

THE CASE FOR MAKING THE HEALING POWER OF DOGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.



“Dogs are the greatest thing on earth. They’re amazing, they’re magical. If I’ve scruffled like, 8 dogs in the morning, I’m set up for the day”

We agree, Ricky Gervais.

www.loveofdogs.org.au



Let's sniff out the facts.. TIME WITH DOGS...



REDUCES
DEPRESSION

REDUCES
ANXIETY

REDUCES
LONELINESS

REDUCES
STRESS

IMPROVES
EMOTIONAL
RESILIENCE

IMPROVES
OVERALL LIFE
SATISFACTION

IMPROVES
EMPATHY

These health benefits of pet ownership save
the U.S. Healthcare system US\$22.7 billion
annually.



SO, DOGS ARE GREAT, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Spending time with animals has been shown time and time again to have profound benefits on mental and physical health. These benefits should be accessible to everyone, yet there are so many barriers for people living with a disability to own pets; The financial, housing, and physical care required are prohibitive for many.

So if you can't own a pet, where can you spend time with them?

Unfortunately animal therapies are inconsistently available on NDIS plans, and with recent NDIS changes won't be available at all for most participants.

Ok, so definitely not accessible for all. Maybe some participants could find volunteer or paid work with dogs?

Sorry, no. To obtain the basic training in animal care, you need to be engaged in either paid or volunteer employment in an animal care facility. BUT... The Animal care sector has an inclusion problem. The rate of reported disabilities in this sector is **HALF** (7.4%) that of other sectors (13.5%).

So we can't get the training unless we get the placement, but we can't get the placement without the training?! What's the barrier to inclusion here?

Unfortunately, predominantly attitudinal and educational. Employers and teams are nervous that there will be an incident and a person or pet will be injured... Physical accessibility of facilities and roles is also a concern for employers and participants. The animal care sector is also experiencing a staffing crisis, making "on the job" training challenging.



**THE IMPACT:
The healing power
of dogs remains
inaccessible.**



We have a solution. It involves a world first, innovative collaboration between Australia's best animal care providers and people living with disability, in one purpose built, accessible training facility.

INTRODUCING "FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS ACADEMY"



In one facility, participants can obtain practical, accessible training in doggy day care, obedience training, grooming, and veterinary services.

With sufficient support, the social, physical, and mental health benefits of dogs will be accessible to all, in addition to the benefits of employment opportunities



For the **LOVE** of DOGS **ACADEMY**

“For The Love Of Dogs’ Academy” is a pet care facility, servicing the growing need for day care, grooming and veterinary services for local pet owners.

Within the doggy daycare setting, we run programs for people living with disabilities to get daily benefits from their interactions with dogs, and learn about safe animal ownership and care.

Pillar 1: Social and wellbeing outcomes

We provide opportunities to hang with dogs - yoga, art workshops, music, movies, all surrounded by dogs.

Pillar 2: Employment training:

We provide the work placement, that enables our participants to enrol in the Animal Care training course. We support the participants through the course in a setting that enables them to apply the skills they are learning immediately.

Pillar 3: Vet team training

We provide work experience both in the hub and in other vet environments, pairing up participants with employment within the animal care sector. We provide support to the participant and the team around them to ensure employment is sustained and rewarding.

