

Welfare league seeks homes

THE Animal Welfare League plans to establish an Ipswich AWL re-homing centre in the near future, due to an increased influx in surrendered and abandoned animals from this region.

While management is working towards this goal, the branch will introduce a short-term foster care program in Ipswich.

By **KATE LEMMON**
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The clinic will seek out foster families when the program is up and running.

In the meantime, there are a few dedicated volunteers already offering help in Ipswich.

Volunteers such as Han Kingma

have also directly helped save the lives of almost 750 homeless cats and dogs in the past year alone.

"Of these, 246 were transferred to the AWL from the Ipswich Pound," Mr Kingma said.

"But sadly, 503 were surrendered by neighbours left to pick up the pieces when irresponsible, heartless owners simply move away and leave animals to fend for themselves.

"Each week we arrive at the Ipswich clinic, ready to load up a van full of abandoned, surrendered or motherless cats, dogs, kittens and puppies.

"We then drive these animals to the AWL Education and Re-homing Centre on the Gold Coast, where they are assessed and prepared for adoption before being re-homed."

AWL Ipswich clinic manager Dean Tait said the practice's popularity was due to a combination of reasons.

"The clinic offers suitable payment options for those in financial strife, treats animals even when the owners cannot afford to pay, and also helps re-home homeless cats and dogs," Dr Tait said.

"We offer services much the same way public hospitals do and this is to ensure no animal goes untreated or



AWL volunteer Han Kingma and Skye, one of the many animals he has transported to Coombabah each week for adoption. Photo: Supplied

is euthanised simply because the owner cannot afford to pay straight away.

"Saving the lives of innocent animals is the branch's primary and most heartfelt goal, and one

which is regularly celebrated at our meetings."

Visit the AWL team at 42 Tiger Street, West Ipswich, phone 3812 7533 or go online to www.awlqld.com.au.

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Learn to manage kids' fussy eating

A WORKSHOP targeting fussy young eaters will be held at the Ipswich Community Health Plaza on Wednesday, October 28, from 9am.

Many Ipswich parents will identify with problematic eating behaviour in their children and could benefit from the free workshop.

Parents will learn about their child's nutritional needs and sensory processing, and will be shown ways of managing their problem eating and mealtime behaviours.

■ For bookings phone Jan Branch on 3817 2467. Child minding will not be available.

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