



TAILS OF THE VALLEY

Newsletter

Huon Valley Dog Walking Association

huondogwalkers@gmail.com

www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

Spring Walks Time!

Spring is a wonderful time to walk with our dogs! As the days start to get longer we see new life everywhere. The variable spring weather can bring lots of new and different scents to delight doggie noses as they explore different areas of the beautiful Huon Valley with their loving human companions.

Our Spring walk schedule is on Page 7 of the newsletter and includes beaches and country walks as well as firm favourites such as the Platypus Walk in Geeveston.

Also in this issue you can read about Hampton's epic journey across the globe and how he ended up sitting among the daffodils enjoying a Northern Hemisphere spring!



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

UPDATES

Farewell—This month we have had to farewell our Treasurer, Karen Cosier, as she, husband Peter and dogs Cooper and Shelly have moved back to Adelaide. Karen joined the club in 2014, was elected Treasurer in October 2015 and since then has been a fantastic supporter of HVDWA.

She worked tirelessly at numerous events since joining HVDWA, including Taste of the Huon and Small Farms Expos, seminars, quiz nights and many garage sales. HVDWA has greatly appreciated Karen and Peter's generosity in hosting the Christmas Party at their home for a number of years. The dogs have loved having lots of space to run around and play and then, best of all, a large pond in which to cool off!



Karen, Peter, Cooper and Shelly—Thank you! We will miss you!

Fundraising—We have focused on supporting The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania's Winter Appeal during the last few months. \$500 was donated from the proceeds of the very successful garage sale in April. In addition, \$240 was collected at a 'Tin Shake' collection outside Woolworths in June.

The Dogs' Homes always welcome donations of quality food, treats, toys and money which helps them provide the best care and attention to dogs who are waiting for a new life in a loving home. Unfortunately they cannot accept other items such as crates and carriers or blankets.

International Dogs' Day—26 August 2022 Now on its 16th year, International Dog Day helps put the focus on the dogs that need a loving home. There are so many dogs in public shelters and rescue dogs that have gone through extremely abusive situations. The day also honours all dogs that provide their unwavering service to humans. There are the family pet dogs that bring joy to our homes and guide and service dogs. There are also law enforcement dogs that keep us safe by detecting bombs, drugs and pulling victims out of unfortunate wreckage and tragedies.



A few ways you can celebrate International Dogs' Day ...

- Give them a home spa treatment – bath, massages, cuddles
- Buy them a fun toy that they can play with
- Bake a delicious and nutritious doggie treat
- Go for a long walk in a new environment
- Have a celebrity-style photo shoot
- Donate to a dog charity/shelter



Share your home—expand your family—Adopt a dog!

Hampton's paw-fect journey!

Heather Ann Forrest

There are countless stresses involved in an overseas move, but none ranks higher on the to-do list than moving a beloved pet. For so many of us, our pets are part of our family, and we cannot imagine leaving them behind when life's path takes us to new and faraway places. I have now moved with an animal across continents twice and am happy to share my experiences and tips with the HVDWA.

The planning process needs to start as far in advance as possible, ideally six months if not more, although sometimes that may not be possible.



Heather & Hampton

Once the decision is made to move overseas, commence your pet travel preparations immediately, even before you make your own travel arrangements. The animal transport process is complicated and takes much more time and paperwork to arrange than the other items on your seemingly endless to-do list. Identify all of the pet travel companies that fly to your intended destination. Contact them all, review their websites, speak to a representative of each company. Look at more than price; look at their approach, attitude and processes. Are the people you communicate with from that company, whether by phone, email or in person, friendly? Are they responsive, understanding, and sensitive to your needs and expectations? Ask questions: who will your animal come into contact with throughout their journey? Do they use an online portal or regular email checkpoints to update pet owners throughout the animal's itinerary? Transporting an animal requires you to place a lot of trust in strangers, so you need to ask all of the questions necessary to build that trust. Be prepared for the shock of the price quote: expect to pay four to seven times more than the cost of your own travel.

I started this process in September 2021 for what was ultimately confirmed as a travel date in March 2022 for my then 18-month old English Springer Spaniel, and was thoroughly impressed with the service provided by the pet transport company I chose. They understood and appreciated my nervousness about sending an adolescent dog such a long distance (Hobart to London!). I received emails with photos and videos of Hampton's progress throughout his itinerary, which spanned 3 days. It was useful and reassuring to see Hampton looking well and comfortable (if a bit confused), and to see him interacting with what were very clearly people who care. A video taken by the air cargo handler who loaded Hampton into the plane showed Hampton laying calmly in his air crate, highlighted his access to water (no food during the flight to prevent soiling the crate and digestive upset), his shipping manifest with all of his travel and personal details for each airport on his journey, and the worn t-shirt that we'd included in his crate to remind him that we hadn't abandoned him!

Another part of the early preparation process is the air crate. Order this as soon as possible, and in a size that will enable the animal to lounge comfortably. This might mean that you upgrade one size if the suggested size for the breed does not permit sitting fully upright or laying fully outstretched without having to duck or tuck. We put the (enormous!) air crate in our car when it arrived in December, giving three months to become accustomed to its space, smells and noises. Here in England he continues to ride in the air crate in our new car, which suggests that his flight experience was a positive one with no negative associations from the crate.