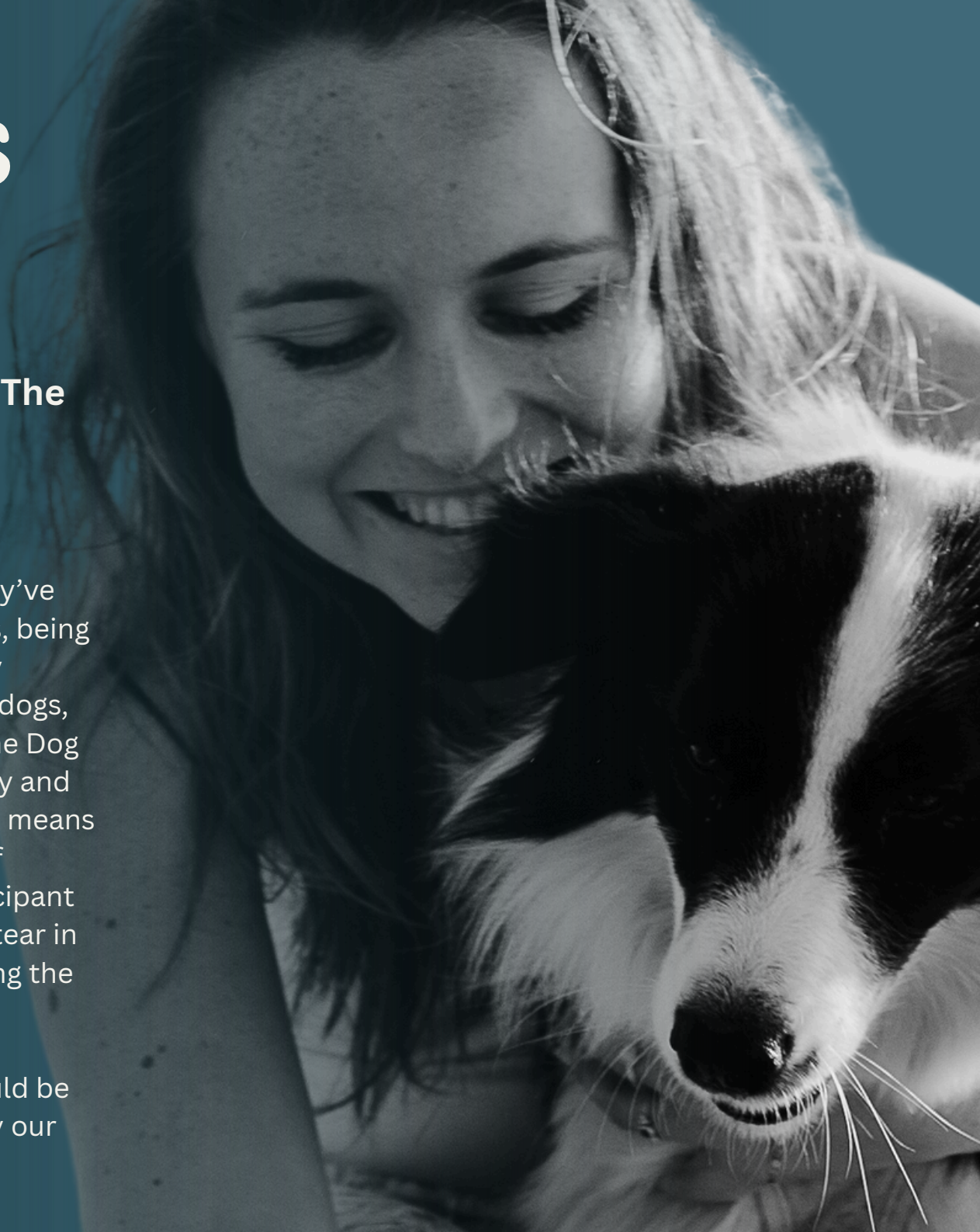


WHO NEEDS THIS?

Meet India - the inspiring author of “The Dog Project” (@the_dog_project_).

India has 2 dogs, and in her words, “a bit of mild cerebral palsy”. Dogs have changed her life. They’ve kept her active through recovery from surgeries, being a “good bravery distraction. They heal you, they protect you. You go on your crutches with your dogs, and she’ll be right mate”. India embarked on “The Dog Project” in 2018, interviewing dog owners locally and making their stories and photos into a book as a means of developing social connections and a sense of community... Indi is by far our most social participant and the local dog owning community still get a tear in their eye remembering their time with Indi during the project.

Indi thinks everyone needs this... everyone should be able to benefit from time with dogs, particularly our friends who can’t have their own.



Be part of the change:

We are inviting you to help us bring the healing power of dogs to people living with disability.

The work has already begun, with seed funding provided by our veterinary service partner, The Vet's North. The programs have been developed, the academy site has been secured, the participants are enrolled...

We have a functioning doggy day care business, funding our ongoing program costs. NDIS funding and events fund the remainder of our ongoing costs, making our programs self sustaining. We have a team of animal care professionals and participants currently undertaking work experience in different animal care roles just waiting for the supported animal advocate training to commence...

We are seeking \$366,000 in philanthropic funding over the next 12 months to execute and manage the development of the “academy”.

\$150K - Fit-out and build costs.

\$65K - Equipment and consultation on accessible design.

\$91K - Rent during fit-out

\$60K - Salary and On-costs during fit out.



