



# BENDIGO ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

*caring with compassion*

**Office :** 43 Williamson Street Bendigo 3550 **Hours:** Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4pm

**Shelter :** 488 Millwood Road Huntly North **Hours: Adoption Cattery Saturdays only 11.30am to 2.30pm**

**Telephone:** 5444 5783 / **Mobile:** 0417 382 741 **Postal:** P O Box 1129 Bendigo 3552

**Email:** admin@bawcs.org.au **Web:** www.bawcs.org.au

**Donate direct EFT:** BSB 013 533 Account No: 478527768



**DECEMBER 2014**  
**Newsletter Issue: 36**

What a great year it has been! Our dreams of having our own Shelter facility has been realised and we are proud to be able to say we are **Central Victoria's only "No Kill" Shelter**. That is every animal that comes into BAWCS care is safe until either the right home is found or if non rehomingable for whatever reason, they will live out their lives in either long term foster care or at the Shelter facility, with all their needs met.

We are currently caring for numerous animals at the Shelter including cats, kittens, dogs, puppies, horses, ponies, sheep, donkeys, cows, pigs, chickens, roosters and ducks.

Most of these wonderful animals are available for adoption, however some are permanent residents including our 4 pigs Annie, Ollie, Wiggy and Bruce, and our elderly standardbreds Ricky and Barney, and newest arrival **Phantom**, an 18 year old Falabella. What is a Falabella you ask? It is a mini horse! And what a little sweetheart he is. Phantom is 18 years old and suffers from arthritis in his leg and his right hip goes out every now and then. All manageable and Phantom is kept pain free with heaps of attention from the many volunteers that come out to help at the shelter.



Phantom  
& volunteer Aydin

Phantom's first 6 months with BAWCS proudly sponsored by Robertson Hyetts Solicitors



Proudly sponsored by ROBERTSON HYTEETS Solicitors

Did you know BAWCS is entirely volunteer run? It is only with the dedication of these volunteers that we are able to do what we do, day after day, saving many animals and advocating for others when needed.

When our Adoption Cattery started up, BAWCS was very fortunate to find a very dedicated lady name Liz who originally got to know about BAWCS via adopting one of our cats Misty. Liz mentioned at the end of the adoption process that she would like to volunteer at the Shelter in the Adoption Cattery and 6 months later, she was promoted to Adoption Cattery Supervisor in recognition of her hard work in not only working in the Cattery but her wonderful management skills of our wonderful felines in care.

Liz has developed many of the policies and procedures we have in place now, ensuring everything runs smoothly and also that there are enough volunteers for each morning shift.

We would be so lost without this wonderful lady and thank her so much for the many hours she puts in for BAWCS, we cannot imagine where our new Shelter would have been without Liz.

Liz also looks after our Cat Adoptions every Saturday when the Adoption Cattery is open between 11.30am and 2.30pm.

If you're looking for a great new feline to join your family, Liz will be more than happy to discuss with you.



### **GREAT cats....**

BAWCS has taken into care many lovely cats this year. Some come with health issues, others behavioural but ALL remain safe with us until they become fit and healthy again (then put up for adoption) or other arrangements are made for lifelong care, sometimes in foster care homes, sometimes permanently at the Shelter like our office cat Socks who featured in our last newsletter.

We'd like to introduce you to some of these cats...

**Basil** – For most people, the thought of having to surrender their beloved pet is heartbreaking. For many people in palliative care, they have to make that decision to leave their best friends behind....and this is how Basil, our placid champagne senior, came into our care. With a bond formed over 15 years, his "Mum" entrusted her precious boy into BAWCS care and we gladly accepted him, bump and all.

On first glance, you could have been mistaken for thinking Basil was huge...before realising that something was not right! He had a large tumour growing on the left side of his body and although he appeared to have adapted to having this growth attached, it was obvious he would be more comfortable without the "bump".



As with all surgery, and particularly at 15 years of age, there were risks involved but the blood work determined he had a good chance and we knew he would have a better quality of life with the tumour removed so the decision was made to go ahead with the operation.

After a nervous wait, we got the call saying the surgery was a success and the 1kg lipoma (non-cancerous fatty lump) had been removed.

Sue and the team at Mclvor Rd Veterinary Centre took such great care of him and he was back at the BAWCS shelter in no time!



**Basil after surgery, with his drainage tube still in**

Sadly, Basil's mum has since passed away but she can rest peacefully in the knowledge that her beloved Basil will still live on happily in BAWCS care, until we can find a permanent lap for him to curl up on.

With the stitches long since been removed and his fur slowly growing back, Basil is a handsome (and somewhat lighter) boy! He's still getting used to his new found agility and hasn't quite realised he can jump up on your lap himself...or does he just have us wrapped around his clever little paw?



