

**Notes taken from SAFE Supporters meeting 29 September 2018**  
**NB These were taken by Sue Barber and are not official minutes**

Introduction by Sue Barber

SAFE now operating for just over a year. Our last meeting was 7 mths ago in February. We have been through a period of establishing the charity, building up resources & raising our profile through events, adoptions, publicity, networking etc.

This can be a tricky period - initial burst of energy over, not the new kid on the block any more. It's important for us, as supporters, to renew our energy, re-commit to the cause and determine to help SAFE in whatever way is needed or whatever way we can moving forward.

We have a strong leader in Tim and a great committee. They've been working hard to build the charity.

Tim Crossman, President of SAFE

**Statistics**

- 22 Sep 2017- 22 Sep 2018 SAFE took in 106 cats/kittens & 3 dogs

*Origin of pets*

- 58 from Blacktown pound
- 12 born in care
- 16 good samaritan surrenders (people who've found pets)
- 1 vet surrender
- 1 rescue transfer
- 18 private surrenders (SAFE charges private surrenders for taking the pets - base amount is \$100 plus extra \$50 if not desexed plus extra \$25 if not vaccinated and extra \$25 if not microchipped))

*Number of pets in care*

- We have 6/7 foster carers - this number varies. If we had more we could save more pets.
- These carers currently care for 26 pets. The number of animals a foster carer can take depends on logistics eg mum and kittens can be together in one space whereas a single cat takes up the same space

*Adoptions*

- We have had 62 adoptions (1 dog, 15 cats & 46 kittens (defined under 1 year))
- From event at Belrose Petstock - 1 kitten
- From International Cat Day event at Mona Vale vet - 8 cats/kittens (we hope to have a regular, perhaps 3 monthly adoption event here).

*Membership and supporters*

- We had 40 members initially & 30 renewed for this year (despite reminders)
- We have over 100 email addresses (taken at events, adoptions, etc)

*Finances*

- We currently have \$19K in the account
- Hidden donations contribute in other ways to our running costs: some foster carers buy their own food etc, one person donates food and litter, pet stores give us out of date food, vets don't charge consultation fees and discount desexing.

## *Events*

- We have significantly raised our profile by having stalls at several events including the Dog Lovers show which gave us great exposure

## *Some of the activities Tim & the committee spend their time on (this list isn't exhaustive!)*

- When someone wants to view a cat Tim usually has to travel to the foster home to help with the paperwork (in case there is an adoption)
- Administering the website, updating profiles and posting updates
- Answering calls about surrenders
- Organising events
- Being present at events
- Sourcing and ordering merchandise
- Delivering cats and food etc to foster carers
- Communicating and supporting foster carers
- Communicating with council representatives - the Northern Beaches council have not been very co-operative
- Organising vet visits
- Paying vet bills and liaising and negotiating with vets
- Administering finances
- Sending out tax invoices
- Sending out emails as appropriate
- Administering memberships
- Dealing with random enquiries
- Speaking with potential partners for fundraising opportunities
- Finding out about potential properties to locate an adoption centre
- Speaking with estate agents and owners
- Writing business cases
- Filling in DAs
- Keeping the facebook page up to date

## *Potential property - we are closer than we've ever been*

Tim & the committee have explored several opportunities and put considerable time & work into submitting details to see if they are appropriate. This has also involved liaising with the council about zoning limitations that affect SAFE operating.

They are currently very far down the track with a property in Terry Hills and negotiations with the owner and estate agent have been going on for a couple of months. The property is 200 sq metres and part of a bigger building which is altogether 1,000 sq metres and it has been vacant for over a year. The owner ideally wants someone to take on the whole site so there has been some stalling.

Tim has managed to negotiate rents for the first 2 years which are cheaper than market rate, however costs have been incurred in making the application. Once we get a signed agreement he will have to make a Development Application at further cost, however Cr Pat Daley is confident he can get the fees waived for the DA process.

We are so close to getting this property it is unbelievable...but it's still not in the bag and could still fall through at the last step.

Watch this space. Once we sign the lease it will be all hands on deck to help with set-up.

## *SAFE & AWL*

Mark Slater, the new CEO of AWL has responded to our approaches and we are hopeful that we can develop this relationship to get some help in setting up our adoption centre.

*Summary by Sue Barber*

**We as supporters, need to spread the word, involve others, volunteer at events, attend meetings when we can, come up with fundraising ideas and run with them, and generally step up to the mark as required.**

**We have a small core of dedicated people but need to grow our numbers and put up our hands to be responsible for driving activities....**

**Fundraising and marketing are key to our success moving forward  
Keeping energised and positive about our future is essential!!!**

**If anyone has any ideas for fundraising or increasing donations please forward to**

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