

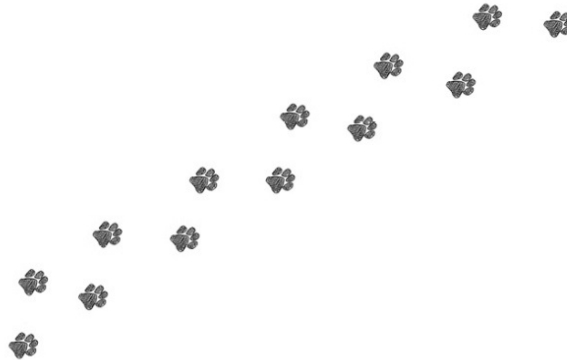
Janetta Harvey

Dear reader,

This book is based on the lives of real dogs who were rescued from awful situations but who eventually got to live happily in their new homes. If you'd like to have a dog in your life - and this ought to be something the whole family agrees on - please first look into adopting one from a good rescue. It may take a little bit of time and patience, but that's good, how it should be as bringing dogs into our lives is something we should think long and hard about. If you do buy a puppy, don't rush into it and do research it well; when you find a good breeder, check mum and puppies are all well cared for, happy and healthy and mum is with her puppies when you visit. Never buy a puppy from a petshop, or have one delivered to you.

Thank you for reading and caring,

Janetta



If you like the idea of sharing your life with a dog, it's a big decision to make. To help you be sure that it's the right thing for you and most importantly for the dog, here are some questions to ask yourself:

Why do you want to share your life with a dog?

When we bring a dog into our life we're making a commitment to look after them for their whole lifetime, which could be many years. They're completely reliant on us to take care of them for all that time. It's never like having a new toy, or game, something that can be forgotten about when the novelty fades. A dog is a special friend who we must promise to care for and love for years and years. Even when they're old, in fact it's never more important than when they become our elderly friends to love them and do everything for them that they need us to. And if we do so, in all the years we have together, we'll share much happiness and fun. But we must be serious about the commitment involved.



Are you ready to do all the jobs a dog will need you to do?

It's a good idea to make a list of what you think a dog will need you to do. I'll start you off: feeding is important, and so are daily walks, even if it's raining, or you don't really feel like going out. What will happen for holidays? Will you share the tasks with someone else? If so, what happens if they don't feel like doing it one day? A dog never likes to be left alone for hours on end, how will you be sure this won't happen? Remember Charlie and how his life wasn't always happy because his first families didn't give him the time and attention he needed? Can you be certain you'll always be there for your dog and never, ever let him down?



Do you know that someone will pay for everything your dog might need?

Remember when Maya was sick and had to visit the vet? This kind of thing can happen to any dog and can be costly. Or the puppy Beebee, who was bought and fell ill soon afterwards? We need to be certain we can afford to pay unexpected bills for our dogs throughout their lifetime, remember they rely on us completely.

Are you sure you can have a dog where you live?

Not all places allow dogs. What happens if you move? Are you certain your dog will always go with you, and that you'll never move somewhere that a dog isn't allowed?



Even if we can't share our lives with dogs, there are many ways to enjoy being with them and helping those in need. Visiting your local rescue shelter will give you ideas for what you can do to help. They always rely on fundraising and volunteers to make the lives of animals in their care the best they can be.

These words are taken from the book 'Saving Maya'