More detail on the 4 Academy programs

Programs with social outcomes

Pat & Chat

Wag & Walk



Animal Advocate
training

Vet team
training

Programs with employment
outcomes



Social programs:

Pat & Chat and Wag & Walk



Who?

Any animal lovers living with disability who would prefer to go about their daily activities surrounded by dogs.

Program

Movies, Art workshops, sports training and fitness groups to name a few! Any activity that is safe for dogs to be involved with. Pat & chat is based in the doggy day care, Wag & walk is community based.

Funding

Revenue generated by the doggy day care fees and NDIS funding

Desired outcomes

The physical and mental health benefits of interacting with dogs
Improved social connectedness and sense of belonging.

Cost per candidate / session

Pat and Chat - \$118 per 5hr session, Wag and walk - \$75 per 1hr session



Animal Advocate Training



Who?

Any animal lovers living with disability who are interested in employment in the animal industries (doggy daycare, grooming, training, dog walking etc).

Program

This is a formal training program, combining a TAFE certificate II in animal care with employment skills training program. Advocates will be allocated a dog within the daycare each day, and supported to walk, bathe, medicate and do basic training, whilst participating in structured learning.

Funding

Revenue generated by the doggy day care fees and NDIS funding

Desired outcomes

Casual or permanent employment (either voluntary, supported, or meaningful paid) in animal industries. Graduates of this program will be supported to work with the pet-owning community in roles to support pet ownership (eg walking, pet sitting, medicating etc).

Cost per 6 hour session (5hr group + 1hr 1:1)

\$203.30 / day, Full course \$25,615.80 (18 month duration).



Vet team training



Who?

Graduates of program 2 who are interested in advancing their training to veterinary medical roles.

Program

This program sees the animal advocates move into a controlled veterinary clinical environment and support to complete Certificate IV in veterinary nursing, or a doctorate of veterinary medicine.

Funding

NDIS funding and ongoing financial support from our veterinary partner, The Vet's North, paid or supported employment in veterinary hospitals.

Desired outcomes

Access to meaningful employment in a rewarding industry, and all the benefits of spending your days with dogs.

Cost

Variable, depending on employment.



FROM OUR FOUNDER

“As a specialist vet, we see the “valuable dogs”. This might mean the dogs that have had a lot of money invested in their training, or, my favourite, the dogs that have impacted peoples lives so profoundly the idea of living without them is inconceivable. Doing this for the last 15 years, I have heard so many stories of the miraculous impact dogs have had on human health.

Stories of dogs who have supported their owners through chemotherapy; intuiting the best way to slot into the armchair so as not to cause discomfort... and stayed there for days, asking for nothing. Stories of dogs that have refused to leave their owner’s side in a life threatening mental health crisis. Stories of dogs that pulled their human out of homelessness, addiction, and the depths of loss.

Everyone deserves the chance to benefit from the companionship and uninhibited “can’t walk I’m wagging too hard” love that dogs hand out without reserve. It breaks my heart that the people that really need this can’t access it.

We can change this.”

**Anna Dengate BMedSc BVSc FANZCVS (small animal medicine)
Founder of The Vet’s North and For the Love of Dogs Academy.**



Who are we?



Anna Dengate

BMedSc BVSc FANZCVS
Founder of the "For the love of dogs
Academy", Director The Vet's North.

Ms Jessica Timmins

Co-founder at
Barry street consulting



Mr Scott Williams

A seasoned strategy, operations and
transformation leader.

Mr Ralph Stonell

BEcon, FCPA, GAICD,
Director of Northside
Emergency Veterinary
Service and Finance
Executive



Dr Alicia Kennedy

Social-hearted vet and
director at Cherished
Pets

Dr Jennifer Wingham

Veterinary practice owner
at Mona Vale Vet, Director
at Northside Emergency
Veterinary Service



What can you do?

www.loveofdogs.org.au

Help us raise \$366K to build our academy. All the other ducks are in a row... We can provide the healing power of dogs to so many people living with disability once the academy is built.

If you can't contribute to our cause, please tell people about us! We would love to chat to people interested in:

- Participating in or delivering our programs.
- Doggy Day care with purpose
- Animal care professionals or organisations interested in inclusive employment opportunities or hosting participants for work experience.
- Organisations doing similar work we could collaborate with.

Contact Us:

anna@loveofdogs.org.au or
hello@loveofdogs.org.au

(02) 7209 7022 or register your interest
<https://www.loveofdogs.org.au/supporters>

