

# For dog lovers hope springs eternal



Dogs Marly and Chloe with Hope Springs Eternal owner Ray Moore. Photo by John Hemmings

**by Mirna Taslidza**  
Having worked with animal rescue groups for many years Mount Barker residents Chris and Ray Moore wanted to have a greater impact and improve the lives on man's best friend.

Earlier this year Chris and Ray decided to establish Hope Springs Eternal Rescue, a rescue home for dogs in need.

"We have been involved in animal rescue for a long time as dog foster carers but we wanted to contribute more in improving the welfare of dogs and decided to set up our own dog rescue and re-homing organisation," Chris said.

"I noticed that not all dogs were being given the love, care and attention they needed. I found this really upsetting because they bring so much value

and love into people's lives."

"There's an issue with people buying dogs. Once the novelty of owning a cute little dog wears off, people forget that they need attention, stimulation and affection. They leave the dogs outside where they get separation anxiety and become distressed and so on."

Chris knows first hand how much value animals bring into peoples lives. Hope Springs Eternal Rescue was inspired by her late dog, Theodoros Rex Harrumphah The Third - or Ted for short.

"My first dog was a little white Maltese dog called Ted, and that's when my love affair with dogs began.

"Dogs bring so much happiness into people's lives because their love is

unconditional. They are happy to be with you and are great companions, especially for people who are lonely and don't have a huge network around them.

"We also focus on teaching people responsible pet ownership. We try to teach people that dogs are more than a commodity - they are important parts of the family and need to be treated as such."

Hope Springs Eternal rescue is much more than just a dog rescue home, they also provide a variety of services that improve the welfare of dogs, including community presentations, nursing home visits, holiday care and re-homing services.

"We have a nursing home sponsorship arrangement where we take some of the dogs to nursing homes," Chris said.

"The residents really enjoy these visits. They love the companionship they get from the dogs.

"It's been proven that patting dogs helps release feel good hormones. And it works both ways - the dogs also enjoy the attention."

Another popular service is their holiday

care program, where families can leave their dogs in a comfortable and safe home environment.

"We have four acres of land and a dog park where the dogs can play freely all day long. We also have a creek on the property and other animals," Chris said.

"The dogs spend the entire day playing outside. By night time they are so exhausted they are happy to just sit there and relax.

"The dog holiday care program helps us fund the rescue projects we do. Our holiday care prices are very reasonable and every cent goes directly into supporting the rescue program, which includes things like Vet bills."

Michelle Holcrosst knows all too well how much of a positive impact dogs have on people's lives.

"We had recently lost our dog, she passed away and I was absolutely devastated. I thought, 'No, I don't need another dog,' but the weeks went by and I knew I needed another dog," Michelle said.

"We found a dog on the internet from Hope Springs and we gave Chris a call."

"Pepper was found by the Murray Bridge council

as a stray, so there is no history on her except we know she was a mother at some point. We don't know what happened, we don't know where she's been and that makes her special."

Chris and Ray personally cover the costs of rescuing and housing the dogs, but rely on fundraising efforts to cover Vet bills.

"We raise money through sausage sizzles, raffles and we will be hosting a trivia night soon," Chris said.

"Over the past 10 years we have had a lot of support from the community, but with so many causes out there, it's becoming harder and harder to raise much needed funds."

Chris and Ray recently organised a Giving Circle appeal, where people can donate money to help them continue their great work.

"It definitely takes up a lot of time, but it's all worth it when we get positive results. We get a lot from changing the lives of dogs. There's nothing better than seeing a dog blossom and find a loving family. It's beneficial for both the dog and the family."

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