

Media release
For immediate release
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Volunteers in a labour of love

Sydney based animal shelter DoggieRescue has plucked almost 10,000 dogs from pound death rows and lovingly re-homed them.

Founder Monika Biernacki attributes every life saved to the volunteers who share her "labour of love" in caring for animals that no one else wants.

"Saving all these lives is a huge undertaking and only possible because of our dedicated volunteers," she says. "Every day wonderful people come here to help transport, feed and care for well over 100 dogs at our Ingleside shelter."

"National Volunteer Week is a great occasion to recognise their amazing help, and to encourage dog lovers to join us. With so many lives to save and mouths to feed, we always need more help."

For long-time DoggieRescue volunteer Kim, working at the shelter is more about love than labour, and the highlight of her week.

"Honestly, I show up for work Monday to Friday, but I just can't wait for Saturday – my DoggieRescue day!"

"Over the past 7 years I have done all sorts of jobs here – transporting dogs to the vet, walking, feeding. Right now my job is to take photos of the dogs for our website and magazine, which I really love."

Rescued dogs suffer anxiety as a result of being abandoned at the pound, and many have suffered neglect or abuse. Volunteers at DoggieRescue play an important role in helping the dogs adjust to a world where they know they are safe and loved.

"We all look forward to seeing our favourite little dogs and spending time with them," Kim explains. "Many of them have not had much love before and as volunteers we have an important job to make sure they get the one on one attention they need."

"Dog cuddling is an official volunteer position here!"

"After a while they start to recognise you, and their little tail starts to wag as soon as you arrive. Just seeing them makes my day."

"We are a no-kill shelter so we don't have to worry what will happen to the dogs. It is just an awesome feeling when we finally see them going off to their new home."

For Kim, the benefits of volunteering don't stop there. "I work alongside really terrific people and made so many lifelong friends here over the years. I can't imagine life without it."

DoggieRescue is urgently looking for dog lovers with a few hours to spare on a regular basis, to assist with feeding, laundry and transport.

For information call 9486 3133 or e-mail admin@DoggieRescue.com. Induction and

training is provided.

Doggie Rescue lists all their volunteer jobs on their website www.DoggieRescue.com

DoggieRescue is a registered charity that saves more than 600 dogs each year from death row in council pounds, and to date has saved almost 10,000 dogs.

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Photo Available: Kim Bernotas with Luke

For more information call Doggie Rescue founder – Monika Biernacki – 9486 3133 or 0429 044 484