

## Sydney dog scene goes all out to help Tsunami victims.

Purebred dog breeders have shown their true colours with their overwhelming support of a fund raising Show put on solely to raise money for the victims of the recent Tsunami disaster in South East Asia. Financial pledges were received from far and wide within the State and the Show. The show was scheduled for the Tuesday night before Australia Day and attracted a robust entry of nearly 1,000 dogs.

The notion of organising an all breeds championship show as a means of raising money to help our homeless neighbours in the region, was conceived, approved and organised within a 3 week period, a process that normally takes months. The organising team consisted of Jennifer Lawrence, strongly supported by Colleen Roberts, Sue Burnside, John Forbes, Carol Baker, Margo Turnbull and Eric Temlett, with some wonderful helpers – like Keith Irwin, Sue Temlett and Leigh Shannahan - on the night.

The show had the overwhelming support of the Royal NSW Canine Council who, in a departure from formality, virtually approved the event overnight. In addition, all fees and levies were waived so that our donation could be maximised to the full. All judges donated their services and expenses, as did our wonderful band of stewards.

This was a "cash and sash" (ribbons donated by Marellan) show, where exhibitors were made aware that their cash prizes came with "rubber bands" attached! The overwhelming majority were delighted to donate their winnings back to this worthy cause.

All proceeds from the show – currently in excess of \$20,000 – will be donated to Care Australia. **JENNIFER LAWRENCE** Convenor



Some of the supporters (above) and Jenny with the judging panel (below)



## The Tsunami Fundraiser Walk Centennial Park, Sunday January 9 2005.

This idea was originally thought up by Grant Lawrence, the Social Secretary of the Great Dane Club of NSW Inc, as a fundraising walk for the upcoming GD National Show but when the magnitude of the devastation of the Tsunami hit home, it was decided on the spur of the moment to make it an All Breeds fundraising Walk with all money raised to go to Care Australia on behalf of the pure bred Dog People.

And so the organising began with many phone calls, emails and letters, trying to get the word out as we only had 8 days in which to organise, advertise, register with a charity and find a venue.

In the meantime we were also roped into organising an All Breeds Show on January 25th with Jennifer Lawrence - but that's a whole other story!

So on Sunday the 9th we arrived at the appointed meeting point in Centennial Park and set up and waited for everyone to arrive, sign in and listen to a few Park Rules and Walk instructions before setting off.

Keith Irwin, the President of the R.N.S.W.C.C., drove up from Goulburn that morning and was on hand from 8.30am to help with registrations and collecting, as well as being our "back up" driver if needed.

It was an awesome sight to see a band of Great Danes and other assorted breeds walking along behind the GDC flag held high with buckets and assorted bowls for collections jingling away!

We had the weather against us with a few showers but consequently it was nice and cool for the dogs to walk in. It did keep the punters away though, so park visitors were a tad few and far between but at the end of a few hours walking we had amassed just over \$700.00. Not too shabby at all!

With the addition of money still promised and rolling in, we may just top the \$1,000.00 mark from this one, very swiftly organized, venture.

To the individuals, obedience and breed Club people and their dogs that attended, I thank you from the bottom of my heart as, no doubt, do the people of tsunami-struck Asia.

We were GREAT!  
**MARGO TUNBULL**



## IFAW provides emergency animal care in Sri Lanka and Thailand



Following an assessment by IFAW Asia Pacific Director, Mick McIntyre, IFAW is helping to care for domestic and wild animals in the Phuket and Khao Lak areas of Thailand.

IFAW is working with the Wildlife Friends of Thailand to provide food and medical care to animals injured and displaced by the tsunami.

"We are working with local groups on the ground to ensure that we provide assistance to the animals that need it most, working alongside organisations assisting with humanitarian aid," said Mr McIntyre.

"In light of the scenes of utter devastation in Thailand, IFAW's efforts in caring for animals have been warmly received."

IFAW is also assisting the Thai Animal Guardians Association to feed and care for stray and abandoned domestic cats and the Soi Dog Rescue Foundation to vaccinate stray and abandoned domestic dogs against infectious diseases in tsunami affected areas of Thailand.

"In Sri Lanka, IFAW has launched a rabies vaccination and medical care program for dogs in conjunction with local veterinarians," said Mr McIntyre.

The 20-person team from IFAW has vaccinated more than 2,000 at risk dogs along 30 miles of coast stretching south from the city of Galle, which is one of the areas most devastated by the tragedy. More than 38,000 people are known to have died in Sri Lanka.

"It was crucial to vaccinate as many dogs as possible, for the welfare of the dogs and to prevent the serious human health risk of an outbreak of rabies," said veterinarian Dr. Robinson, Manager of IFAW's ER Team.

The main problem has been caused by large numbers of pets being left behind after their owners were killed when the tsunami hit. There is already a substantial stray population on Sri Lanka and it is feared that with them breeding with the additional ownerless pet dogs, there is an increased threat of rabies spreading and people being infected.

