

Content for Email:

Below you will find some content that you will need to rewrite into an email that will be sent to donors. The aim of this email is to ask for donations from our generous supporters. The word limit for this email is 300 words.

My name is Cab and this is the story of where I came from.

My earliest memory was being curled up with my siblings. I was the smallest of my litter, and the loud sounds that reached my tiny ears were so confusing and scary. I was so young, with my eyes barely opened.

Then one day, everything got louder. *What was happening? Was I being taken away from my family? Did I do something wrong?*

Unbeknownst to me, my life was drastically changing. That's the day I was rescued by RSPCA ACT and given the chance of a new beginning.

The chaos was overwhelming. Strangers in brown uniforms entered our home and the other dogs crowded in the small house were barking hysterically. *Who were they?* They lifted me from my hiding place amongst my siblings and cradled me to their chests.

I learnt later that the house I was living at was not fit for anyone to live in. The floors were dirty and covered in the faeces of over a dozen animals. It turned out that our owners at the time were not in the position to care for all of us the way we needed.

I was just one of over 14 dogs that were surrendered to RSPCA ACT that day.

The next couple of hours were a blur. I was surrounded by strange humans and experienced a car ride for the first time. Shortly afterwards, my siblings and I arrived at the Weston Shelter, and a veterinarian examined each of us. We were smaller than the palm of a human hand and only weighed an average of 400 grams upon arrival. I trembled as the nurses took us out of the carrier. I wasn't used to the touch of humans - it was so foreign to me.

Shortly after our exam, I heard the humans talking about foster care. Apparently only a handful of highly experienced foster carers could care for puppies as young as us so that we could grow strong and eventually have a

chance to find our forever home. They put us in the care of a RSPCA ACT staff member.

The first night in foster was hard. We were in an unfamiliar house with new humans, smells and sounds. Furthermore, we had to be weaned straight away from our mother so that we could gain some much-needed weight. Our new human mum kept trying to give us a bottle. No thanks! She didn't give up though. She tried everything! Eventually she found something we liked – puppy food and formula served warm. YUM!

After the first couple of days in care, we were really coming out of our shells. Humans suddenly didn't seem so scary anymore. In fact, I started to like this feeling of being held and the attention they lavished upon us!

A week later, we were introduced to the other animals in the house. Our favourite amongst them all was a ginger cat called Cisco. Cisco took us under his furry paw and took on the important role of raising us. He would clean us, teach us about the animal kingdom, and even tell us off when we were being naughty! But every night without fail he would join us in the puppy pen to cuddle us to sleep.

My siblings and I needed special care and behavioural training due to the way we started our lives. We spent every day at the shelter meeting new people, other animals and we also learned a trick or two. Without this investment by RSPCA ACT, we would have become very different puppies.

By the time we were six weeks old, it became apparent that there was something wrong with me. My stomach was always bloated and sore. I was having difficulties going to the toilet. I remember my foster mum and vets talking about me. *Will I be okay? Would they help me feel better?*

Luckily, after they tested me and gave me medication. It wasn't long until I started to feel normal again. Once again, I was running around with my siblings and climbing all over anyone who came close!

We were really starting to show our personalities and independence now. It was widely known that I was the brightest of my litter and I never let my siblings forget it! I was constantly outsmarting them at every turn to get ALL the treats!

It was at this age that we underwent our official behaviour assessment. We all passed with flying colours and went up for adoption right away. It was both a happy and sad time for us. We knew that our time together and with our foster family was coming to an end. Who knew if we'd ever see them or each other ever again? Nevertheless, we were excited to start our new beginning!

The Friday we went up for adoption my two brothers, Joc and Tatum, were adopted. *So quickly!* The very next day I said farewell to my sister North.

Then it was just me. But I wasn't alone for too long. The next day I met my forever family. I remember them being so happy to meet me, especially the little boy who gave the best hugs. I knew they were the one!

I sometimes think about what my life would be like now had I not been rescued by RSPCA ACT; just one more unsocialised dog in a small house scared and fighting for survival and love. I'm thankful every day that someone cared enough to give me a better future. If it hadn't been for RSPCA ACT, my life would have turned out very different. I received a new beginning, and I know right now there are other animals waiting for theirs. But they need your support.

By providing a generous gift to RSPCA ACT, you are giving to a local organisation that provides the full spectrum of care for animals in the ACT just like me - just so we have a second chance at starting a new beginning.

I know that you are passionate about seeing animals that are unwell and neglected receive the very best care possible. So please, can you give a generous gift today? We need to raise \$10,000 for animals in our care right now.

No matter how much you are able to give, please know that I am thankful for the generous support you provide so that more animals like me are rescued and are given a new beginning in their forever home.

With love,

From Cab the Chihuahua