



# Open Paw

4 Levels of Training



# What is Open Paw?

A method of training used by volunteers and staff on shelter dogs and cats.

This method is being used successfully in the USA in several animal shelters and Katoomba RSPCA.



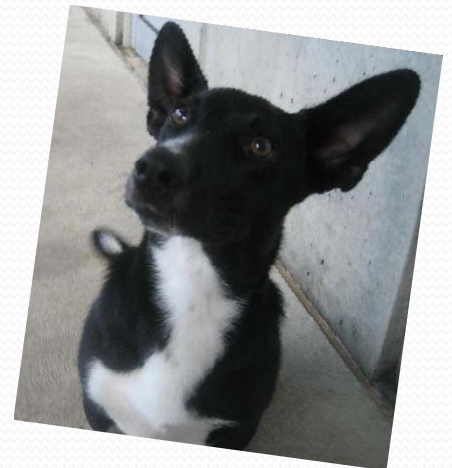
# What will we achieve by using Open Paw?

- Dogs that will sell themselves
- Dogs that will stay in their new homes thereby reducing the number of surrenders.
- The feeling that we are achieving something worthwhile
- Learn how to train dogs using positive reinforcement and be able to use this at home and spread the word.
- Reduce injuries to staff and volunteers



# How Does Open Paw Achieve This?

- Training dogs to sell themselves
- Training dogs to be calm.
- Training dogs in basic obedience and doggy manners.
- Reading dog body language.
- Recognising potential behaviour problems.
- Escalating potential behaviour problems



# Open Paw Level 1

## Level 1 - Sit quietly in the kennel

- 🐾 Teach the dogs to form positive associations
- 🐾 Reinforce desirable behaviours.



# Open Paw – Level 2

**Level 2 – Patiently wait whilst a person enters the kennel and puts their lead on**

- Desensitise the dog to people entering and exiting the kennel.
- Desensitise the dog to having a collar and lead put on.



# Open Paw – Level 3

## Level 3 – Training and handling

- Desensitise the dog to being touched all over
- Train the dog in basic obedience
- Teach dogs not to touch or take food and toys until instructed.
- Teach dogs how to play “Tug of War” according to the rules
- To use play as a reward in training
- To teach dogs how to greet people politely



# Open Paw – Level 4

## Level 4 – Walking dogs

- Walk dogs outside in the pseudo-real world
- Integrate training with rewards such as sniffing and exploring.

