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The Dean of hearts

By TOBY HUSSEY

Most of us feel empathy for abandoned pets when we see them in shelters but few take it upon themselves to do something about it.

Thornlie resident Dean Morris has an enthusiasm that sets him apart from most people and at only 14-years-old he has dedicated much of his life to helping animals in need.

Dean created his own charity Give Our Strays a Chance four years ago and has businesses across Perth donating funds and supplies to help.

He runs the GOSAC website, which provides information about adopting animals and how to donate to local animal shelters, and handles all the social media.

Now the teenager has secured himself a stall at October's Kelmscott Show where he will host cats and dogs looking for new families as well as educational material on how people can help shelters across Perth.

Dean said he was hopeful his hard work promoting adoption would shine a light on the important role of animal rescue groups.

"The Kelmscott Show attracts people from all over Perth and I will be able to reach out to the communi-

ty," he said. "Without them I wouldn't be able to do what I do."

"The show's organisers were really excited and encouraging of what I do."

Dean's show stall will be run with the help of SAFE Perth and Nine Lives Cat Rescue who will provide the homeless animals looking for new homes.

Dean said his charity was inspired by a visit to a shelter some years ago where he witnessed horrific conditions for dogs.

"There were small tight cages, hard concrete floors and it was all enclosed in a brick building that let no light in at all," he said.

"I decided that this needs to change."

In total Dean has raised more than \$8000 and has received donations of goods worth thousands of dollars since he started GOSAC.

His stall will be at the Kelmscott Show on October 21.

SAFE Perth stray dogs will be at the charity stall from 9am to 12pm while Nine Lives Cat Rescue will bring along its cats available for adoption from 12.15pm to 5pm.

For more information or to donate visit gosac.info or search for the charity on Facebook.



Thornlie teenager Dean Morris has taken it upon himself to help homeless pets. Photograph — Kelly Pilgrim Byrne.



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