**Basil can finally sleep comfortably on his side!  
He is available for adoption and you can apply for him via our website [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au) under Animals Available**



**Rusty** – Rusty was in a bad way when he came to BAWCS. A large wound on his head and a damaged eye was the most obvious signs of trouble however a blood test revealed he was also FIV positive. The only thing going for this boy was he was now in BAWCS care. Straight to the vet, the head Wound was possibly an abscess that was never treated and the eye had a very painful and deep seated ulcer, with the only option to remove it. It was decided to stitch a skin flap over the wound but it was unknown if this would be successful given the size of the area but we decided to give it a go.



Rusty came through his surgery well with lots of stitches and a drainage tube for his troubles.



A return visit to the vet for a check up and stitch removal with the acknowledgement that the skin flap hadn't worked but it was worth a try and the wound was pink, healthy and healing well. At time of writing our newsletter, Rusty was looking a lot better and he will be put up for adoption in the New Year.



Rusty well on the way to healing. He will be available for Adoption early in the New Year. Head over to our website [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au) Animals Available to check him out

Would you like to help Central Victoria's on "No Kill" Shelter continue our save and care for animals in need such as Basil and Rusty? Our Christmas Appeal has now been launched and you can donate by completing and returning the attached donation form OR go to our website [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au) for donation options including EFT and PayPal.

All donations \$2 and over **TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

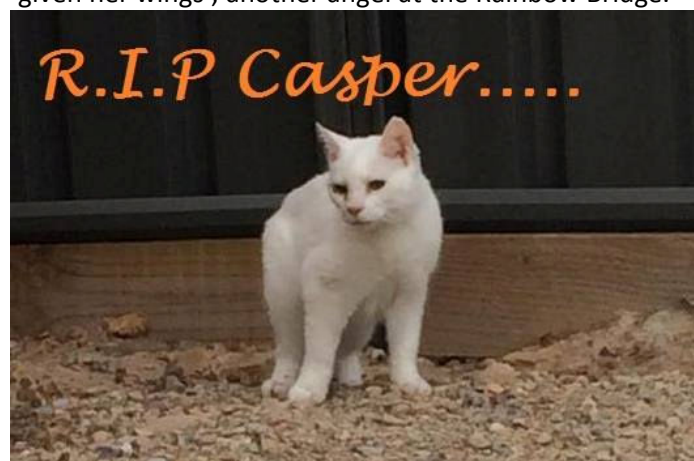


#### **VALE Casper**

Casper was 19 years old when she was surrendered to BAWCS last year, by her owner who was unwell and didn't think she could keep caring for Casper properly. In good health, considering her age, and on a renal diet (to keep her kidneys healthy), we put Casper up for adoption but didn't think there would be any interest in her because of her age.

Rather than keep Casper at the Shelter, we put the word out for a foster care home so Casper could live out her days in comfort, surrounded by love and not wanting for anything.

A lovely young couple stepped up and Casper went to live with them with BAWCS covering all costs associated with her care including the special diet she required to be on. A year on, we had a call advising Casper wasn't herself so a vet visit was arranged, with the outcome not being good. It was suspected that Casper may have a tumour on the brain which was causing her quality of life to deteriorate rapidly. The decision was made to end Casper's suffering and on 27 November 2014, Casper was 'given her wings', another angel at the Rainbow Bridge.



## Exciting website news



BAWCS has been operating in the community for over 10 years now. During this time we have had two website hosts, the most recent by **myexpression.com** with Gary Fitzgerald as our 'webmaster'. Gary offers not for profit groups free website set up and has been a wonderful support to our organisation for many years now.

As times change however, our website needs have and BAWCS is moving to a new 'platform' of WordPress which will meet our growing needs. At time of writing this newsletter, we are just days away from doing our 'changeover' so please go to **www.bawcs.org.au** to check out our new site!

Thank you so much Gary for your wonderful support over the years, always available to us, always happy to meet the challenges we put forward.

## Christmas Appeal

BAWCS has taken in over 160 animals this year. Some have been adopted, some are still waiting for adoption (safe until the perfect home is found) and some have become part of the permanent BAWCS family including those in our Farm Friends Program. We have only been able to do this with your support and hope you will donate to our **Christmas Appeal**.

**BAWCS**  
*'caring with compassion'*

2014  
Christmas  
Appeal



## Update your details.....

Are you receiving this newsletter by post but have an email address? Get updates from BAWCS instantly and help us to save on postage by letting us know and we will add you to our email list!



FACEBOOK is a great way to get updates on the daily activities of BAWCS. Join our just over 6,000 followers.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Thank you to the many people (including businesses) that have supported BAWCS in 2014. We are very excited to be heading into our 12<sup>th</sup> year of helping animals in need in 2015 and look forward to keeping everyone up to date via our Facebook Page, new website and / or newsletters.



**www.bawcs.org.au**