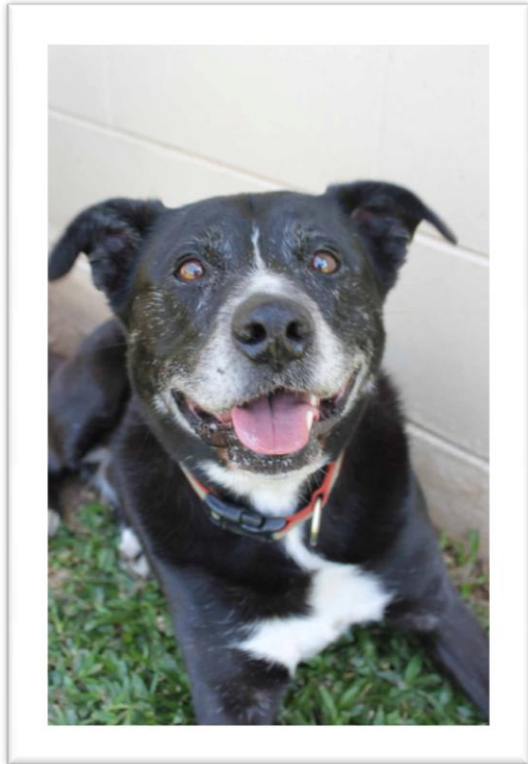


### **Bunji's story by Elishia Warnes**



It was just after cyclone Larry, when I was looking through the Sun newspaper that had just been delivered when I noticed on the back page an advert for a dog that had been in the Innisfail refuge. The dog was looking for a forever home as he was unclaimed and out of time. After talking with my mum and my sister I decided to drive down and meet him. I spoke to the staff at the refuge, who mentioned that he had been at the refuge for a week and he was to be put to sleep the next day. It was love at first sight.

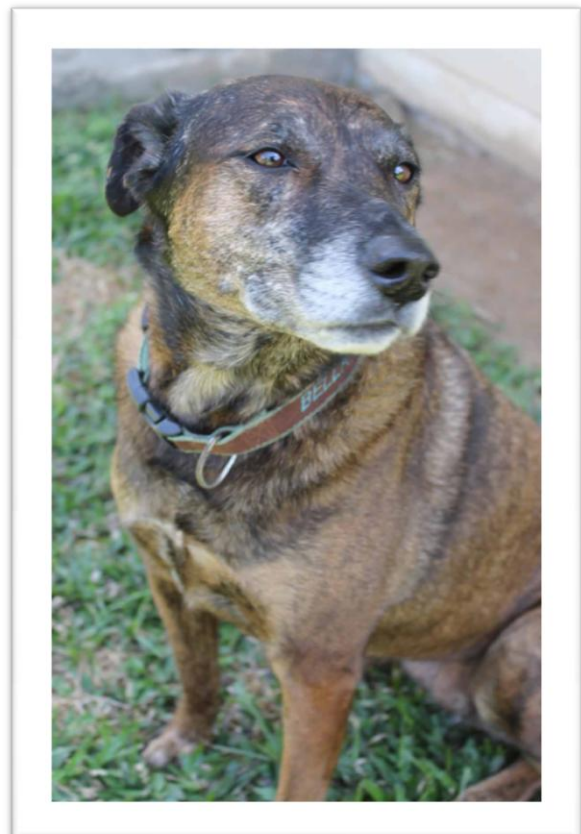
He said goodbye to the refuge and we made the hour long drive back to Cairns. My new friend and I visited my mum, sister and girlfriend and it was love all round. He needed a name, we all suggested names but one stood out Bunji,

(meaning best friend). That was it. He was my new best friend. He loves to ride in the car, have Cuddles on the bed, loves walks, his favourite squeaky ball and food! ...Oh and he has been known to take off with socks and undies!

### **Bella's story by Elishia Warnes**

Bella started her life of at YAPS. She was adopted out twice but she was speedily returned both times due to some 'bad' behaviour. This was because she grew so quickly into a very big dog, but was still so much a 'puppy'. My girlfriend at the time went to YAPS and came home with a young female dog named Bella. A companion for our beautiful boy Bunji...

Bella is the gentlest dog. She loves her cuddles and prefers to chase her human then a ball. She has been known to open the pantry and steal food. Ketchup is her favourite. She sneaks up on the bed in the middle of the night and will give hugs and kisses.



### **Echo's story by Ellishia Warnes**

My sister and I joined a rescue group as foster carers. We had just said goodbye to our first foster dog and was looking for the next foster dog. My sister sent me through a picture of a dog and asked 'what about this one?' She told me a little about the dog and in the picture she was cute. I was a little unsure because they were looking for someone with experience with deaf dogs which we didn't have. After talking to my sister and mum, we decided that we would put our hands up to foster her.

When she arrived it was crazy. Her name was Echo. We would call her name then laugh as we remembered she was deaf. It was hard at first but with training it got easier. Over time she ended up with a nickname of 'Toddler' as she showed some behaviour that was similar to very young children. And we quickly learnt that her deafness does not stop her in anyway.

After nearly a year of being with us there was still no one interested in adopting her. We decided to fail foster her. We couldn't imagine life without her. She has some doggie friends that she lives with and they are inseparable. Echo is an outgoing dog who is very much a 'Velcro' dog. She thinks she is a lap dog! She loves to run, sleep and go for walks. And she also loves food. She likes to jump on the benches and often opens the pantry and helps herself.

