

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

If you want to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or, join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

Financial year to October 2025

Member No:.....

Name (s).....

Address

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email.....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

☐ \$20.00 Single Membership or ☐ \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.

Signed: Date: __/__/____

Enquiries to: 14 Pages Road, Grove, Tas 7109
Ph: 0424 504 043 or huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc.
Cash/Cheque/ EFT. BSB 633000 Account No:144419819

Reference is your surname: _____ or your membership number if you have one.

New members please forward this form with payment to the above address.
A receipt will be issued. A membership card will be issued for new members.

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TAILS OF THE VALLEY Newsletter

Huon Valley Dog Walking Association

huondogwalkers@gmail.com

www.dogwalkingtas.org.au



Rescue greyhounds Zari and Lulu

HVDWA **applauds/commends (?)** the announcement on 10 August 2025 that the Tasmanian government will phase out greyhound racing by 30 June 2029. Readers will be aware that HVDWA has long supported efforts to improve the welfare of greyhounds in the racing industry and to cease taxpayer funding for the industry.

Many of our members have adopted former racing greyhounds and highly recommend them as pets. Over the next 31/2 years as the greyhound racing industry winds down many greyhounds will become available for adoption. Read about the great attributes of greyhounds as pets inside this newsletter, including comments from some members who have adopted greyhounds.

Spring Walks! On Page 7 is a list of our walks for the next couple of months. Spring is a lovely time to explore different places in the Huon Valley and you and your canine companions are most welcome to join in.

About the HVDWA...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au).

The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks
- Have social walks on a regular basis
- Help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training
- Promote responsible dog ownership.

There are lots of reasons you will want to join...

- Socialise your dog
- Explore the Valley and find out about available on-lead and off-lead walks in forest areas, beaches and strolls around the towns
- Meet other dog owners and share experiences and stories
- Participate in dog welfare initiatives and fund raising for dog charities

Best of all—it's so easy to become a member (and your dog will love you for it!)

Contact us for more information and news of our forthcoming activities

Email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com Ph: 0424 504 043

www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

Find us on Facebook



DOGS MAKE LIFE BETTER

huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Winter Walks

Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! Each walk takes around 1 hour.

If the weather looks inclement on walk day, please check our Facebook page or website www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

All walks commence at 10.30am unless specified

Saturday 16 August—Heritage Park, Geeveston:

Meet at the main car park behind the Town Hall. Walk across Heritage Park to the Platypus Walk then follow the river as far as the steps at the end of the walk. We then ascend the steps to cross the road - take care at the top of the steps as the footpath is narrow. Once across the road, continue the walk along the riverbank and around Memorial Park to the RSL. Pass the RSL and return across the road, down the steps and back along Platypus Walk until we reach the fenced dog exercise area where dogs can go off lead for a run and play. You may even see a platypus!

Wednesday 27 August – Skinners Creek Track,

Huonville: Meet on the Esplanade, opposite Huon Jet Boats, then follow the signs for the walk. There are several options for this walk, so depending on the weather on the day we can either do a long walk or a short one.

Saturday 13 September – Castle Forbes Bay:

From Huonville drive south to Castle Forbes Bay, past the cool stores on the left. A couple of minutes down the road there is a sign for Crowthers Road; immediately after this sign turn left into the parking area. The walk starts on the path to the right of the parking area, near the highway. Follow the path along to a road which leads down to the foreshore. Dogs should be on lead for the first part of this walk as the road goes quite close to the highway.

Tuesday 7 October - Franklin Foreshore:

Meet in the car park below Osteria @ Petty Sessions. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the Caravan Park. They can then go off lead until we reach the Wooden Boat Shed and once again there is the opportunity for a play and a swim before we return the same way.

Sunday 19 October: Randalls Bay: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet, turn left at the roundabout and drive south along the Channel Highway until you come to the turnoff to Randalls Bay. Drive down the hill and park near the barbecue area. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the barbecue area then they can go off lead to enjoy the beach.

Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog Control Act, it is the owner's responsibility to keep their dog under control and in sight at all times.

