



SYDNEY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION *ANIMAL FLOOD & CYCLONE VICTIMS – EMERGENCY APPEAL* - Press Release 9 February 2011

Sydney Pet Rescue & Adoption has launched the Animal Flood & Cyclone Victims' Emergency Appeal to benefit pets, horses and wildlife, which have been affected by the recent devastating floods, and Cyclone Yasi. Various other rescue organisations have kindly contributed support to the Appeal, including *Save Our Strays, Doggie Rescue, Paws n Hooves, Sydney Animal Rescue and DABS*. SPR&A is hoping other rescue groups will continue to join the Appeal, in support of their rescue colleagues who have been so devastated by the floods and Cyclone Yasi.

The Appeal is focussing its support on those animals, and their carers who do not have adequate support from other sources. Funds are being raised to support the organisations listed below, but depending on the amount of money and goods raised, SPR&A hopes to be able to extend support to other animal rescue organisations and individuals in need, in as many areas as possible. SPR&A has set an ambitious target of \$50K by the end of April. **They are generally distributing funds to donor recipients as soon as funds become available. Every cent raised by the Appeal will go directly to support the animals. Since 15 January, when the Appeal was commenced, SPR&A has distributed \$6,500 to support pets, and wildlife in the devastated regions of Qld.**

Groups the Appeal is supporting includes: *Best Friends Rescue*, which is providing food, shelter, rehabilitation and assistance with re-homing for dogs in the Brisbane and surrounding regions; *Pets Without Partners*, which is providing food, shelter, rehabilitation and assistance with re-homing for cats and dogs in the Brisbane region; *Brisbane Valley Cats*, which is providing food, shelter, rehabilitation, and assistance with rehoming for domestic pets in the Esk/Gatton region; *Red Collar Rescue*, which is providing food, shelter, rehabilitation and assistance with re-homing for dogs in the Bundaberg area; *Queensland Horse Council*, which is establishing feed and care centres, in the Brisbane, Ipswich areas and beyond and *Wildlife Protection Association of Australia*, which is supporting >1000 wildlife foster carers, throughout QLD alone, and more across NSW and VIC, with reimbursement of costs for fuel, food and medications, to aid rescues.

Rescue groups on the ground, in the crisis areas are typically reporting that the animals they are taking in, are affected by stress, dehydration, pneumonia, significant injuries caused by debris in the flood waters, skin infections and an increase in the incidence of parasites due to the humid conditions. These organisations typically need urgent assistance with food, litter for cats, flea and wormer, skin soothing products and natural shampoos, and cash to pay vet bills. SPR&A is raising funds and targeting donations to cover these urgent needs.

Pampered Paws, a retail and on line business, has joined forces with SPR&A, to champion the cause, and is offering supporters of the appeal, the opportunity to donate much needed goods to these groups via purchases either online or over the counter, from a Wish List with which each of the rescue organisations has supplied Pampered Paws. Pampered Paws will then dispatch orders directly to the various organisations. **In addition Pampered Paws will donate 100% of the profit on all orders generated by the Appeal, straight back into the Appeal, so that even more animals can be helped.** See more details about the Pampered Paws offer at <http://www.pamperedpaws.com.au/floodappeal.php>

A feature of the Appeal will be a **Monster On-Line Auction**, planned for March and April, with lots of fantastic feature items including, week ends away, restaurant vouchers, pet products, memorabilia antiques and collectibles, jewellery and various hampers. Donation of prizes is welcome.

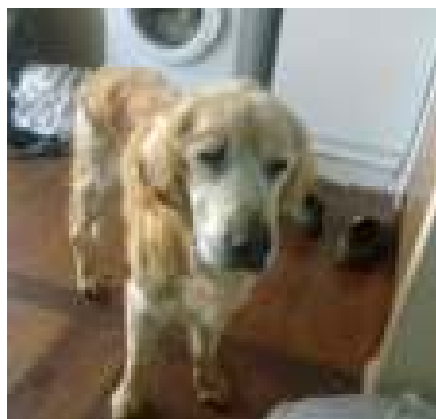
SPR&A encourages all animal lovers and kind hearted people everywhere to support this Appeal with either a cash donation or a donation of goods from the Wish List located on line at www.pamperedpaws.com.au.

All cash donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. Donations can be made by internet banking, or in person, at any St George Bank branch, to SYDNEY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION - EMERGENCY APPEALS FUND BSB: 112-879, Account number: 456837415. Cheques should be made payable to: SPR&A Emergency Appeals Fund and posted to: SPR&A, PO BOX 1169, MENAI CENTRAL, NSW, 2234. Online donations can be made at <http://www.gofundraise.com.au/SPRAFLOODS>, where an automatic receipt will be provided.

SPR&A also welcomes the support of corporate sponsors. **For more information about the Appeal, please contact Michelle Alber – President SPR&A on 0403 254 960 or email malber@optusnet.com.au or see Appeal details on our website at <http://www.freewebs.com/sydneypetrescueandadoption/floodappealanimals.htm>.**

POSTSCRIPT – SARGE

Gentle old man saved from the flood, and saved again from Death Row at the pound.



Sarge, an elderly male golden retriever, was almost dead when **Red Collar** rescued him from Death Row at the pound. Found weak and emaciated at the start of the floods, he was in the pound for a few weeks by the time Red Collar rescued him. He weighed only 22 kilos instead of about 35 and could only just walk on flat level ground. He showed signs of long term abuse, cauliflower ears, and calluses on his lips and all joints, and he appeared to have been debarked. He also seemed to have fairly bad dysplasia of the hips. Sharyn from Red Collar said she could trace every bone in his body with her fingers. She named him Sarge to try and return some dignity and respect to him. Within days, and plenty of bread and butter sandwiches, Sarge regained his love of life and would try and do a little wobbly trot, and wag his tail. He would guard the kitchen and ask for a sandwich in his breathy croak anytime anyone came near. Sharyn wormed him, but decided not to vaccinate yet as he wasn't strong enough to deal with it. He is now living out his final months with a close friend of Sharyn's and she treats him just like he deserves to be treated. Her husband is a chef, and Sarge has special meals prepared for him every day, carefully balanced for his needs and tastes. He helps around their hobby farm as he feels like it, and just generally oversees things. If you go to Facebook page Red Collar Rescue Biggenden, there is quite a lot of stories about Sarge, along with photos and slideshows. He has a bit of a fan club of his own. 😊 As he is so old Sharyn doesn't believe that Sarge will see another year out, but if he does there is going to be a big party in his honour!