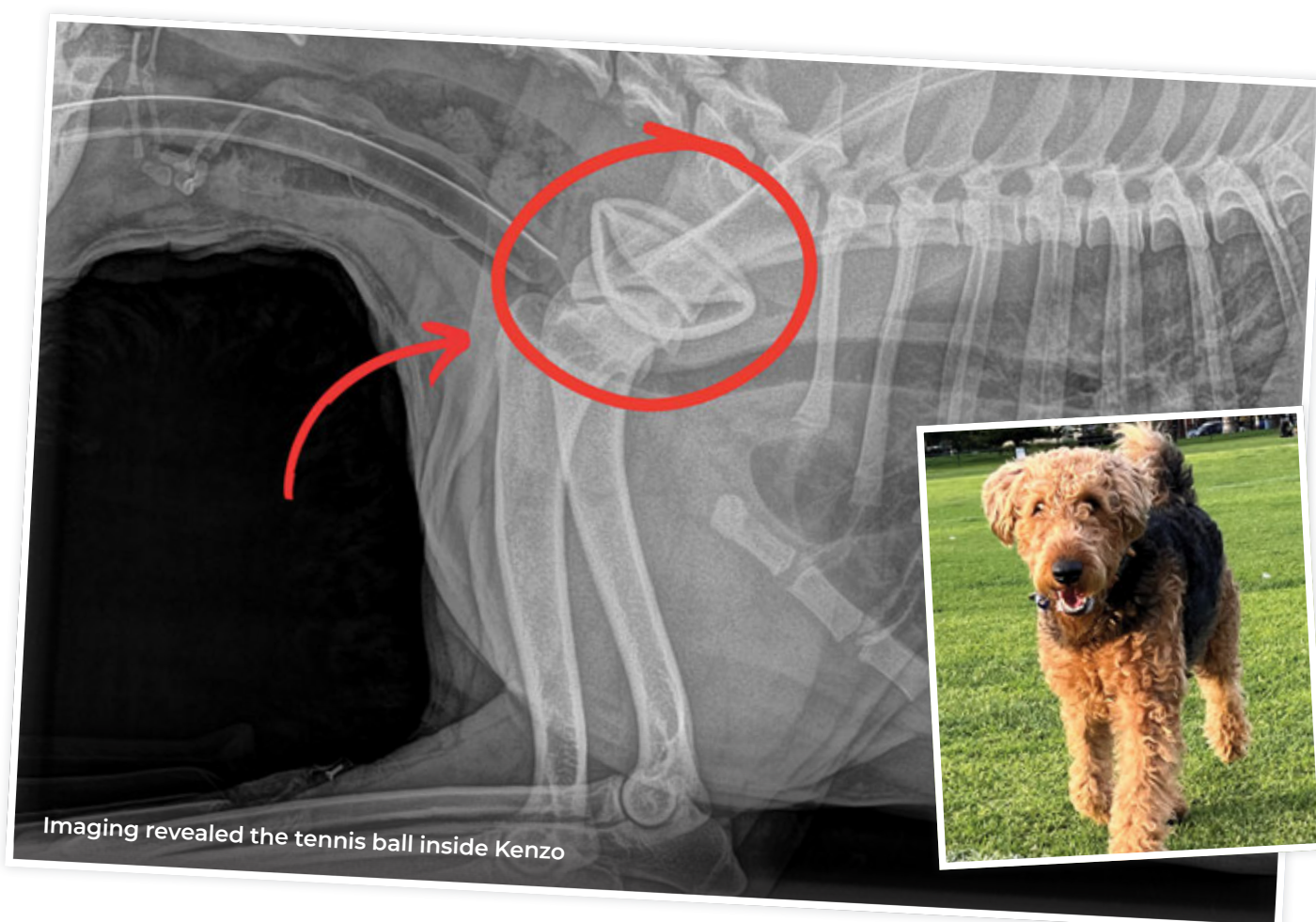
Every day brings a new and unexpected challenge to our hospital, like the case of Kenzo, a playful two-year-old Airedale Terrier who suddenly lost his appetite after an energetic game chasing his favourite miniature tennis ball. Unsure of the cause, Kenzo's worried family brought their beloved dog to Lort Smith for help.

Initial tests and X-rays revealed nothing unusual. However, our team knows that sometimes the most telling signs aren't always visible at first glance. Thanks to ongoing observations of our inpatient nurse, Isabella Malliaros (Issy), the mystery began to unravel. She noticed that Kenzo was regurgitating and drooling—clearly indicating that something wasn't right.