We love to see our dogs running free and playing together but sometimes there may be a distraction or situation where your dog is not responding to you as he/she normally would and needs to go back on the lead. You may need to put your dog on a lead if he or she:

- Has poor recall
- Has a habit of running off out of your sight
- Is aggressive or upsetting other dogs
- Is behaving in a way that endangers itself or others
- Any other situation where you feel that you don't have control of your dog.

In addition to putting a dog on lead for the behaviours outlined, it is an owner's prerogative to have their dog on lead during any of the walks if they feel it is in the best interest of the dog.

We hope this information helps you and your dog to have a fun and relaxing walk.

Greyhounds are very tolerant, and are generally very good around children, although they are not the 'rough and tumble' playmates that many other breeds would be. They are very social and usually will get along well with other canines or household pets. However, it is important that adoptive homes with cats or other small animals ensure that they are not getting a 'high prey' greyhound, as these small animals would be at risk. Even a greyhound that has been determined to be 'low prey' or 'cat-friendly' should be carefully introduced and supervised during the first few weeks, or as long as it takes to ensure that the dog is trustworthy.

Adopting a Greyhound

There are four organisations in Tasmania which are accredited to assess and adopt out rescued Greyhounds without muzzles. Check their websites for further information.

GAP: <http://www.gaptas.org.au/>

RSPCS: <https://www.rspcatas.org.au/greyhound-adoption-rspca/>

The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania: <https://www.dhot.com.au/dogs-homes-of-tasmania-accredited-to-adopt-out-muzzle-free-greyhounds/>

Brightside: <http://brightside.org.au/>

Two years ago I adopted my fourth rescue greyhound, Lulu, from GAP. I quickly found out that she suffered from separation anxiety, barking and racing up and down the yard whenever I left home (there are no other humans here). When possible, I try to get a friend to mind her at their house if I'm going to be out for the whole day. Her anxiety is somewhat quelled by giving her a nice meaty beef neck bone just before I leave home.

With her fear of men (no doubt engendered by some of her former trainers/owners) I've found that if men approach Lulu gently and speak softly, she quickly learns to trust them and looks forward to their visits and receiving pats from them.

However, the CBD is still a challenge for her, as there are a lot of men on the footpaths. One day she dragged me into Collins Street, with traffic bearing down on us, in an effort to get away from a man who walked behind me on the footpath!



Mila and Lulu meet for the first time

I now try to park somewhere with fewer people, where we have more room to walk safely, such as Castray Esplanade at Salamanca.

Margie

Updates

Microchip Registry

Many pet owners may not be aware that pet microchip company HomeSafeID closed in February 2025. This means that if your pet was registered with HomeSafeID, their microchip details are no longer accessible when scanned by veterinarians, councils or animal shelters. It is important to keep your microchip details up to date so that you can be reunited with your pet if they go missing.

The Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet has detailed advice about how find out where your pet's microchip is registered, who can microchip your pet, how to transfer to another registry and a list of registries in Australia. It is easy to follow the advice on this website and check your pet's details.

https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/legislation/current_legislation/dog_control/micro-chipping_faqs

Huon Valley Community award

In May this year, our Secretary, Heather Brown was recognised for her contribution to the Huon Valley community with a Major Volunteer Service Award.

Heather joined the HVDWA in 2019 and quickly took on the role of club Secretary. In the HVDWA, the Secretary's role encompasses much more than scheduling meetings and distributing minutes! Heather soon took over the editing of this newsletter as well as collating our seasonal publications such as 'The Summer Survival Guide', 'Dog Friendly Cafes' and more. She continues to be the main contributor and organiser for our many fundraising activities and events. Our regular dog walks see Heather there, almost without fail, leading the group. There is much more that Heather does and it's fair to say that she is more than deserving of this award. We couldn't do the things we do without her.



On behalf of the HVDWA committee, thank you Heather, for your wonderful ongoing support for the committee, the HVDWA members and the Huon Valley community.

Rozel Duncan, Vice President, HVDWA

Greyhounds as Pets

Did you know?

