

### **Buster's story by Lorne Clarke**

"Buster", previously known as "Dewey", appeared on the RSPCA Townsville website. A couple from Cairns asked if they might adopt him, but by the time he arrived they had changed their minds and didn't want him anymore.

Joy saw him on RSPCA's Cairns website and she and Lorne decided he was for them. This was a big move as they had previously been Dalmatian breeders and showers.

The first week, after a quick name change to Buster, he somehow broke a bone in his left "elbow". Four operations later he was back in good nick, but unbeknownst to all; his triceps tendon had been damaged.

Approx. three years later, whilst chasing a cat, his triceps tendon ruptured and he was left on three legs. Veterinarians in Cairns didn't have the expertise or experience to repair his tendon, so off he went for specialist attention in Brisbane where they took some tendon from his hind leg and grafted it onto his damaged front leg.

Back in Cairns and after six weeks in a body cast to immobilise the leg, we are all hoping the operation has been successful or he will lose his leg.

Lorne has been taking Buster out daily in a pram purchased from Lifeline and letting him have a "walk" around two local parks, sniffing out his "treemails" and leaving return "peemails". All the best of luck to Buster.

Postscript: Buster is out of his cast and enjoying his daily walks – on all four legs.