Issy's observation prompted further investigation, and follow-up imaging revealed the surprising culprit: a crushed tennis ball lodged in Kenzo's oesophagus. It turns out that Kenzo was a little too enthusiastic while playing with the ball and accidentally swallowed it.

Dr Harold Pook swiftly performed an endoscopy to carefully remove the lodged tennis ball. The procedure was a success, and Kenzo soon recovered, much to the relief of his owner and the entire Lort Smith team.

Thanks to the kind support of people like you, our clinical team has access to advanced equipment that can help get the best possible outcomes for pets like Kenzo.



For pet's sake:

The importance of desexing

Desexing your pet is crucial for their health and helps to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Cats can start breeding at four months old, dogs, depending on the breed, can be between six and twelve months old, and rabbits can start breeding at three to six months old.

Always speak with your vet first, as the recommended age for desexing varies for different species and breeds.

Better health and behaviour for your pet

There are a range of health and behavioural benefits to desexing your pet.

- It eliminates the risk of testicular cancer in males and ovarian and uterine diseases in females.
- It reduces the likelihood of mammary tumours in females and prostate issues in males.
- Desexing can prevent unwanted behaviours, such as aggression or roaming for mates.
- Roaming un-desexed pets may fight with other animals, risking injuries and diseases like FIV in cats.

Reduce unwanted litters

Over 600 pets are surrendered and rehomed at Lort Smith's Adoption Centre each year. Large volumes of unwanted pregnancies strain animal welfare services, which spend resources managing the population of unwanted pets.

- One female cat and her offspring can produce up to 5,000 cats in seven years.¹
- One female rabbit can have up to 60 babies per year.¹

Lort Smith's veterinary team desex an average of 150 animals each month, including cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, and even reptiles.

Despite these efforts, we still see a high number of unwanted litters from un-desexed animals throughout the year, especially during the warmer months.

Contact Lort Smith to arrange desexing for your pet today.

1. RSPCA Victoria

Over 600 pets are surrendered and rehomed at Lort Smith's Adoption Centre each year. Large volumes of unwanted pregnancies strain animal welfare services, which spend resources managing the population of unwanted pets.



The catwalk

to cuddles

In July, three beautiful Persian cats were surrendered to our Adoption Centre, as their owner could no longer care for them due to unforeseen circumstances.

The cats had been staying in a garage at the owner's previous property and were in need of some TLC when they arrived at Lort Smith. Their long, thick fur was severely matted, making it difficult for them to move, and they required immediate attention.

Our dedicated team quickly took action, providing the care these cats needed. Due to the extent of the matting, they required sedation to safely remove the tangled fur. Once freed from their fur, the transformation was unbelievable—the cats, once in discomfort, became affectionate, friendly, and full of life. To keep them cosy, they wore little jackets lovingly knitted and donated by a community member.

Two of the cats, Chanel and Gucci, shared a special bond, so we made sure they weren't separated. They were adopted as a pair in July by a wonderful family who renamed them Ivy and Olive. The third cat, Hermes also found his forever home that very same day. His new family shares that he's settling in beautifully and has even formed a special bond with their one-year-old daughter.

Thanks to the compassionate care of our Campbellfield team and the kindness of their new families, these three gorgeous cats are now thriving in their loving forever homes.



Removing the matted fur gave the cats much relief

Thriving on three legs

We're delighted to update you on Crumpet, the courageous cat who captured all our hearts.

After arriving at Lort Smith with a severe leg injury, Crumpet underwent a successful amputation and a critical round of emergency care.

Thanks to the incredible skill of our veterinary team and the support of generous donors like you, Crumpet pulled through and has fully adapted to his new three-legged lifestyle.

Today, Crumpet is not just surviving—he's thriving. He found his forever home with Michael, who shared that Crumpet has become his loyal companion and best friend. Their bond is a true testament to the impact of your support.



Four easy ways to donate:

1 Mail

Mail your completed form, cheque or money order to:
Reply Paid 85054,
North Melbourne VIC 3051

2 Phone

Call our fundraising team on:
(03) 9287 6419

3 Online

Visit lortsmith.com
or scan the QR code



4 Direct deposit

BSB: 033 132
A/C: 199219
Reference: Your supporter ID

Lort Smith North Melbourne

24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

(03) 9328 3021

Lort Smith Campbellfield

25-35 Berwick Road, Campbellfield VIC 3061

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Lort Smith acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which Lort Smith stands, and pays our respects to Elders past and present.

Lort Smith values and celebrates diversity in our community. We are committed to providing animal care services that are inclusive and support equality and accessibility.

ABN 87 004 238 475

