



CHARLIE'S FUND

www.spaw.org.nz/charliesfund

Help dogs like Charlie live without pain and suffering

Of the thousands of animals that South Pacific Animal Welfare (SPAW) has been able to help since we started in 2010, one of them occupies a very special place in our hearts.

Charlie, known affectionately as Big Head, was an extraordinary soul and one of the bravest street dogs that we have had the pleasure of assisting.

As a tribute to Charlie, SPAW has established a fund in his name. We hope that his story will help other animals in dire circumstances receive the veterinary care they so desperately need.

Charlie's Story

When Charlie first came to our attention he was living on the streets of Tongatapu, scavenging for food scraps, searching for water and being very wary of humans. His large and disfigured head made him simultaneously conspicuous and invisible. Nobody wanted to look at Big Head. Nobody wanted to see him.

But one day, Angela and James Glover saw him and they didn't turn away. They spent six weeks taking food to him on the street and trying to gain his trust. With no permanent veterinary services on the island, they contacted SPAW in New Zealand to seek advice on what could be wrong with him and how they might be able to help.

When SPAW visited Tonga in December 2017 Charlie was one of the first patients through the door. Angela and James had managed to befriend him and had picked him up off the street that morning.

When he arrived at the clinic Charlie was in a terrible state. His head was so swollen that he had trouble seeing. His skin was scabbed, his coat was dull, and he was riddled with fleas and intestinal worms. But even though he had endured such neglect, Charlie still had room in his heart for love and trust.

While it initially looked as though Charlie's appearance had been caused by a head injury, the SPAW team soon determined that his skull had fractured due to a tumour which had become very large and badly infected.

Though the tumour itself was untreatable, the SPAW team, led by Senior Veterinarian Dr Geoff Neal, operated under very challenging conditions to reduce the swelling on his face and around his eye. This intervention bought Charlie some more time and, most importantly, some much-needed relief.

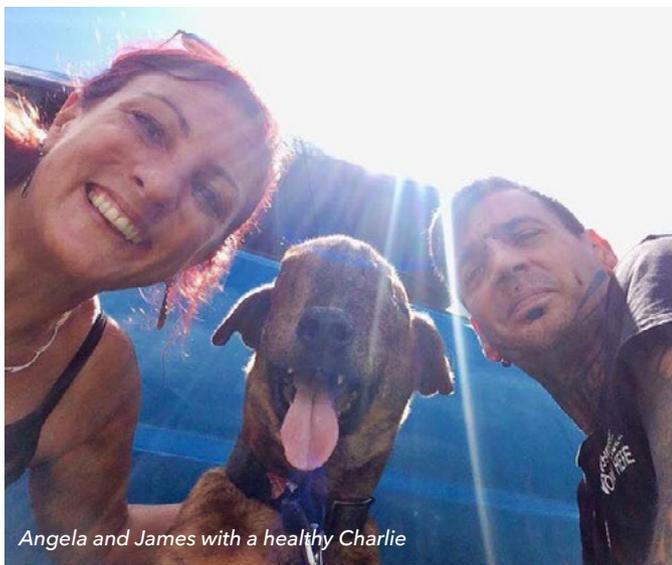
Charlie's life changed dramatically that day.

Not only did he feel better, he also found a new home with Angela and James. From that point, Charlie didn't have to live in fear on the streets. He no longer had to look for a safe bed or scavenge for a meal and most importantly, he was free from pain.



Charlie's road to recovery





Angela and James with a healthy Charlie



Dr. Geoffrey Neal & Charlie

SPAW remained in close contact with Charlie's family, and provided regular advice and medications, as well as check-ups with our visiting vet teams. Knowing that Charlie would not live long, SPAW did everything possible to support Angela and James to care for him and keep him comfortable.

In May this year, Charlie passed away peacefully - safe, fear-free and in the loving arms of his human family.

Charlie's Legacy

As a tribute to his bravery and resilience, SPAW has established Charlie's Fund to raise much-needed money to purchase medicines and veterinary supplies to help other animals like Charlie..

Please Donate

- **\$15 will buy flea and worm treatments for a worthy street dog like Charlie**
- **\$25 will buy flea and worm treatments plus a life-saving parvovirus vaccine**
- **\$50 will buy a veterinarian and vet nurses scrub top to wear in surgery**
- **\$75 will pay for the medicines to perform a de-sexing surgery - important to reducing canine and feline populations and reducing unwanted breeding**
- **\$100 will help buy anaesthetic medicines required to perform complex surgeries**
- **\$200 will pay for the fuel required to take a veterinary team into a remote village to help more dogs like Charlie**
- **\$500 will buy a veterinarians' surgical kit**
- **\$1000 will purchase the required clinic supplies (tape, bandage, ET tubes etc) required to run a single SPAW field clinic in the South Pacific**

SPAW is not funded by any government. Our services, provided entirely by volunteers, are totally free, so that any animal in need has access to veterinary care. We rely heavily on donations for our work to continue.

We ask that you please consider donating in Charlie's memory and help us to ensure that animals like Charlie can live a life without pain and suffering.

SPAW would like to offer its sincere thanks to Angela and James Glover for giving us permission to share Charlie's story. Real change is borne through the efforts of people like Angela and James, who are not prepared to look in the other direction and who believe - as we do - that there is no such thing as a lost cause.

SPAW & Charlie's Journey

Between December 2017 and May 2018, SPAW vets provided care to Charlie three times, including complex surgery to release pressure around his eye and brain and to improve his breathing. Charlie was de-sexed to reduce social stress of being around other dogs and he was vaccinated against the deadly parvovirus. To his relief Charlie received his first flea and worm treatment, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and painkillers, all this ensuring Charlie's last months were comfortable. SPAW provided this service free of charge thanks to individuals and businesses who support our efforts.

Registered Charity CC46408



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