Animal flight scheduling is different than it is for people. Animals fly in the cargo hold, which is temperature controlled. Priority cargo may “bump” your animal off a chosen flight, even at the last minute, so plan some flexibility into your own itinerary if possible. My husband and I booked our flights so that one of us went ahead to be in England throughout Hampton’s journey, and the other remained in Australia throughout his journey. This way, if a problem arose and he got sent back to Australia, one of us would still be there to deal with it. Take advice from the transport company on which airport to fly the animal into and time of day for them to arrive as some airports are busier than others. Hampton fortunately was able to fly into London Gatwick, rather than massively popular and horrendously busy Heathrow. Understand the entry requirements at your destination - the travel company should fully brief you on these so you know exactly what to expect, with no surprises. Arriving in the UK from Australia is very different from arriving in Australia from the UK. Within two hours of landing, Hampton walked out of the animal collection depot and into the English spring sunshine, free to leave with no quarantine or other requirements. Entry into Australia is far more complicated thanks to the quarantine process.

Three months have passed and we have nothing but positive things to say about Hampton’s journey. We didn’t quite know what to expect from a young, energetic dog, but we had tremendous support from our amazingly intuitive and sensitive trainer, Isabel Hyland, and committed ourselves to the time, effort and energy needed to prepare Hampton by exposing him safely to as many new experiences as possible before the trip. He arrived in England a balanced, happy and experienced traveller, and has amazed us with his willingness to adapt so quickly and cheerfully to a new life.



Hampton & Jani at the pub!

In closing, we cannot speak highly enough of doggie life in England. Dogs are welcome everywhere: pubs, cafes and shops, and even historic sites such as Stowe and Hurst Castle. The countless public walking paths and bridleways across even private land are well signed and maintained and simply magical. It is intensely rewarding to watch our young dog mature in such dog-friendly surroundings, and it helps immeasurably that he is so resilient, patient and willing. If an opportunity arises in life for you don't be put off by the stress and expense of pet transport. Plan carefully and work with a sensitive trainer to prepare as best you can for what might be the most rewarding adventure of your and your dog's life!

Honouring your Beloved Pet

Hayley Direen

Angel's Landing and Eco Pet Cremations are teaming up to bring pet lovers peace at sad times.

Hayley Direen is well known in the Huon Valley bringing love and good looks to animals through her 4Paws Hydrobath & Grooming Services located in Cygnet. Through her own bad experience of pet loss after hours she was spurred on to offer a better service and Angel's Landing was born.

Tanya and Gabrielle from Eco Pet Cremations began their animal service at Neonatal Kitten Rescue and were inspired to create an environmentally responsible social enterprise that gives back to animals in Tasmania.

These people knew each other but had no idea of each other's plans until they both launched in the same month last year. It was almost as if the universe conspired to help pets and their owners in the Huon Valley and beyond.

Angel's Landing provides a wholistic service where all options are available to bereaved pet owners to care for their pet. Hayley comes to your home and provides solid support and guidance as well as a wide range of options from burial bags to cremation urns as well as keepsakes and immortalisations.

Eco Pet Cremations fits in with Hayley or your Veterinarian with the minimum of intrusion on what is often a long and trusted relationship. Pets are cremated by a process of Aquamation, a gentle process that traps the carbon preventing greenhouse gas emissions. Individual cremation is guaranteed and with only 10% of the carbon footprint of fire cremation this technology is a first for Tasmania.

Both organisations believe that pet owners want more options and they want services to be able to work together for the sake of their loved pet. Pets hold the dearest place in our hearts and being able to bring them home and keep their memory close in a way that is meaningful brings much joy at the saddest of times.



www.angelslanding.com.au

Spring Walks Schedule!

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

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

Thursday 18 August – Ranelagh: Meet at the car park at the Ranelagh Recreation Area. Dogs can have a great run and play in the dog exercise area.

Sunday 28 August – Braeside Road, Franklin: Braeside Road is 2.5 kms from the southern boundary of Franklin and is clearly sign-posted. Follow this road for 2.6 kms until you come to Archers Road on your right (Braeside Road changes into a dirt road shortly before Archers Road), drive to number 23 Archers Road and follow the sign to the parking area on the right. The walk begins through Jane Clarke's property and she will be leading the walk. Keep dogs on lead until advised by leader that they can have a run off-lead.

Wednesday 14 September – Franklin Foreshore: **2.00pm** 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.

Saturday 1 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.

Sunday 16 October - 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! (We did in July!)

Saturday 29 October – Copper Alley Bay: Drive into Cygnet and proceed through the town and the roundabout, keeping the Service Station on your left. Go past the Yacht Club and drive for about 4kms when you will come to a bridge. Once over the bridge turn left into Nichols Road and drive down to the water's edge. This is an on-lead walk which is very pretty and popular.

Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog 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 maybe 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.

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 2023

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: PO Box 186, Huonville, 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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