- Greyhounds can be traced back to 6,000 BC at a site in Turkey.
- Egyptians, Greeks and Romans kept Greyhounds for hunting and as pets. They are considered to be the oldest purebred domesticated dog breed.
- The Greyhound is the only dog mentioned in The Bible (Proverbs 30:29-31)
- Queen Elizabeth 1 was a great lover of Greyhound coursing, the precursor of today's racing.
- Botanist Joseph Banks brought a male and female Greyhound with him on the Endeavour. His diary entries referred to the dogs' regular pursuit of native animals. They became known as 'Kangaroo Dogs'
- The first sporting use of Greyhounds in Australia is recorded as coursing in the 1860's.

The Breed

Greyhounds are typically a healthy and long-lived breed and hereditary illness is rare. The typical Greyhound lifespan is 10-13 years. This breed is literally built for speed. A combination of long, powerful legs, deep chest, flexible spine and slim build allows it to reach a full speed of 70 kilometres per hour within 30 metres. There are few mammals that can accelerate faster over a short distance.

They have a physiology and anatomy which is different from other breeds. They can't metabolise barbiturate based anaesthesia as other breeds can because they have lower amounts of oxidative enzymes in their livers. Their blood chemistry is also different. Greyhounds are very sensitive to insecticides so some flea collars and treatments will not suit them. It's therefore important to avoid incorrect diagnosis by making sure your vet is familiar with the breed.

Greyhounds do not have undercoats and so are less likely to trigger dog allergies in humans. The lack of an undercoat, coupled with a general lack of body fat, also makes Greyhounds more susceptible to extreme temperatures (both hot and cold); because of this, they must be housed inside.

*Tara loves cuddling up to her special toy
Read her story on Page 5*

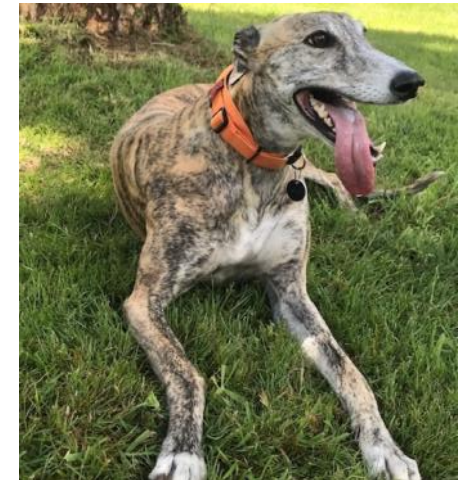


Greyhounds as pets—with comments from members who have adopted Greyhounds

These days Greyhounds are becoming popular as pets due to their easygoing personality, clean low allergy fur and relatively minimal exercise needs. Greyhounds are quiet, well mannered, and very easy to live with. They are friendly, affectionate, lazy, calm, clean, loving, trusting and good-natured.

This is also a very intelligent and adaptable breed, that for the most part can make the life changing adjustment from racing kennel to loving home with relative ease. Although in their former lives, they did not enjoy the creature comforts afforded most canine pets, greyhounds quickly adapt to the joys of squeaky toys, the luxury of a cosy bed, and the pampering of a loving family. Understandably, there is an adjustment period that each dog will go through, as they are unfamiliar with such things as climbing stairs, walking on shiny floor surfaces, and windows, having never encountered these things previously.

We have been lucky to have had 2 greyhounds in our lives (so far). Each has come from Brightside Farm Sanctuary but from completely different circumstances. Ty, our first grey was badly traumatised by his short time in the racing industry. He knew nothing of life outside the racing world and was fearful of new experiences and most men. However, with patience, time and training he adapted to life as a pet dog and showed a cheeky personality, warming to anyone who earned his trust. He loved his walks and trips to the beach and meeting new dog friends. It was a privilege to be able to help Ty enjoy a life of security, free from fear.



Tara, our current grey (photo above), in contrast had never been in the racing industry nor had she even been trained to race. From her very first day with us she was a confident, outgoing, happy dog who loves everyone and everything (except those pesky currawongs who insist on teasing her). She gives freely of her affection and makes us laugh everyday. She is just the best girl anyone could hope for as a companion.

*Hopefully in the near future all greyhounds will be able to live a life, like Tara, of love and security, free from fear.
Lis and Colin*