"A spay and neutering program is now being organised in Sri Lanka, which will run for several months. We are also supporting a turtle conservation project with tents for temporary accommodation for the beach patrol officers, three of whom were killed in the disaster and we are looking at how else we can help them," said Dr Robinson.



## A FRIEND IN NEED ...

One Friday evening I received a phone call from a fellow dog person in need of assistance. It was Tricia Cutler who had a newborn puppy, which was only 2 days old and it was fading. I jumped in my car and went to her aid. We tried in vain to get the puppy going but alas, within about 2 hours the puppy passed away.

Then on Sunday afternoon my Cheeky decided it was time to whelp her litter. She was having a difficult time so my husband, Wally, decided it was time to visit the vet. The vet performed a caesarean section that produced two girls and one boy. Wally stayed at the vet surgery until Cheeky awoke and it was safe to go home. As we live about 20 minutes from the vet, he decided that he should stop and check Cheeky a couple of times on the way home. She was awake and happy curled up with her bundles of joy. Once he had checked her a second time he phoned to say he was only a couple of minutes away.

When Wally pulled into the drive we all headed out to welcome our newest litter. When I picked up the basket to carry them into the house I was astonished to find that Cheeky had passed away. Of course we were all frantic. What can we do? We have three little puppies and no mother to care for them. We all know how difficult it is to raise a litter right from the start using tubing or bottle-feeding. The chance of raising a litter in either manner is very slim.

I suddenly remembered Tricia and Peter's bitch that had lost the puppy only 48 hours earlier. I rang to see if maybe she could assist. Unfortunately upon checking the bitch they found her to be completely dried up. However, they had a litter that was 6, nearly 7, weeks old that was in the process of being weaned. If you believe in fate, Tricia and Peter had people staying with them at the time and they had fed their dogs for them that evening. When they put the dogs away they had not put the bitch back in with the puppies because they didn't know she was only away from them during the day. When Peter went to check if maybe she had some milk he found her full. Tricia raced around to my place to see if we could get the puppies to have at least their first drink from a maternal source.

Now remember these puppies are only 2 hours old and they are Pekingese. Our hopeful surrogate mother was Maltese with nearly 7 week old puppies. The Maltese was Merimalt Rumour Has It who had had a very successful show career and was now retired. Tricia arrived and sat on the lounge with Rumour and we introduced the Pekingese puppies. Rumour looked at the puppies then at Tricia as if to say, "What are these? They aren't white and they don't smell like me." To our surprise and relief she allowed them to feed and made no attempt to growl at them or push them away. I asked Tricia if Rumour could stay so that I could put them on to feed every four hours and of course she agreed. I was more than happy to keep the puppies clean if only I could have Rumour for them to suckle. That sure does beat bottle-feeding. That first night I dutifully awoke every four hours and put the puppies on Rumour careful to watch for signs of rejection from her. This schedule continued during the day on the Monday.

On Monday afternoon I had placed the puppies on Rumour for a feed when I noticed her nuzzling them. I spoke softly to her that she was a good girl and to my astonishment she commenced cleaning them. By late Monday evening Rumour had totally adopted this new litter as her own.

Rumour cleans and stimulates these puppies better than I have ever seen a Pekingese bitch do. She is extremely protective of her new litter. We were all very concerned with the affect of raising a second litter straight on top of her own three puppies, so we consulted Dr Robert Zammit who advised us what to feed and supplement Rumour with.

It has been four weeks and we are now supplementing the puppies with four bottles a day. Yes, you guessed it, she is still cleaning them. We wonder when she will be ready to give these pups up as she tries to break doors down to get back to them once she has been out to be clean. A better mother I have never seen.

I believe these puppies will have a totally different personality to any others I have bred. I can already see traits of Rumour in them as they stand up and bark just like their adopted Mum.

**FRAN WICKENS**



## Masters Games

For the first time, dog sports will be a participating sport in the Masters Games programme in NSW. The Trans Tasman Masters Games are to be held in Newcastle, 9 - 16 April, 2005.

Dog sports will held on the weekend of 9/10 at Hillsborough Dog Showgrounds. This will be one of 49 sports on the program. One of the main sponsors of the games is NSW Department of Sport & Recreation.

I was approached to organise dog sports by the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation, hoping that this may lead to recognition of the world of

dog sports and it eventually being accepted as a genuine sport, which could lead to funding for various dog clubs.

With a good entry for each of the dogs sports that are on offer, this could lead to more events being incorporated in future Masters Games programs. Participating at the Games has been approved by The Royal NSW Canine Council Ltd.

If any one would like more information they can contact the Trans Tasman Master Games by phone 024961 4211, or log onto www.transasmanmasters.com or www.nhevents.com.au. Leave your details - name, address, contact details - and a registration booklet will be sent to you.

**RAY DEAN**